

# IDA Insights

IDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2019

Ida Drama Troupe 363 presented, "The Sound of Music" November 22nd-24th. The Ida Drama Troupe, at just under 50 students, showed off what they have been working on since September. The pictures below were taken during dress rehearsal on Thursday evening prior to the weekend shows.



## The Sound Of Music



New and current members of the Ida Chapter of the National Honor Society

# Holiday Sled Race to Aid Children

"You will never stand taller than when you kneel to help a child"  
Friday, December 6, 2019 @ 6:45 p.m.

The first Annual Holiday Sled Race will take course under stadium lights on Lewis Avenue in downtown Ida. This lively race will feature sleds equipped with wheels ~ raced and decorated by community teams ~ to raise awareness and ensure every Monroe County child has a comfortable bed to call their own. All proceeds go to the Monroe County Bed Race to Aid Children, Inc. and every \$250 raised provides one (1) child's bed.

Register at [Christmasinida.com](http://Christmasinida.com)

(Registration prior to the event allows additional information to be sent out to participants. Registration is also accepted the day of the event @ 5:30 p.m. in front of the Ida Co-Op.)

Sandra Kreps, Event Chairwoman  
(734) 269.9003 ext 4000

Sled Team Fee: \$100

Teen entries = Teen entries are underwritten by sponsors

Adult entries = Entry fee is required

Make checks payable to: "Bed Race to Aid Children"  
Sleds provided, teams are encouraged to decorate their sleds.

Dale W. Zorn, Festival Executive Director  
(734) 269.6175



Almost fifty 8th grade students attended the County Wide Manufacturing Day on October 3rd. Students toured different industries/facilities to become more aware of the different jobs available and education needed at each business. They were given lunch and helped run some of the machinery, a good time was had by all!!



On November 20th, 2019, the 7th grade Quiz Bowl team consisting of: Kaylea Hall, Asher Hamm, Vincent Morelli, Brenner Nelson, Isabel Rochowiak, and Tiernan Strimpel made a very strong showing at the Monroe County Quiz Bowl. They battled it out with some excellent teams, scoring the following: Ida 100 & St. Patrick's 0, Ida 120 & MCES 60, Ida 125 & Bedford 75, Ida 55 & Mason 75, Ida 110 & Bedford 95. They made it to the televised semi-finals, handing Mason their first defeat of the day with a score of Ida 145 & Mason 85. In the finals they emerged victorious defeating Mason again with a score of Ida 155 & Mason 65. The Ida 7th graders received medals, a trophy, and were interviewed by the local newspaper. Their hard-work, dedication, and good sportsmanship should be commended and they represented Ida Public Schools very well.

## Christmas in Ida

*A Division of The Ida Civic Club*

Celebrating the 37th Annual Christmas in Ida Festival and Parade of Lights will present a weekend of festive family activities for the young and the young at heart December 6th - 8th, 2019. A complete listing of events is included on the following page.

The Christmas in Ida Festival began in 1982 sponsored by local area service organizations and businesses to share holiday cheer from small town America. Throughout the years, the festival and parade expanded into a weekend event that consistently draws over 50,000 visitors to the weekend festival and parade of lights.

The Parade of Lights has been featured on network and cable television since 2004. The Christmas in Ida Festival is a member of the Michigan Festivals and Events Association. For more information: Visit our web site at: [www.christmasinida.com](http://www.christmasinida.com) for parking, shuttle service, and 2019 festival photos or call (734)269-6017 or (734)269-6175.

Watch the parade from home live at [YouTube.com/MPACTStudio](https://www.youtube.com/MPACTStudio). Replay coverage starts December 14th at 7 PM. Also broadcast on Charter channel 187, Buckeye channel 21, D & P Communications channel 21, and Comcast channel 21.

