

The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL | NORTH ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | GREEN MEADOW ELEMENTARY



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

From
the
Superintendent
page 2

School
Board
Briefs
page 3

Welcome,
New Staff
Members
page 5

CPS
Athletic
News
page 6

College
Awareness
Month
page 7

CPS
School
Articles
Pages 7-10

Comstock
Library
Events
pages 12 & 13

MORE NEWS

Turn over to read
Center Point
A newsletter about the
Comstock
Community Center

From the Superintendent

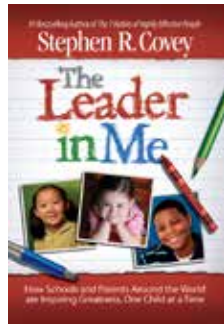


Dear Parents,

One of the keys in helping students be successful in life is helping them develop their leadership skills. Ms. Susan Caswell, principal of Green Meadow Elementary School, and her staff have taken on the

leadership development of their students with great enthusiasm.

Ms. Caswell began with a building-wide book study of the national bestseller, "The Leader in Me." The book was based on the Stephen Covey book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." The book study was followed up with additional training over the summer for teachers and student support staff. The program is now an intense building-wide initiative that is helping students achieve at all levels.



The goal of the book and the program is help students develop the seven habits that Covey's research has shown are exhibited by highly effective people. These habits are:

- **Be Proactive** – Students need to take action to achieve their goals. Life is not a passive activity and to be successful, students need to think and act proactively.
- **Begin with the End in Mind** – Students who are successful think and plan where they want to go and what they want to do in life. Helping students focus on what is the ultimate goal or "end" helps them develop a sense of purpose and focus.
- **Put First Things First** – Teaching students that prioritizing and sequencing will help them achieve

their goals. Understanding which items are the most important and need to be done first and focusing on those ultimately make students more successful.

• **Think Win-Win** – To paraphrase Zig Ziglar, you can get anything in life by helping others get what they want. Helping students understand cooperation and working together helps them throughout life.

• **Seek First to Understand and Then to Be Understood** – The ability to listen and understand others' points of view or ideas is a key habit for people who are successful. Teaching students to actively listen, be empathetic and appreciate others will help them be stronger individuals who will be productive citizens.

• **Synergize** – Synergy is the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In people terms, it is the recognition that we are much greater when we appreciate others' strengths and talents and work together, than when we work alone. Highly successful people work to create synergy with everyone with whom they come in contact.

• **Sharpen the Saw** – Highly effective people follow the path of continuous improvement. They are always working to be better in all aspects of their lives. They seek new ways to help others, improve skills, and assess shortcomings. Overall, it is the basic understanding that we all can be better.

The great thing about what Ms. Caswell and her staff are doing is that it is now spreading through the rest of the district. Other buildings are reading the book and will be working with their students.

Also, these habits are not just for students. They are for everyone. The research and first application were for people in business and industry; however, the habits can help you or anyone else. So go out there and Sharpen Your Saw!

Todd D. Mora
Superintendent



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS

www.comstockps.org

Todd Mora
Superintendent

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Comstock Public Schools is to provide excellence in education for all students through innovation and creativity

VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be a national leader in quality public education.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions concerning your schools, the answer is only a telephone call away: 269-250-8907

STORIES OR INFORMATION

The Comstock Communicator is published by Comstock Public Schools. Information may be sent to Todd Mora at morat@comstockps.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

October:

21 Kalamazoo Christian High School Band/Choir Fall Concert, 7:30 p.m. Free

November:

13-15 Aladdin Jr.-Center Stage Theater- 7:30 p.m. Matinée only on Nov 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets: at the door or call: 269-348-SHOW.

17 Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir Concert, 7 p.m. - Free
21 101 Dalmatians Kids - Home-school Performing Arts-Kids: 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472.



