



THE RANKIN REVIEW

Go Rebels!

RANKIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #98
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - VOL. 6
PUBLISHER : RANKIN OFFICE

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!

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Principal Beard's Bulletin

As we close another school year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who made this such a special year at Rankin. As someone who was welcomed into the Rankin family this year, I cannot express how grateful I am for the kindness, support, and encouragement I have received from our students, staff, families, and community. This has truly been one of my favorite years in education, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such an amazing school.

I am so proud of all that our students have accomplished this year. Their hard work, perseverance, and growth have been inspiring to witness. I am equally proud of our staff, whose dedication, passion, and commitment to students make Rankin a place where children can learn, grow, and succeed every day.

To our families and community members, thank you for your continued support.

The partnership between home and school is one of the many things that make Rankin special, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us.

While summer is a time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends, we are already looking forward to another exciting school year. The future is bright for Rankin, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together in the years ahead.

Thank you again for an incredible school year. I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable, and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back in August! - Mr Beard, Principal & Athletic Director



One Family, Many Strengths

Each year, Rankin selects a theme that reflects our Mission and Vision while inspiring and uniting our students, staff, and families. For the 2025–2026 school year, **"One Family, Many Strengths"** was our theme. As we continue to build meaningful connections through our Rankin Families program, this theme reinforces our belief that every student, staff member, and family plays an important role in making our school community stronger. By recognizing and valuing our individual strengths, we strive to create a culture where everyone feels welcomed, respected, and empowered to grow!

At Rankin, we remain committed to making our school a second home for all. Together, as one family with many strengths, we continued to learn, lead, overcome challenges, and celebrate successes throughout the year. As we reflect on all that we have accomplished together, we are excited to look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year and introduce our new theme:

"The Rankin Difference!"

EXEMPLARY RATING Top 10% In Illinois (3rd Year in a Row - 5th of 6 Opportunities)

On October 30, 2025, this news was celebrated with a

"RANKIN REVEAL," during which students and

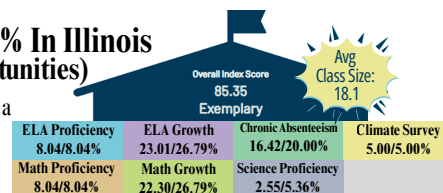
staff acknowledged and embraced this major

accomplishment. Dr. Matt Gordon, Superintendent,

commented, "The REVEAL was such an amazing time,

as it was very special to acknowledge and celebrate this major accomplishment." He also said, "We strive to communicate that the emphasis at Rankin continues to be that this accomplishment is the result of what EVERYONE does EVERY DAY as a TEAM!" It was noted that this is not just about having a few good days; rather, it's about EVERYONE, EVERY DAY working as a TEAM, giving their best, and making good choices! The TEAM at Rankin (students, staff, parents and families, Board of Education, and our community) is to be congratulated! Without EVERYONE, EVERY DAY, the success we are experiencing would not be possible.

Rankin is very grateful for our awesome Team!



Rankin's annual report card can be found at: illinoisreportcard.com



8th Grade - Class of 2026

On May 21st, we proudly celebrated the graduation of our 8th Grade Class of 2026. This remarkable group has left a lasting impact on our school community through their dedication, leadership, and school spirit. For some students, this journey began in Kindergarten, while others joined along the way. Together, they grew as learners, leaders, teammates, and friends while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

The class, under the guidance of Mrs. Thompson, Director, devoted 4-5 months of hard work and commitment to preparing and performing their class play, *"Mystery at Shady Acres."* Their efforts showcased not only their talents but also their teamwork, creativity, and determination. The Class of 2026 also demonstrated outstanding dedication through their fundraising efforts. Working together, they raised significant funds to help cover their 8th-grade class trip to Six Flags. One of the highlights of the year was the introduction of Dirty Sodas to their fundraising lineup. What started as a new idea quickly became a favorite among students, staff, and families.

As they move on to high school, we celebrate all they have accomplished and the unique strengths each student brings to the world. The Class of 2026 truly embodies our theme, "One Family, Many Strengths." We are proud of their achievements and excited to see all that they will accomplish in the years ahead. Congratulations, Class of 2026!

"I will remember this class as a group that set a great example for younger students. They were also very creative and always liked using as many supplies as possible on their science projects, hot glue guns, and glue sticks, especially! They all have very bright futures ahead of them!"

— Mrs. Galletti, Science Teacher

"This class was a standout group. They led by example in so many ways, including work ethic, kindness, and service to our school! They did a great job of working together toward common goals and will be missed by all of their teachers and younger peers at Rankin!"

— Mrs. Schneider, Math Teacher

8th Grade is always the heart of Rankin as they set the tone for the entire school each and every year! The Class of 2026 set a very positive tone all year, and they were a great example for all! Congratulations to the Class of 2026! Thank you to the Class of 2026 for being such good leaders and best wishes to all of them in their future endeavors!

— Dr. Gordon, Superintendent

Staff Spotlight:

Meet Mrs Lamberson

Mrs. Lamberson has dedicated 23 years of service to Rankin School. Throughout her career, she has touched the lives of countless students and families while serving in a variety of roles, including Scholastic Bowl Sponsor, Young Authors Sponsor, 3rd Grade Teacher, 4th Grade Teacher, and now as a Special Education Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator. No matter the position, Mrs. Lamberson has always been committed to helping students learn, grow, and succeed. Her leadership, dedication, and passion for education have made a lasting impact on our school community.