## Friday December 6th, 2019

**Commemorative Concert**  
featuring the Adrian College Choir  
presented by State Representatives  
Jason Sheppard and Joe Bellino  
and State Senator Dale Zorn  
at the historic St. Joseph Catholic Church  
7:00 PM

**Glass City Crawlers  
Off-Road Vehicle Show**  
presented by  
STAR Towing & Recovery  
downtown on Lewis Avenue  
6:30 PM

**Benefit Auction**  
Ida High School Class of 2021  
Ida Township Parking Lot  
Partners' Tent  
8:00 PM

**Ida Christmas Mall**  
presented by  
Baker's Propane Gas and Welding Supplies  
/ACE Hardware  
Craft and Vendor Show  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

**Pooches In Lights Parade**  
presented by Holcim  
6:30 PM

**Holiday Sled Race to Aid Children**  
presented by ITC Holdings  
6:45 PM

**Holiday Art on the Avenue**  
presented by Family Medical Center of MI  
(Saturday also)  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

## Saturday December 7th, 2019

**Craft Shows**  
presented by Monroe News and  
Knabusch Insurance Services  
Ida High School &  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
\$1 entry  
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Ida Christmas Mall**  
Craft and Vendor Show  
presented by Baker's Propane Gas and  
Welding Supplies/ACE Hardware  
10:00 AM - 9:30 PM

**Santa Arrives Downtown**  
escorted by Ida Fire Department  
8:45 AM

**Santa's Zoo**  
presented by  
Graphics Guy & Grammar Girl  
hosted by Duke's Petting Farm  
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
Ida Farmers' Co-Op

**Christmas in Ida Partners' Tent**  
hosted Monroe County  
Community College  
10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

**iGame Mobile Video Arcade**  
presented by Key Bank  
10:00 AM - 9:30 PM

**Christmas Stories with Mrs. Claus**  
Ida Library  
10:00 AM

**Children's Lunch with Santa**  
St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall  
hosted by Lynn C. Weeman Post of the American  
Legion and Auxiliary  
11:00 AM and 1:00 PM  
Free tickets available at the Ida Library

**Ice Sculpting & Chain Saw Art**  
presented by Allen Chevrolet Cadillac  
10:00 AM

**Holiday Photos with Your Canine Friend**  
hosted by Project Second Chance  
Ida United Methodist Church  
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

**Holiday Hounds on Parade**  
presented by Holcim  
downtown  
2:15 PM

**Light Up the Night Benefit Run**  
hosted by The LINKS Program  
parade route  
6:00 PM

**Family Christmas Fireworks Show**  
presented by Consumers Energy  
Downtown  
6:00 PM

**Parade of Lights**  
presented by DTE Energy  
downtown  
7:00 PM

**Helicopter Rides**  
hosted by Intrepid Helicopters  
Ida Firemen's Park  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Carriage Rides**  
hosted by Duke's Petting Farm  
Ida Farmer's Co-Op  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Food Services**  
Ida United Methodist Church 11:00 AM

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 PM

Ida Band Boosters  
@ Ida High School  
breakfast, lunch, and dinner  
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Give a Kid a Christmas Fundraiser  
chili dinner & more  
Ida Community Center  
Noon - 8:00 PM

**Coat Collection & Community Food Pantry**  
Ida High School  
hosted by Teen Ambassadors 4H &  
West Ida Immanuel Lutheran Church  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Saturday Entertainment  
Christmas in Ida Family Concert Series**  
presented by La-Z-Boy Inc.  
Ida Township parking lot

12:15 PM Peg Harris Dance Studio

12:50 PM & 2:30 PM  
Flurry of Fantastic  
Family Festivities Show  
presented by ProMedica and hosted by  
the YMCA Monroe

1:25 PM Lighthouse Dance Company

1:55 PM Miss Monroe County 2019  
Madalyn Poupard

2:15 PM Christmas in Ida Prince and Princess Crowning

3:00 PM Partner Introductions

3:15 PM Anita's Dance Company of Wisconsin

4:00 PM Young Country Music Concert  
featuring Faren Rachels  
presented by Monroe Dodge Jeep Chrysler Superstore

4:50 PM Meet & Greet  
stars of the Young Country Concert  
presented by Monroe Bank & Trust Partners' Tent

5:15 PM Country Music Concert featuring BlackHawk  
presented by Meijer

## Sunday December 8th, 2019

**Ida High School & Ida Middle School Bands  
Christmas Collage Concert**  
Ida High School gymnasium  
2:00 PM

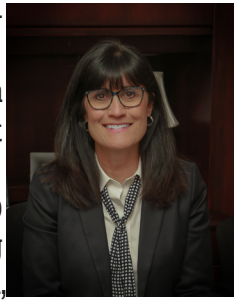
## A Message from the Superintendent

### Holiday Greetings!

The partnership between Ida Public Schools and the annual Christmas in Ida Festival is strong. This year, we are adding an opportunity for our students, families, staff, community members, and businesses to participate while helping children!

