



**GO REBELS!**

March 8, 2024

# THE RANKIN REVIEW

Rankin School District #98 - Community Newsletter - Vol. 4

## RANKIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #98

**MISSION:** Empowering all students to reach their maximum potential and become productive, respectful, responsible, and well-rounded citizens.

**VISION:** Building the foundation of the future by engaging youth through rigorous and diverse educational opportunities.

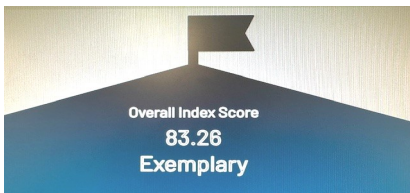
**MOTTO:** Our School is a Great Place to Learn

**CONNECT WITH US:** Email~ [rankinoffice@rankin98.org](mailto:rankinoffice@rankin98.org), Website~ [www.rankin98.org](http://www.rankin98.org), Facebook and District App~ Search for "Rankin School District #98"



Together, Rankin Staff launched the "Leadership Builds Community" Initiative for the 2023-2024 School Year with our K-8 students. It's an enhanced Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. The launch is a result of a collaborative effort from our staff to teach our students about important leadership traits and skills. Miss Sarah Grako, Social Worker commented, "One of my top priorities is to ensure that all students at Rankin feel connected and feel a sense of belonging. Our PBIS program helps promote and cultivate student connectedness via our social/emotional - leadership lessons and activities. These experiences have a positive influence on students' behavior as well as their ability to handle stress and social challenges."

## RANKIN IN TOP 10% IN ILLINOIS - EXEMPLARY RATING!



Rankin's annual report card can be found at the [illinoisreportcard.com](http://illinoisreportcard.com) website. Rankin's Summative Designation for 2023 is Exemplary, which ISBE defines as, "Schools performing in the top 10% of schools statewide, with no underperforming student groups." Dr. Matt Gordon, Superintendent, commented, "We are definitely excited and proud of this awesome designation; however, we are careful to equate our overall success at Rankin as to what takes place here on a daily basis with our students. We utilize a student-centered approach while working as a team and this summative designation reinforces this foundation. We are proud of and grateful for our awesome students, staff, parents, Board of Education, and community! Go Rebels!"

## PARENTS FOR KIDS

Parents for Kids (PFK) is a volunteer organization that supports our students at Rankin. PFK typically meets the fourth Monday of each month in our science classroom. PFK's fundraising efforts resulted in our new concession trailer that arrived this fall. Also, PFK hosts a variety of special events including the annual Chili Supper, Day of Awesomeness, and the winter Santa Shop. While all of the events are very popular, the Santa Shop is one of the biggest events as our students get to experience the joy of giving via purchasing fun gifts for their families at very inexpensive prices. Thank you to PFK President, Gina Perry, and her team as PFK's support is invaluable! To get involved in PFK or volunteer, please email Mrs. Perry at [pfk@rankin98.org](mailto:pfk@rankin98.org).

## RANKIN FAMILIES!



As part of the "Leadership Builds Community" Initiative, Rankin Families were created this year throughout our K-8 students. Mrs. April McLaughlin, Principal, elaborated further, "this year our school has really focused on building leadership and character development in our students. We have eight different Rankin Families that meet each time we have an early dismissal day. So far this year, during our Family Days, we have read stories together, made Valentine's Day cards for a local nursing home, made Christmas tree ornaments, created anti-bullying posters, made family banners, and have had a lot of fun playing a variety of games together. We have even done Christmas Karaoke! This initiative has been a lot of fun and we feel it has been a great success. Students from all grade levels are excited for Family Days."



New Concessions Trailer



PFK Santa Shop

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT ~ Meet Mrs. Amy Galletti!

If you ever have the chance to visit Junior High Science at Rankin, you may meet some goldfish in the aquarium or the class pet, Sophie the chinchilla. Also, you will be able to view students participating in a wide-range of hands on learning activities such as designing Rube Goldberg machines, creating atom cookies, erupting mini-volcanoes, or constructing weight bearing machines for egg drops. Mrs. Galletti's active science classroom is a popular place at Rankin!



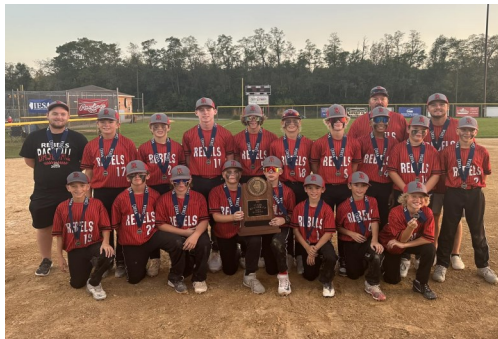
Mrs. Galletti, who is in her 24th year at Rankin, provided an overview of her tenure, "I was hired to teach 5th-8th grade science. I have been the entire junior high science department for quite some time now! I was hired right after graduating from Illinois State University in the summer of 2000 for the 2000-2001 school year." Throughout her career, Mrs. Galletti has been the Scholastic Bowl Coach, Science Club Sponsor, a member of a variety of committees, and a volunteer at many school events.