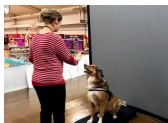


When she was asked to describe Rankin, "Rankin is home to me. My family has a deep history in the district as we have had 3 generations attend here. My children were educated here, and I wouldn't have traded that for anything. Rankin has the best educators who have high expectations and push students to learn to the best of their ability. Rankin staff cares about the whole being of each child. I would hands-down recommend Rankin to anyone who wants a great education for their child."

Her favorite part about teaching at Rankin is that the staff pushes each other to be the best they can be, stating, "We do not settle for mediocre, and we have high expectations of each other so that we can provide the best environment for our students as we possibly can. We also have WONDERFUL parents who are so supportive of letting us work with their children."

Among her many accomplishments at Rankin, Mrs. Lamberson considers starting the therapy dog program to be one of her favorites. While her therapy dog, Lucy, has retired, the program brought comfort, support, and countless smiles to students. Mrs. Lamberson hopes the groundwork she helped establish will make it easier for the next person who wishes to pursue the program in the future.

Thank you to Mrs. Lamberson for her dedication and commitment to our students at Rankin!



"Mrs. Lamberson is a tremendous example of The Rankin Difference! She is full of Rebel Pride, and is always willing to help and support everyone!"

— Dr Gordon, Superintendent

In the Community:



National Jr Honor Society

In November, members of NJHS visited the Memory Care Unit at Villas of Holly Brook. Students enjoyed spending time with the residents by delivering blankets, playing bingo, and sharing cookies. The visit was filled with smiles, laughter, and meaningful connections. It was a wonderful experience for both the students and residents, and a great time was had by all!



Volleyball Team Spreads Valentine's Day Cheer

On Valentine's Day, the Volleyball Team shared some love with the residents at Villas of Holly Brook by participating in a variety of fun activities together.

The visit brought smiles to residents and students alike as they made special memories. Coach Autumn Stowell shared, "It was a fun time getting the kiddos into our community and making the residents smile." The team's kindness and willingness to serve helped make Valentine's Day a little brighter for everyone involved.

New Transportation Provider, Alltown:

Beginning this school year, you may see some new buses in the area! We are excited to welcome Alltown as Rankin's new transportation provider and look forward to working with them to serve our students and families!

www.alltownbus.com



Students Spotlight:

5th Grade D.A.R.E.

Rankin is incredibly grateful for the D.A.R.E. program and the positive impact it continues to have on our students. Each year, Deputy Hastings invests his time and energy into building relationships with our students, teaching important lessons in drug resistance, violence prevention, decision-making, and helping develop the skills needed to make safe and healthy choices.

The D.A.R.E. program concludes with a graduation ceremony to celebrate the students' hard work and commitment throughout the year. Thank you, Deputy Hastings, for your guidance, encouragement, and continued investment in our students! We are truly grateful for all that you do!



Rankin Choir & Band



Each year, PCHS hosts Choir Day and Band Day, inviting students from the feeder schools to spend the day at the high school. During these special events, students collaborate with the PCHS Choir and Band programs, learning and performing alongside high school musicians. The experience culminates in a performance with the high school ensembles, making it an unforgettable opportunity for our young Rebels.

A special thank you to Mrs. Farwell for taking our students and helping make this experience possible. We are also grateful to PCHS for providing such incredible opportunities that inspire, encourage, and connect students through music. What a great experience for our Rebels! 🎵

Young Authors

Young Authors provides students in K-8th grade with an opportunity to develop and showcase their writing talents. Students met with Miss Brooks after school to learn about the writing process, discuss story elements, and work on creating their own short stories. Using short story writing packets as guides, students explored their creativity and strengthened their writing skills. We have many talented writers at Rankin. After carefully reviewing the entries, classroom winners and overall winners were selected.

We are proud of all of our young authors for their hard work, creativity, and dedication throughout the program!



Rankin Track & Field Continues Its Tradition of Excellence!

The Rankin Track & Field teams had an outstanding 2026 season, highlighted by remarkable performances at the IESA Class 1A State Finals!

- 🏆 The 7th Grade Girls 1600 Meter State Champion—
Brooke Kennett setting a new Rankin State and School Record!
- 🏆 The 8th Grade Girls 800 Meter State Champion—
Averi Kennett breaking the Rankin State and School Records!
- 🏆 The 7th Grade Girls Team earned an impressive 3rd-place finish in the state, showcasing their talent, hard work, and dedication throughout the season.
- 🏆 The boys teams were also successful, as they set multiple Rankin records at the state meet!
 - Rankin State Record: Anderson Moser, Braxton Moser, Gus Hackney, and Jakob Toungett placed 6th in the 7th Grade Boys Medley Relay.
 - Rankin School & State Record: Hayes Ingram placed 7th in the 8th Grade Boys 100m Dash.
 - Rankin State Record: Hayes Ingram placed 9th in the 8th Grade Boys Discus.

Congratulations to all of our athletes and coaches on an incredible season. Your hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence have made the Rankin community proud!