In May, Senator Zorn and Mrs. Zorn approached the Bed Race to Aid Children Board of Directors, of which I am a member, to suggest a Sled Race to Aid Children during the Christmas in Ida Festival!! Fast forward to now and you might already have heard the buzz for this event!

The goal of the Bed Race to Aid Children Organization is to make sure every child in Monroe County has a bed to sleep in. Which is something that most of us take for granted. The vision Senator Zorn had for the sled race was sleds racing dragstrip style up Lewis Avenue. Since then, his vision has grown. With a lot of hard work, The Bed Race to Aid Children Board, in conjunction with the Ida Civic Club, organized the First Annual Sled Race to Aid Children which is scheduled for Friday, December 6th, 2019 at 6:45 PM, starting at the Ida Co-op and ending just past the bank. Registration information is included in this Ida Insights if you are interested.



The Bed Race to Aid Children will also have a booth, in the tent, during the Christmas in Ida festival. If you would like to make a small or large donation, all are welcome. For each donation, which can be as much as a child giving 1 cent to a \$20 dollar bill from an adult, you will receive a ticket for a drawing for a \$100.00 VISA gift card that was donated. The Bed Race to Aid Children Board of Directors works hard to make sure all monies go toward beds, even though there are some minimal costs.

One of the beautiful parts of community service with the Bed and Sled Races, is the opportunity for children and teens to help other children and teens! From a one cent donation from a child to a teen bed/sled racing team, it is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children and teens that they can make a difference for others, especially those their age!!

Another benefit to the Sled Race is that it gives students a wholesome place to go on a Friday night. We also invited other schools to participate.

So far, we have the following team entries from Ida Schools. Four are student teams!

-Two sled teams from the Ida softball team, Coach Forter and Coach Hoffman have also sent out a challenge to other softball teams to enter and compete! My money is on Ida (easy to say since I don't bet).

-The Ida High School Staff

-The Ida High School Key Club

-The Ida High School Student Council

-The Ida Elementary Staff entered the fall bed race and at the time of this writing, were considering the sled race!

Come out and watch to see if they enter! They did place in the fall bed race, as did the high school staff team.

There are five on a team, with one riding on the bed. The other team members push the sled and walk/run to the finish line. The daring will run for the fastest time competition. Be sure to come out on Friday night and cheer your teams on. There is also a team spirit award given!

Woodshop students at Ida helped provide the cut out for the sleds that was designed by teacher Mr. Bolster. They will be attached to the sides of a hospital bed on wheels. Ida High School Art Students, under the direction of Mrs. Billau, painted the beds. The Ida High School Yearbook Staff, under the direction of Mrs. Hogston, took the pictures that will be used for the newspaper. Kids helping kids! Community service does not get any better than that!

Have a blessed holiday season and remember, Santa is coming to Ida!!

kindest Regards,

Sandy Kreps

### Ida Insights Special Edition

#### Greetings!

These first 6 months have flown! In this short amount of time, Ida Public Schools Board of Education, Staff, and the Administrative team have done some great work for our students. I will not take time in this edition to go over this work so as not to take away from the season and the special events and opportunities that it brings. Please look for an Ida Insights Special Edition, in February which will provide the latest in: Student Achievement, Instructional Leadership and Curriculum, Governance and Board of Education Relations that Offers Community Involvement, Facilities and Building Update, Transportation Update, Business and Finance, including the latest on the Bond.

I am looking forward to sharing the work we are doing with you!

Happy 2020!

Sandy Kreps

# HOMECOMING 2019



The Homecoming football game was postponed due to inclement weather and the crowning of the king and queen took place at the Homecoming dance on Saturday evening.