@comstockps.org

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

June 8, 2015

- Approved Tinessa Lewis as sideline cheer coach.
- Approved Haley Gitre as freshman volleyball coach.
- Approved Shannon Wonnacott as freshman girls basketball coach.
- Mark Peeters, technology manager, reported that the district will be switching to a new website provider as of July 1, 2015.
- Approved Elizabeth O'Connor for the NEMS, seventh grade ELA teaching position.
- Approved Karen Cleveland for the Green Meadow first grade teaching position.
- Approved Crystal Kohtala for the Green Meadow first grade teaching position.
- Approved overnight/extended student trip proposals for the volleyball camp, basketball shoot-out, girls basketball camp, soccer camp, wrestling camp and football camp.
- Approved Ascom/Parkway as the vendor for the auditorium speaker upgrade in the amount of \$27,760.
- Approved the purchase of MFP and LaserWriter devices from D. L. Gallivan in the amount of \$95,060.
- Approved science textbooks for sixth through eighth grades and for grades K-5.
- Renewed contract with Chartwells for food service management.

BUDGET HEARING

June 22, 2015

- Paula Johnson, business manager, presented the Preliminary 2015-16 Budget.

SPECIAL MEETING

June 22, 2015

- Approved Kimberly Osbeck for the NEMS EI teaching position.
- Approved Cohen Sangster for the Compass High School teaching position.
- Approved Peter Livingstone-McNelis for varsity cross country/track & field coach
- Approved creation of a behavior coach position at North and Green Meadow to be funded by the At Risk grant.
- Approved continuing the probationary teacher program.
- Approved the final 2014-15 Budget Amendment.
- Approved the Preliminary 2015-16 Budget.
- Approved High School and STEM biology textbooks.
- Approved purchase of five regular education buses.

Bus Drivers Show School Spirit

Bus drivers, Connie Grogg (left) and Tammy Skinner-Novitsky (right), wear the 9/11 remembrance t-shirts they purchased from high school students to support the students' field trip to Wings Stadium to participate in the annual 9/11 stair climb.



Campus Mobile Portal for Parents and Students

Parents and students can now access their Campus Portal information on Android and iOS devices using the Campus Mobile Portal app.



Daily Planner

View today's schedule and assignments due for each class.



Assignments

Browse your assignments by specific class or due date.



Attendance

Review attendance events in summary and detail form.



Grades

Know your grades now. Forget about end-of-term report cards to know how you're doing.



Schedule

Check your schedule from anywhere, at any time.



Food Service

Check your account balance. Available in districts using Campus Food Service.

Where to Download the Campus Mobile Portal App

The Campus Mobile Portal can be downloaded through the Apple App Store, Google Play Store or Amazon Appstore.



How to Sign In

In order to connect your device to our district's Infinite Campus server, you need to enter our District ID.

Our District ID : RFFDKW

Continue by entering your username and password you use on the web portal.

If you need help with your username or password, contact your school.

Inspire 2015

More than 20 Comstock educators joined with nearly 1,000 other educators from southwest Michigan at the second annual Inspire Conference, focusing on the importance of education as a community need and responsibility.

National and local experts shared their personal and professional stories to motivate innovation and change into the educational culture. The conference was filled with inspirational words, comedic acts, and energizing music.

Roy Spence, of Austin, Texas, founder of the advertising agency GSD&M, shared his own story of success in school and the business world. He was truly inspirational. He said that when you have a purpose in place, an organization knows its reason for being and is driven to perform and innovate. Purpose sets you apart and helps you achieve the impossible.

Nancy Stefanick, human resource manager from Stryker Instruments, reminded us to follow our passions and build upon our strengths. Amy Kaherl, director of Detroit SOUP, a fundraising



These Comstock educators attended the Inspire conference this summer.

dinner which funds micro-grants in Detroit, taught us to problem solve using amazing and unique ideas.

Inspire is sponsored by the Learning Network of Greater Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo

Community Foundation. Many thanks for the opportunity to join with other educators countywide to be inspired for the 2015-16 school year.



Thank you to all our golf outing sponsors!

AAA / Gull Road
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 Artwear Apparel
 Auto Zone Gull Road
 Biggy Coffee Gull Road
 Bone Appetite
 Dog Grooming
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WMU College of Education and Human Development
 Comstock Athletics
 Cottage Inn Gull Road
 Eastern Hills Golf Course
 Galesburg Ford
 Gilmore Car Museum
 Golf Services of Kalamazoo
 Grand Rapids Griffins
 Kalamazoo Growlers

Gull Lake View Golf Course
 Hickory Ridge Golf Course
 Jaspere's Pizza Gull Road
 Jim Blades
 Julianna's Restaurant
 Kloostermans Distributing
 Lake Doster Golf Course
 Michelle's Restaurant
 Rich House
 Tracy Daniels

A special thank you to Jon Sanderson for being our golf outing grill master

Special thanks to the following for the newly resurfaced bathroom floors in the stadium restrooms:

Jeff Labrie • Melissa LaBrie • Rich House • Maintenance Masters

We greatly appreciate your support!