Mrs. Galletti was asked about working at Rankin, "I always describe Rankin as having a family atmosphere. It is a small school with a very solid relationship between students, teachers, staff, parents, and the community. The relationships built here are what allow us to achieve and maintain the high standards that we have become known for."

Further, Mrs. Galletti explained what she appreciates most about Rankin, "One of my favorite parts of teaching at Rankin is having the students for three years. Building relationships, seeing them learn, mature, and become great leaders for the younger students is very rewarding. I also appreciate my awesome coworkers. They are some of the best people you will find anywhere! I am proud to be a part of the Rankin Family!"

Mrs. Galletti's dedication, professionalism, positive energy, ability to bring science to life for our students, and commitment to Rankin is most definitely appreciated. Thank you to Mrs. Galletti and thank you to all of our fantastic Rankin Staff. Dr. Gordon commented, "Mrs. Galletti is a tremendous example of our top-notch Rankin Staff! She like her co-workers are dedicated and committed to providing the best education possible for our students!"

## BASEBALL TEAM STATE RUNNER UP!



This year's Baseball Team made Rankin history! First, they qualified for State for the second time in school history. Then, this year's team became the all-time most successful baseball team in school history, after they beat Ottawa Wallace in the First Round of the Class IA State Tournament by the score of 3-2 to advance to the Semifinal Round. In the Semifinal Round, the Rebels beat Paris Crestwood 7-2 to advance to the State Championship Game. The Rebels battled tough in the Championship Game versus Champaign St. Matthew as they ended up being the State Runner. The team finished the legacy season with a record of 17-4 and lifetime of memories! Congratulations Rebels!

## HISTORICAL TRACK AND FIELD SEASON!

### FIRST EVER FULL RANKIN TEAM STATE CHAMPION AND MORE!

FIRST EVER!!! Our 7th Grade Girls Track and Field Team won the IESA

Class IA State Championship in 2023 to become the FIRST EVER full Rankin Team in any sport to win a State Championship! Also in historic fashion, our 7th Grade Boys Team earned 4th Place in State! In both Boys and Girls individual events, we had multiple state champions and multiple Rankin records broken.



Amiya O'Neal was a 3X State Champion in the 400m Dash, 800m Run, and High Jump. Wes Thompson was a 2X State Champion in the 800m Run and the 1600m Run! The State banners and record boards are located in our beautiful Rankin Gymnasium. The new Track and Field Season has begun, and I would encourage everyone to keep an eye on those Runnin' Rankin

## DID YOU KNOW?

The 2023-2024 School Year marked the beginning of the new Chorus Program at Rankin Junior High! Mr. Dustin Hyatt, K-8 Music and Band Teacher, is the leader of the program and the originator of the idea for the new program. The group's first performance occurred at this year's Veterans Day Ceremony on November 10, 2023!



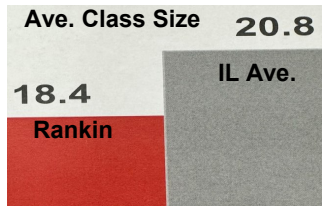
Also in 2023-2024, Rankin Junior High brought back a Dance Team! Mrs. Gretchen Gaudet and Mrs. Rachel Myers led this year's Dance Team. The team performed at the halftimes of both the 7th and 8th Grade Boys Basketball Games! It was a very successful return of the Dance Team Program!



March is a special Fine Arts Celebration Month exclusively in the state of Illinois. This Display case for the entire month of March showcases our students' talents. Mrs. Shelly Hall, K-8 Art Teacher commented, "Here at Rankin our art program instills learning that utilizes creativity, imagination, and artistic exploration to support students and infuses their education with art concepts, elements, and principles and an awareness of cultural diversity."



ISBE Reports Rankin's Average Class Size as 18.4 while the state average is 20.8. Rankin's small class sizes and focus on individualized student attention are staples of the District's foundation for success. Rankin has a 14:1 Teacher to Student ratio as the state average is 17:1 Rankin boasts a 94.4% student attendance rate in comparison of the state average of 91.2%.



The Rankin Board of Education was one of 45 Boards in Illinois to earn IASB's 2023 School Board Governance Recognition Designation. IASB states that the achievement recognition is designed, "to acknowledge those school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education." This was the District's third time earning this recognition designation.