This year's theme was, "Twisting Through Time" with the Freshmen's theme being The Future, Sophomore's theme was The Wild West, Junior's theme was Ancient Civilization, and the Senior's theme was Medieval Times.

Congratulations to Michaela Zangara and Owen Schassberger for being crowned the 2019 Homecoming King and Queen.



## CURRICULUM CORNER



Congratulations to the 2019 Ida Middle School and High School Quiz Bowl Participants. Over 50 teams from Monroe County Middle and High Schools competed in their respective grade level contests. During a Quiz Bowl Match, students are asked a variety of questions in Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and General Knowledge. With each correct answer, a team earns points and the team with the most points at the end of the match wins. We are very proud of the hard work and preparation our teams did to get ready for the competition. Keep up the great work!

Thank you local farmers! Multiple local farmers nominated Ida Public Schools to compete for a merit-based STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) focused grant of \$ 10,000 from the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education and the Bayer Fund Groups. Grow Rural Education's Farmer Advisory Council, consisting of approximately 30 farmer leaders from across the country, reviewed the applications and selected the winning school districts, one being Ida Public Schools. Since Grow Rural Education began in 2011, it has awarded more than \$ 18 million to more than 1,000 schools in rural communities across the United States. Ida Public Schools plans to use the funds to create a STEM based learning space for students with materials such as a 3D printer, digital microscopes, coding kits, and snap circuits.



# New Teachers



## **Brad Lorenz - HS teacher**

I am a special education teacher, coach, and proud father of two children. I've been teaching at the junior high and high school level for going on eight years. Most of my time was spent at Bedford, but I was fortunate to join Ida in February of last year. So far, I've taught English at every grade level from 7th to 12th in either a resource or general education setting. No grade level is better than another, but they are all unique and offer their own challenges and rewards. I coach cross country for my daughter's team in Perrysburg and track for Ida. My two children, Emma and Gabe, are both in elementary school. When Emma grows up, she wants to be a teacher or president (I'm really rooting for one of these). When Gabe grows up, he wants to be Michael Jordan.



## **Diane Billau - HS teacher**

In the Fall of 2018, I was able to do my student teaching here at Ida, and at that time I got to know the staff and students. I graduated from Eastern Michigan University in December of 2018 with my Bachelor's in Art Education as a summa cum laude. I then had a chance to substitute in the Spring. During that time the opening for the position of becoming the High School Art teacher opened up. I was very excited when I got the call for the job. I cannot even call what I do a job, since I enjoy getting up every morning coming to school to work with the students in the art rooms. I enjoy teaching them the knowledge and love I have for art. I have a wonderful husband, Mark, who graduated from Ida, and we have one son, Nick, who graduated from Ida in 2018.



## **Julie Gemmel- HS teacher**

Hello, I am the new Algebra 1 teacher at Ida High School. Prior to this year, I taught Algebra 1 & 2, Precalculus, and Financial Literacy at Jefferson High School for 16 years and Pre-Algebra at Jeanette Jr. High in Utica Community Schools for 2 years. I graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education with a major in Mathematics, and went on to Eastern Michigan University for my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. My spare time is spent watching my two sons, Carson (13 years old) and Daniel (10 years old) play sports. They definitely keep me busy, and I love every minute of it! I enjoy working with the students and staff at Ida and look forward to many more years here. I love teaching and am so thankful to be part of the Ida community. Go Bluestreaks!



## **Renee Merkel - HS teacher**

Hello – I am teaching Freshman English at Ida High School. I truly enjoyed my high school experience! From sports to debate and involvement in various clubs, it made sense that teaching was the career path I would pursue. After graduating from Eastern Michigan University, I landed my first teaching job with the Jaguars at Allen Park High School. I taught Sophomore English and Public Speaking. My career was cut short by the fulfillment of the intention my husband and I shared – for me to stay home and raise our three boys now 18, 16 and 14. I jumped back into education when my youngest started school by doing various substitute and intervention positions with Jefferson schools. I've been a competitive runner for over 30 years and am grateful I was able to share my love of running with many friends and teams I've coached. My favorite sporting events to attend are those played by my boys which include cross country, soccer, football, basketball, track and baseball. My family and I live in Monroe where we take great pleasure in our Golden Retriever, Jules, and our eight chickens that remain unnamed. Our faith community is an important part of our busy lives, so we make time for worship and fellowship at Christ Lutheran Church. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the students at Ida High School