Comstock High School

Culture Club Plans Trip to Costa Rica

Members of Comstock High School's Culture Club will be traveling to Costa Rica in June, 2016, accompanied by teachers Peter and Elizabeth O'Connor.

Students will be exploring Costa Rica while learning about Costa Rican culture and language. They will be kayaking on Lake Arenal around a volcano, visiting Poas Volcano and hot springs, ziplining over treetops, spending a day whitewater rafting on the Sarapiquí River, horseback riding on Monteverde, and participating in a thrilling crocodile safari.

In addition, students will be planting a tree in the depleting forest of Costa Rica and spending time with children at a local school.

Students and parents are still able to join our trip. The Culture Club meets weekly at Comstock High School to prepare for our exciting educational adventure.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Amber Hoekstra

Amber Hoekstra, originally from Concord, Michigan, is the new administrative assistant at NEMS, replacing Sydonie White, who retired.

A graduate of Concord High School and Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Mrs. Hoekstra majored in business administration.

"I've always enjoyed business and started working towards my degree as a junior in high school," she said.

She and her husband, Jon, have a daughter, Madelynn, 5, who started kindergarten this fall, and a son, Owen, 2. Jon is an electrician at the Kellogg Biological Station.

"We do a lot of fun things as a family," she said. "We hang out at the pool, go to the zoo, the fair, Gull Meadow Farms, and the movies."

Kim Osbeck

First year teacher, Kim Osbeck, will be teaching fifth through eighth grades in the emotional impairment program at Northeast Middle School. She did, however, have four student teaching placements: Crossroads Middle School in Grand Rapids; Thornapple-Kellogg Schools in Middleville; Stocking Elementary School in Grand Rapids; and Sheldon Pines in the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District.

A graduate of Decatur High School and Grand Valley State University, Miss Osbeck decided to go into education because she wanted to help students who didn't come from the best situations.

"I wanted to build relationships and empower students to do more, be more, and want more for themselves," she said.

Her decision to go into special ed resulted from her interaction with someone growing up who had a cognitive impairment.

"I grew up down the road from the most wonderful person who has ever existed," she said. "He just happened to have a cognitive impairment. I have always loved kids who

needed just a little extra help, so special ed is perfect for me."

So, she majored in special education and comprehensive science and arts in teaching.

Miss Osbeck thinks highly of her third grade teacher, Mrs. Hill.

"She was the most interesting, positive, and compassionate teacher," she said. "She made every single one of us feel valued and 'worth it.'"

Miss Osbeck will be getting married next June to Kyle Stanford who works for the state of Michigan in information technology.

She's also very close to her family, including her parents, and her brother, Matt and his wife Brooke. She enjoys spending time with them and their three children.

Camping, hiking, and being outdoors are her favorite activities.

Kristina Spanding

Kristina Spanding will be teaching special education students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade math and eighth grade writing at NEMS this year.

Babysitting a boy with Down Syndrome helped her decide on her future career.

"I helped him learn how to pick up the apples that fell off the trees into his neighbors' yards," she said. "They paid him \$1 each time he came to pick up apples. He continued to do this on his own without me knowing. At the end of the summer, he bought me a potted flower with the money he earned."

Influencing her life also was her fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Warren.

"She made me feel like everything I did was important and special to her," she said.

Mrs. Spanding graduated from Rockford High School and Michigan State University where she majored in special education. She taught at Paramount Charter Academy for two years.

She's a newlywed, having married her husband, Dave, in July. He works at UPS.

"We actually graduated from high school together but did not know each other," she said.

She enjoys running, reading and snowboarding.



Sarah Taylor

Growing up with parents who were teachers, Sarah Taylor tried hard to find something else to do, describing herself as "slightly rebellious."

But after trying other jobs, she found that working with students was the only one she really enjoyed.

So, the Vicksburg High School graduate became a teacher, obtaining degrees from KVCC, Western, and Walden University, an online university headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She majored in elementary education with minors in math, science, and English.

She will be the sixth through eighth grade math intervention teacher at NEMS this year. Before coming to Comstock, she taught in the Paw Paw Schools for 11 years, 10 years in the seventh grade and one year in math intervention for grades six through eight.

Her father, who was her eighth grade science teacher, is the educator who influenced her life.

"Although I was mortified to be in his class in middle school, I came to see how he truly cared for all of his students," she said. "He is retired now, but always fought for what was best for kids and worked unbelievably hard to be the best teacher he could be."

Mrs. Taylor lives in Portage with her husband, Marvin, who is a seventh grade social studies teacher in the Paw Paw Schools.

She enjoys gardening, baking, playing basketball, and traveling to interesting places. Last year, she and her husband visited Quebec.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

High School, Middle School

Fall Awards Banquet

The high school fall awards banquet will be held on Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. This is also the awards banquet night for middle school volleyball, middle school cross country and middle school soccer.

Physicals

A reminder to all parents that it is an MHSAA requirement that each student athlete have a physical on file with the athletic department to be eligible to participate in athletics for Comstock. The physical has to be dated after April 15, 2015, to cover your son/daughter for the entire 2015-16 year. Please give Justin Ansel in the athletic department a call if you have any questions.

Winter Sport Start Dates

7th and 8th Boys Basketball – Tuesday, October 20
Girls Basketball & Competitive Cheer – November 9

Boys Basketball, Wrestling & Club Bowling – November 16

7th and 8th Girls Basketball & Middle School Wrestling – Tuesday, January 5 (Tentative)

Please call the athletic department with any questions.

High School Winter Sports Parent Meeting

The high school winter sports parent meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. After a few brief announcements by the athletic director, programs will conduct their team meetings with parents to talk about their seasons and answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you there if your son or daughter is participating in a winter sport.

Hall of Fame Nominations

This is your last chance to nominate someone for the 2016 Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame. Please fill out the Hall of Fame nomination form found on this page and return it to the athletic office by Thanksgiving. The Hall of Fame board will be meeting after Thanksgiving to decide upon the 2016 Induction Class. Please call Justin Ansel with any questions at 269-250-8711.

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL Nomination

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

High School Attended _____ Year of Graduation _____

College Attended (If Applicable) _____ Year of Graduation _____

of Varsity Letters - Boys Sports

____ Football ____ Soccer
____ Tennis ____ X Country
____ Basketball ____ Wrestling
____ Bowling ____ Baseball
____ Track ____ Golf
____ Swimming ____ Hockey

of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

____ Volleyball ____ Golf
____ X Country ____ Sideline Cheer
____ Basketball ____ Competitive Cheer
____ Bowling ____ Softball
____ Track ____ Tennis
____ Soccer ____ Swimming

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Special Comstock Athletic Awards (MVP, MIP, All Conference, All State, Coach of the Year, etc.)
2. Career Highlights (Most points in game, Most goals in game, etc.)
3. College Athletic Achievements (If Applicable)
4. Athletic Involvement after H.S. and College (Professional, Officiating, Coaching, etc.)
5. Please list any other information which would be helpful to the committee.

TEAM Nomination - (Must have contact information for all team members to be considered.)

Year _____ Sport _____ Coach _____

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Names of Team Members
2. Special Team Accomplishments (Championships, Records, etc)
3. Please list any other information which would be helpful to the committee.

INDIVIDUAL or TEAM Nominated By:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Justin Ansel, Director of Athletics, Comstock High School, 2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