## **Kaylee Naber - MS teacher**

My name is Kaylee Naber, and I am the new 5th grade Language Arts teacher. I am originally from a small town in North-east Iowa. I graduated from Iowa State University (Go Cyclones) in December of 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Following graduation, I moved to Michigan. My fiance, Kanen, attends school and wrestles at the University of Michigan. He is what brought me to the Mitten :) In August, Kanen and I rescued the sweetest little lab/beagle puppy named Mia. She is now 5 months old and keeps us very busy. I love being a dog mom and spending all of my time with her! When I am not spending time with Mia, I enjoy staying active and traveling. I am so thrilled to begin my teaching career at Ida. It reminds me so much of my hometown in Iowa!



## **Michael Gearhart - MS teacher**

I am Michael S. Gearhart the new 8th Grade Mathematics teacher. I have been a resident of Bedford Township for the past 25 years. I grew up in Allen Park which is just south of Detroit. I worked in the automotive industry for over 26 years at both a Tier 1 supplier to the Big 3 and I also worked for Ford as a technologist. I decided to change careers for several reasons, but the main reason was I wanted to make a difference and have a positive impact on others. I graduated from Eastern Michigan in 2015 and taught at Charter Schools in Detroit and Ypsilanti for the past 4 years. I am very happy to be here at Ida and I truly feel I have found my forever home. The students, parents, administrators, and staff have made me feel welcome and supported since the moment I started working here. I look forward to every day and I can't wait to see the students. I hope to have many more years of great days here at Ida.



**Arien Weber - MS teacher**

My name is Arien Weber, and I am the 8th grade Earth Science teacher. I am very excited to join the Ida Community this year. This is my 16th year of teaching. I previously taught 2nd, 4th, and middle school English and Science in the Wayne-Westland Community School District. I grew up in Rockford, MI (just north of Grand Rapids), and I went to Western Michigan University where I earned my degree in Elementary Education with minors in Science and English. My husband, Kevin, is the new principal at Bedford High School, so both of us are new to Monroe County this year. We have an amazing daughter, Ava, who is 10 and in the 5th grade in our home district (Lincoln Consolidated Schools in Ypsilanti Township).



**Sandra Steinke - MS teacher**

My name is Sandra Steinke and I am teaching 5th grade math. While I am listed here as a "New Teacher," I am very familiar with teaching at Ida. In 2002 I taught 5th grade, and from 2005-2013 I taught 6th grade math. My family has lived in Holland, MI, Blue Mounds, WI and Sergeant Bluff, IA during the years I wasn't teaching at Ida. My husband and I have two boys that attend Ida and a sweet puppy named Willow Blue. We are excited to be back home surrounded by family and friends.



**Christina Fitzgerald- ES teacher**

My name is Chrissy Fitzgerald and I am one of the new second grade teachers at Ida Elementary School. I graduated from Western Washington University with my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I have taught first, second, and fifth grade in Washington state, North Carolina, and Michigan. I served in the Navy for 4 years where I met my husband who served for almost 15 years. He grew up in Michigan and we are excited to finally be able to move to Michigan and settle our family here. We have identical twin boys in 4th grade at Ida Elementary and 2 cute cats. I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, traveling, and archery. I'm excited to be teaching second grade again and am thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Ida Public Schools family.



**Amanda Steckmeyer - ES teacher**

Hello! My name is Amanda Steckmeyer, and I am the new second grade teacher at Ida Elementary. I'm so excited to be back teaching after taking a break to be with my family. I graduated from The University of Toledo and have taught first grade in the past and spent several years working in Intervention. My husband Rob and I have two children. Luke is five and Isabel is eight. We reside in Monroe, and we love anything outdoors! I am very excited to be a member of the Ida family!