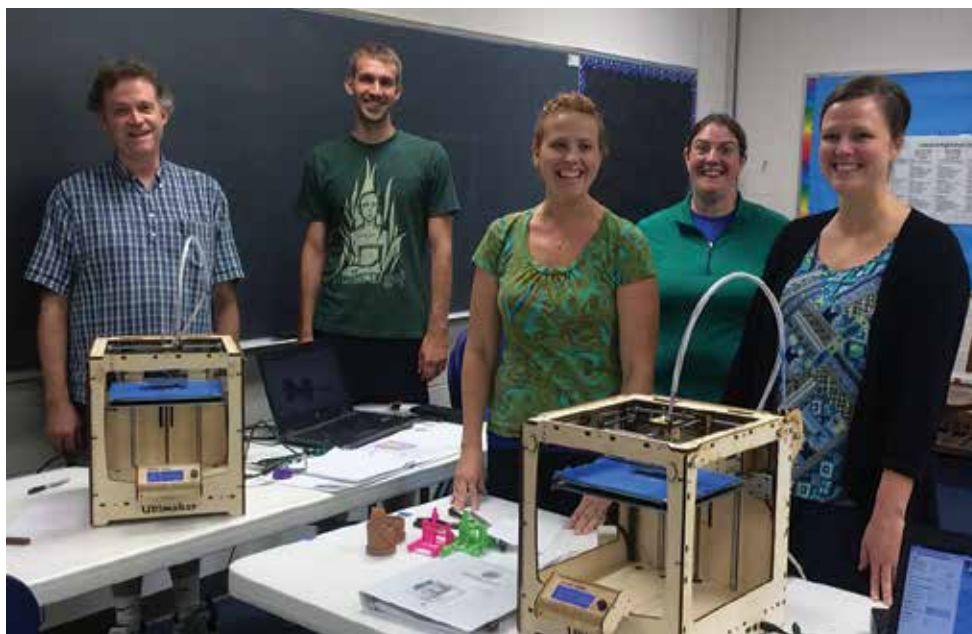
High School Gets 3-D Printers

High school students will get hands-on, real world experience with 3-D printing technology this year since the high school now has two new 3-D printers for student use. Students will learn valuable skills using programming code, computer-aided design software, 3-D scanning software and other tools to make their own objects.

High school students have already designed and printed their own objects on these printers with more to come throughout the year. The high school is the third building in the district to add 3-D printers to the resources available to students and teachers for enhanced learning opportunities.

Teachers who are making this possible at the high school are Peter O'Connor, Niki Richards, Lacy Ramsey, and Megan Hall. They volunteered their personal time to build these printers from kits and to learn about their use and maintenance. Their dedication and commitment to improving the educational experiences of their students should be applauded and recognized.

Since 2013, the Comstock district has been leading the way in the classroom use of 3-D printing technology centered around the core curricular areas and these new printers at the high school will certainly allow our students and staff to go even further.



CPS Staff with the printers they assembled (left to right) Mark Peeters, Peter O'Connor, Niki Richards, Lacy Ramsey, and Megan Hall.



College Awareness Month

We are celebrating College Awareness Month during October. The College and Career Academy (CCA) will be hosting various activities in each of the elementary schools, the middle school and the high school.

Elementary students will have a brief introduction to what college is through the use of games, coloring pages, college speakers and visual aids. All classes are invited to participate in our door decorating contest. All classrooms will decorate a door to match their favorite college or university. There will be one winner in each elementary who will receive a special prize.

The CCA will be using after-school tutoring time to facilitate these activities. Students may stay after the bell on their school's designated day and take the late bus home. There might even be a visit from Buster the Bronco the week of October 19-23! Fourth grade students enjoyed a trip to Landscape forms to learn about manufacturing architect and design.

Middle school students will go more in-depth through the use of some College Knowledge trivia, participation in College Night at KVCC (which requires a parent/guardian permission

slip) and the use of the Real Game that can be found in Career Cruising.

High school students will be participating in College Night at KVCC on October 8, as well as College Application Week October 26-30. Brett Stewart, a Comstock alumnus, will speak to our students about his pathway into engineering. Our college representative visits for October are Oakland University, Calvin College, St. Mary's University, Adrian, and Grand Valley State University.

We are looking forward to kicking off this event and hope students and teachers will dig out some of their best College themed T-shirts and sweatshirts to keep the college spirit alive.

November Events

During November, we will increase our students' knowledge of various post-secondary opportunities by featuring new college and/or career pathways on bulletin boards at each school. Elementary and middle schools will host College Knowledge Fridays where a question about the featured college or career pathway will be announced and the class with the most correct answers will win a prize.

College application week will be held November 3-7 at the high school where each student will receive assistance in filling out a college application.

High school students will hear career speakers from the medical field including Jennifer Newcastle, who works in internal medicine. Doctors of internal medicine focus on adult medicine with special study and training focused on the prevention and treatment of adult diseases.

We will also be joined by Elizabeth Quardokus who works for Bronson as a physician assistant in anesthesiology.

We have a college representative visit scheduled with Olivet College on November 12, and onsite admissions scheduled with Western Michigan University on November 18, where students can apply and get admitted into Western right on the spot. Also, we have a college visit to Grand Valley State University on November 13 where students will tour the school, dine in the cafeteria and get information on financial aid and programs offered at GVSU.

Comstock High School

Wrestling Team Does Community Service

The high school wrestling team attended a team camp this summer which included performing community service at Camp Blodgett near Grand Haven which serves elementary students who come from underprivileged homes.

The team's coach, Scott Kimball was once a counselor at Camp Blodgett.



The team on the beach at Lake Michigan.



The team moves a giant tree that was stuck in the middle of the children's beach so the camp could use the beach for different activities.

Northeast Middle School

NEMS Looking for Volunteers

Northeast Middle School is looking for community volunteers to coach Odyssey of the Mind, an international program that gives students experiences in problem solving, teamwork, organization, and public performance.

Students meet with a coach at least weekly through April to prepare for the regional

competition. Training is available in the fall and free online support is also available.

For more information go to www.odysseyofthemind.com.

Interested? Contact Kelley Howard, NEMS principal, at 250-8600.

North Elementary

North Receives Donations of School Supplies

North Elementary students, staff and families received a welcome surprise at the beginning of school. Comstock area churches, including Northeastern Baptist, Borgess Nurses and many community members graciously donated much needed school supplies through the DHS Stuff the Bus competition.

We presented many, many students with supplies to start the school year off well equipped. We passed out hundreds of pencils and packages of crayons. Children who needed a backpack were able to pick one. Colored pencils and markers were in great supply.

These generous donations helped to ease back-to-school expenses for our families and our teachers who every year dig into their own pockets to ensure their students have the tools to be successful.

We are fortunate to be part of such a caring community.



These school supplies were donated to North Elementary by area churches and organizations.

North Elementary Gets New Gym Floor

Students and parents at North Elementary were surprised at the start of the school year with a new gym floor. This new floor provides a safe, clean and fun surface for all of North's student body to enjoy many physical education activities. The gym also serves as the cafeteria and there have been many positive comments on how bright and cheerful the gym is now

Enjoying a walk around the new gym floor are Mrs. Hicks, Olivia Miskowski, and Damien Coffey-Gibbs from Mrs. Shepard's class, and Mrs. O'Dell, our physical education teacher.



Annual Math & Technology Night

The annual Math and Technology Night for North and STEM Academy students and their families will be held Thursday, October 22, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the high school.

This year's theme is Family Game Night with many fun games and activities planned for the entire family. Past Math and Technology Nights have been a lot of fun and this year promises to be even better.

Please mark your calendars and join in some family fun that evening.

North Elementary Contact Correction

Please note that the administrative assistant at North Elementary is Jackie Martell. She can be reached at 269-250-8550 or via email at martellj@comstockps.org.

North Elementary

North Office Gets New Paint Job, Curtains



North Elementary's office has a fresh new coat of paint and custom made curtains thanks to some hard working volunteers. Comstock High School's National Honor Society provided the painters and the curtains were made by Mrs. Hosbein, Mrs. Chmiel and Mrs. Martell. Their hard work has provided a brighter, more welcoming look to the main office and is in keeping with our school-wide nautical theme.

STEM Academy Fourth Graders Receive New School Supplies

STEM Academy

Ms. Sandefur's fourth graders at the STEM Academy kicked off the year with brand new school supplies courtesy of the staff and clients of Gull Lake Animal Hospital in Richland.

Dr. Kathy and her staff held a Back-to-School supply drive in August which resulted in donations of super bright neon homework folders, flash drives, notebooks, pencils, glue sticks and many other classroom supplies.

The students and Ms. Sandefur thank Gull Lake Animal Hospital's staff and clients for their generous donations and helping us kick off a terrific school year



4th graders at STEM Academy are excited with their new school supplies!

STEM Academy Correction

The email address for Christopher Chopp, director of Comstock's STEM Academy, is choppc@comstockps.org.

Green Meadow Elementary

Green Meadow Welcomes New Staff

We are excited to introduce some of the new faces you will be seeing at Green Meadow. However, some of our "new" faces are really old friends in new jobs!

Mrs. Kohtala - Third Grade Mrs. Kohtala graduated from Western Michigan University in 2007 with her bachelor's degree in elementary education. She then received her master's degree from Spring Arbor University in curriculum instruction in 2013. Mrs. Kohtala has been teaching for seven years. She loves motivating students and believes that everyone is a leader.