**Caitlin Ryan - HS Counselor**

I am the new Ida High School Guidance Counselor. I graduated from Ida in 2010. I obtained my Associate's degree from Monroe County Community College, my Bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University, and my Master's degree from Spring Arbor University. I have an incredible husband, Justin, an 18 month old daughter named Grace, and another baby on the way! I am so very thankful for the opportunity to continue my career at Ida.



**Kelly Wilson - ES teacher**

I am the new 4th grade teacher at Ida Elementary School. I am a graduate of Monroe High School and Eastern Michigan University. I previously taught at Toledo Christian School and Monroe Public Schools. I'm thankful for the teaching experiences I have had, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to join the wonderful community of Ida. I love spending time with my family and friends. I have a 5-year-old son who keeps me very busy and laughing! Thank you for all of the support you've already shown me!



On Thursday, October 24th the Ida Volleyball teams hosted Monroe Public Schools in the annual Teal Attack, an event started several years ago to raise money for Ovarian Cancer Awareness. Gift baskets are auctioned off and all proceeds are donated for this cause. This year \$6,700 was raised to support Ovarian Cancer Awareness.



# FOOD SHARING TABLES

Take Some – Leave Some



What is a Sharing Table? The Sharing Table is a place where students can place unopened food and drinks that they choose not to eat or drink. This provides an opportunity for other students to take additional helpings of food or beverages from the Sharing Table at no cost to them.

How does the Sharing Table work? Students must drop off unwanted food and drinks on the Sharing Table immediately after leaving the serving line. If a student is still hungry after finishing his or her meal, he or she may pick up items from the Sharing Table.

What can be placed on the Sharing Table? Pre-packaged food, unopened wrapped food and beverages, or food items with a peel. Examples include: unopened milk, cheese sticks, yogurt, unopened crackers, cereal bars, chips, wrapped fresh fruit & vegetables, unwrapped whole fruits with an inedible peel such as oranges or bananas. No items from home can be placed on the Sharing Table.

Here at Ida Public Schools we use a concept called "offer vs serve" to plan meals, reduce waste, and allow students to choose only the foods they want to eat. Menus are planned around five components, or food groups. These are meats/protein, grains, fruits, vegetables, and milk. At lunch the cafeteria offers all five components. Students may take all five items, but must take at least three components to make a student lunch. One component must be a fruit or a vegetable. At breakfast, the cafeteria offers four components. Students may take all four items, but must take at least three components to make a student breakfast. One component must be a serving of fruit or vegetable. In order to take the minimum number of items to create a student breakfast, a student may be required to select a food he or she will not eat. The Sharing Table is available to encourage sharing of unwanted items and prevent them from being thrown away.

While students are still encouraged to choose only what they will eat and eat what they choose, the Sharing Table offers an opportunity for sharing items that would otherwise be thrown away.

## LEADERSHIP CLASS

Students from Mr. Giarmo's Leadership class have been working since September gathering furniture from Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Salvation Army, Good Will, and Damascus House to furnish an "Alternative Classroom" to be used by any teacher in the high school. The idea for the classroom came from a workshop some students participated in about students' mental health. This is just one initiative this group of students has completed this year. All the furniture you see in this room was purchased for under \$500. They are still looking for some floor lamps and bean bag chairs. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Mr. Giarmo. ([giarmo@idaschools.org](mailto:giarmo@idaschools.org))



Students from Leadership and Student Council attended nationally known author Dave Cullen speak about his book on the Columbine shootings which occurred 20 years ago, before the students were born. The auditorium was filled with high school students from every district in the county. Here are some thoughts the students had after the event. Katherine Hovest, "The presentation helped raise awareness to school shootings. The speaker told us about what was going on inside Eric and Dylan's minds before the shooting. More schools should have this eye-opening presentation." Kaitlyn Volpi, "Listening to Dave Cullen at the Community College was an eye-opening experience. Although I hear about Columbine, I did not really know much about what actually happened. I was surprised to hear the motives of the shooters. and I know realize that it's not just the kids who get bullied." Hailey Lambert, "The Columbine speaker at the Community College was one of the best speakers I have listened to. He was very honest and to the point with his information, but he still made it interesting and intriguing." Amanda Plontz, "I thought the Columbine speech was really eye-opening. From my perspective, I never really understood why people would shoot up a school. My idea was always because they were bullied, which is only part of it. The other part is mental health. Some of the people that do it are just really depressed and need help. I think the topic in general is sad." Annie Hosler, "The Columbine speaker was very interesting, he went very in depth about his research. I liked the fact that he showed us the boys' thoughts because of their journals." Lily Patrick, "I thought the Columbine speaker was really cool and he made it very interesting. I barely had any idea about it and it was really cool to see the boys' journals and the graphs. Our school should really look into having him come."



2019-2020

# IDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

Friday, 12/20  
 Thursday, 1/6  
 Wednesday, 1/15  
 Thursday, 1/16  
 Friday, 1/17

Monday, 1/20  
 Monday, 2/17  
 Monday, 4/6 - 4/13  
 Tuesday, 4/14 - 4/15

Saturday, 4/25  
 Sunday, 5/17  
 Wednesday, 5/20  
 Thursday, 5/21  
 Friday, 5/22  
 Monday, 5/25  
 Wednesday, 5/27  
 Wednesday, 5/27  
 Thursday, 5/28  
 Monday, 6/8  
 Tuesday, 6/9  
 Wednesday, 6/10

Holiday recess begins at the end of the school day  
 Classes resume  
 Semester Exams full day  
 First Semester Exams – ½ day - 11:46 dismissal  
 Frist Semester Exams – ½ day - 11:46 dismissal  
**End of First Semester**  
 Professional Development Day - No students  
 Professional Development Day - No students  
 Spring Recess - No School (return Tuesday, April 14)  
 M-STEP/SAT test date  
 (All students report to school)  
 Junior/Senior Prom at Matthes Evergreen Farm  
 Baccalaureate @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Senior Exams - Full Day  
 Senior Exams - Full Day  
 Senior's last day, Decision Day, and Picnic  
 Memorial Day - no school  
 Graduation Practice @ 8:30 a.m.  
 Honors Night @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Graduation @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Semester Exams - Full Day  
 Semester Exams – ½ day - 11:46 dismissal  
 Semester Exams – ½ day - 11:46 dismissal  
**End of Second Semester**



Ida Community Key Club recently helped Habitat for Humanity begin framing a house in Luna Pier. They also served dinner at Oaks of Righteousness, where they donated scarves and blankets. They meet every other Wednesday in high school room 103.



Mrs. Steils' 7th grade art class studied illustration. They wrote a children's story and illustrated 8 compositions in collage; bound them together and created an illustrated children's book. They went to the elementary on a field trip to share their creations with Ms. King's first grade class.

## 7TH GRADE ART & 1ST GRADERS



### IDA SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF IDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS TO BRING STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN OUR RICH TRADITIONS. WE WILL PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, AN EXCEPTIONAL CURRICULUM, SKILLS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE, AND THE MEANS TO BECOME LIFE-LONG LEARNERS.



## SPORTS SCHEDULES

CLICK ON THE ATHLETICS TAB  
 ON THE DISTRICT HOMEPAGE  
[WWW.IDASCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.IDASCHOOLS.ORG)



The speed limit on Ida Public Schools' property is 15 MPH. Please help keep our children safe by abiding by the limits. The limits were instituted by an Ida Township Ordinance and can be found in the student handbooks. Penalties and punishments for violations can occur.

## FREE CONCERT IN THE CAFETERIA

On Friday, November 8, 2019 Ida High School students were treated to free concert from Green Kite Records. The students thoroughly enjoyed the concert.



## MCKINNEY-VENT HOMELESS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. State education agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth.

Do any of the following situations apply to you?

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

If so, Please contact one of our school counselors for assistance

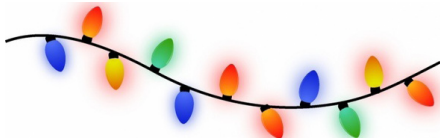
Elementary School - Donna Banker

Middle School - Jen Butz

High School - Kelly Riley & Caitlin Ryan



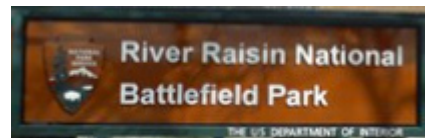
No time for Breakfast at home? We've made it easy for your child to enjoy a healthy breakfast at school. Student breakfast is proven to improve student behavior, test scores, and attendance, so don't let your child miss out on the most important meal of the day! Breakfast is served in all three building cafeterias from 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$1.50. Students with free or reduced benefits are able to take advantage of the school breakfast program also. The cost for a reduced breakfast is \$.30 and no charge for free meal benefits.