Mrs. Cleveland - First Grade This is Mrs. Cleveland's eleventh year in education and her first in Comstock. She attended college at Western Michigan University where she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's degree in educational leadership. Mrs. Cleveland loves teaching first grade.

Miss Hufnagel - Technology Miss Hufnagel is excited to be teaching technology at Green Meadow Elementary and North Elementary. She went to Michigan State University, where she re-

ceived her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Education and Media Arts and Technology. This past winter, she completed her Master of Arts in Educational Technology through the overseas program at MSU.

Mrs. Smeltzer - Behavior Coach Lindsay Smeltzer, a 2009 graduate of Eastern Michigan University, earned a bachelor's degree in special education teaching. In 2011, she graduated with a master's degree from Arizona State University in consultation and collaboration with an emphasis in autism. Lindsay is eagerly looking forward to working at Green Meadow and getting to know the students and staff.

Mrs. Morgan - Parent Liaison Gyneeka Morgan, a parent of Comstock students, will be helping families and students at Green Meadow by connecting them with services like Warm Kids and Loaves And Fishes, as well as working with Mrs. McNutt, our Pathways to Success liaison.

Mrs. Venturelli - Behavior Support Green Meadow is excited to have Jessica Venturelli join our staff to work with Mrs. Sorenson and Mrs.

Smeltzer. She is a former Great Start Readiness Teacher and is familiar with many of our students and families.

Kelsi Heister - Special Education Teacher Miss Heister is our new special education teacher at Green Meadow and will be working with students in grades first through fourth. She graduated from Grace College in Indiana with a degree in elementary special education.

Amy Stacy - Second Grade Miss Stacy worked last year at Green Meadow in the third grade, but is now one of our second grade teachers. She is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education.

Laurie Connor - Administrative Assistant in the Office Mrs. Connor has worked for the Comstock Public Schools for many years, but this year she will be the first person you see in Green Meadow's office. Since Mrs. Vorholt retired in June, Mrs. Connor has been working hard getting ready for the new school year.

Green Meadow Elementary

Green Meadow Participates in Leadership Program



We at Green Meadow Elementary are “changing the world” one child at a time and focused on students becoming leaders

of our school and world. To do that, during the 2015-2016 school year, we are implementing The Leader in Me program. We were recently granted funds to support this through Title 2 Funding, United Way, and the Comstock Foundation

Green Meadow staff members were trained for four days in August. We had to get everyone certified and trained in the seven habits, as you can't give the children what you don't possess yourself.

According to The Leader in Me website, this program “is Franklin Covey’s whole school transformation process. It teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.”

During the past school year, students were exposed to the very beginning stages of this leadership movement. We’ve seen our students show their leadership skills in the classroom, hallways and outside. As we move into the official capacity of The Leader in Me, you will be amazed at how the students will be transform.

The program provides of new way of looking at students and achievement. “Instead of seeing children through the lens of a normal distribution curve—some kids are naturally smart and others are not—The Leader in Me paradigm sees that every child is capable, every child is a leader. This paradigm changes everything,” according to the program’s website.

Green Meadow Elementary recognizes and respects the uniqueness of each child. The school’s primary mission is to foster a love of learning in each student. Students also learn that they are leaders and that they can apply leadership skills to all areas of school and life.

We value the partnership with parents and community members and hope that you will join us if you’ve not already had a chance to spend time

in our school.

To learn more about The Leader in Me, visit www.theleaderinme.org

If I can serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to call me at 269-250-8960 or email me at caswells@comstockps.org

Mrs. Susan Caswell
Principal

“We only get one chance to prepare children for a world none of us can possibly predict. What are we going to do with that one chance?”

— *Principal Muriel Summers, A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School, Raleigh, NC*

Ms. Summers partnered with FranklinCovey in developing a leadership model for her school, which led to her school being named #1 Magnet School in the United States, not once but twice.

Students Learn Seven Habits to Help Them Succeed

Green Meadow Elementary

Students in kindergarten through fourth grades are being taught the seven habits that help students succeed not only in school but also in life. These concepts are from “The Leader in Me” program by the Franklin Covey group.

Teachers are introducing a habit a week and then Green Meadow will be teaching a habit a month in-depth throughout the school year.

Here are the first three habits:



Habit 1 - Be Proactive: You're in Charge

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.



Habit 2 — Begin with the End in Mind: Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals.