## "GAKAC"

Fundraising efforts are getting underway in all three buildings for the annual "Give a Kid a Christmas" program. Members of the community are also invited to participate. Donations of gift cards, toys, cash, or checks made out to Ida High School can be dropped off in the high school office. It is also possible to adopt a family for Christmas. Please contact Jen Muir, one of the program coordinators, at (734) 755.5218 for more information.

Once again we will be selling food items during Christmas In Ida on Saturday, December 7, noon till 8 p.m. at the Township Hall. Items for sale include: chili, hotdogs, nachos and cheese, hot coco, coffee, pop, chips, and baked goods. All proceeds will go to our school program "GIVE A KID A CHRISTMAS!" We cannot do this without your help.



5th grade students went to the River Raisin Battlefield on Friday, Oct. 11th to learn more about the Native Americans in our region, especially the Wyandotte Nation. They got to meet a current chief, learn their language, make a beaded necklace, see artifacts and learned how the early people fished.



# 2019-2020 Board of Education Meetings

At their annual organizational meeting, the members of the Ida Board of Education established meeting date, times, and places for Fiscal year 2020. Twelve of the regularly scheduled meetings will be conducted on the second Monday of the month. All board meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m., and will be held in the high school library, unless the Board of Education determines a more appropriate site is available.

December 9, 2019	Regular Business Meeting
January 13, 2020	Regular Business Meeting/ Second Annual Organizational Meeting First Review of 2019/2020 Budget
February 10, 2020	Regular Business Meeting
March 9, 2020	Regular Business Meeting
April 13, 2020	Regular Business Meeting
May 11, 2020	Regular Business Meeting
June 8, 2020	Regular Business Meeting
June 22, 2020	Regular Business Meeting/ Uniform Budget Meeting/ End of Fiscal Year
July 13, 2020	Annual Organizational Meeting/ Regular Business Meeting

## Emergency School Closings & Delays

When school must be closed or starting times delayed due to inclement weather or other conditions, a Honeywell Instant Alert will be sent. In addition the following radio and television stations are notified.

### Radio

WTWR - 98.3 FM  
WSPD - 1370 AM  
WCWA - 1230 AM  
WICT - 104.7 FM  
WRVF - 101.5 FM  
WVKS - 92.5 FM

### Television

WTVG (TV-13)  
WTOL (TV-11)  
WDIV (TV-4)  
WNWO (TV-24)  
WXYZ (TV-7)

Announcements on the radio and television will be made between 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., if at all possible. Busses will be delayed for up to two (2) hours in the morning if fog or other inclement conditions prevent drivers from making their regular runs in a safe condition.

## IDA Insights is published by the Board of Education of the Ida Public Schools

### *Board of Education*

<b>Michael Mero, Jr</b> Board President	<b>Tim Janssen</b> Board Vice-President	<b>Jamie Hunter</b> Board Treasurer	<b>Heather Schafer</b> Board Secretary
<b>Matt Darr</b> Board Trustee	<b>Andrew Peth</b> Board Trustee	<b>Jennifer Muir</b> Board Trustee	

### *Administration*

<b>Sandra Kreps</b> Superintendent of Schools	<b>Chuck Fuller</b> High School Principal	<b>Amy Janssen</b> Assistant Principal MS & HS	
<b>David Eack</b> Middle School Principal	<b>Bert Wagner</b> Elementary Principal		
<b>John Elkins</b> Transportation	<b>Bob Cherry</b> Maintenance	<b>Chad Baas</b> Business Manager	<b>Sarah Ash</b> Curriculum Director



**We are in need of  
bus drivers. Please apply in  
the superintendent's office  
or contact John Elkins at  
(734)269.9003 x 4001.**