I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

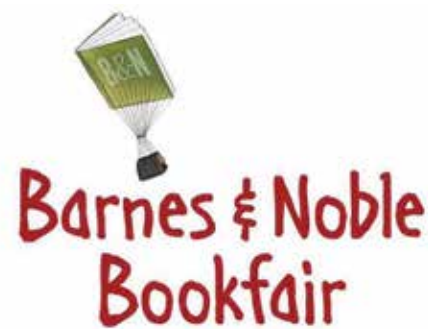


Habit 3 — Put First Things First: Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

More information will be provided in the future about the Leader in Me at Green Meadow.

Information about the Leader in Me program was obtained from www.leaderinme.org. Go to the website for more information.



Green Meadow Book Fair at Barnes and Noble

Green Meadow will be having a book fair at Barnes and Noble on Saturday November 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, to raise funds to support the library. Artwork by Green Meadow students will also be on display at the store.

All sales from the book store and the cafe can go towards Green Meadow’s fundraising goal. If you prefer to order online, be sure to visit the Green Meadow website to get the “code” in November because online sales count, too.

There will be more information on our website and sent home with students in November.

We hope to see you there!

Comstock Public Schools 2015-2016 School Calendar

| | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|---|
| October 30 | Professional Development K-12 | | No Students K-12 |
| November 9 | Elementary Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| November 10 | Middle School / High School Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| November 11 | Elementary Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| November 12 | Middle School / High School Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| November 25 | No School | | No Students K-12 No Teachers |
| November 26-27 | THANKSGIVING RECESS | | No Students / No Staff |
| Dec. 21 – Jan. 1 | WINTER RECESS | | No Students / No Teachers |
| January 26 | High School Exams | | Half Day H.S. Full Day Students K-8 |
| January 27 | High School Exams | | Half Day H.S. Full Day Students K-8 |
| January 28 | High School Exams | | Half Day H.S. Full Day Students K-8 |
| January 29 | Professional Development AM ~ K-12 END OF 1ST SEMESTER Records P.M. ~ K-12 | | No Students K-12 |
| February 26 | Mid-Winter Break | | No Students / No Teachers |
| March 21 | Elementary Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| March 22 | Middle School /High School Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| March 23 | Elementary Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| March 24 | Middle School / High School Conferences | 4:00-8:00 p.m. | Full Day Students K-12 |
| March 25 | Professional Development A.M. ~ K-12 | | No Students K-12 No Teachers PM |
| April 1 – 8 | SPRING BREAK | | No Students – No Teachers |
| May 30 | MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE | | No Students / No Staff |
| June 8 | High School Exams | | Half Day H.S. Full Day Elementary & M.S. |
| June 9 | High School Exams | | Half Day H.S. Full Day Elementary & M.S. |
| June 10 | High School Exams LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS Records Day P.M. K-12 END OF 2ND SEMESTER | | Half Day Students K-12 Last Day for Teachers |

Comstock Township Library Events

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS: The Comstock Township Library donates lap afghans to area hospices and nursing homes. If you have left over yarn from other projects, this is a perfect way to use it up. We assemble knitted or crocheted blocks, 7" w x 9" l, into lap afghans that are approximately 35 x 45 inches. This is an ongoing project so rectangles can be donated at any time. We also gladly accept donations of yarn, or completed afghans. For more information, please contact Myla or Barb at the library.

Interested in meeting other knitters and crocheters? Just want to sit and talk while stitching with others? Call 345-0136 and ask for Rachael to inquire about forming a knitting/crocheting group.

Adult Department Events

Homebound Library Services: The Homebound Delivery Service seeks to provide library materials to Comstock Township Residents who are unable to visit the library. Homebound delivery includes the selection of materials by library staff and delivery of those materials by library employees.

Homebound criteria are as follows:

Residents are to be considered homebound if they have a condition (due to illness or injury) that restricts their ability to leave their place of residence, except with the aid of a supportive device such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers, the use of special transportation, the assistance of another person or if leaving home is medically contraindicated. In most circumstances, if a resident drives, he/she would not be considered homebound. Call 345-0136 for further information.

October: Burlap Pumpkin. Wednesday, October 14, 5:30 p.m. Make a burlap pumpkin to decorate for autumn. Sign-ups began on Monday, September 28, at the adult reference desk and space is limited. Free craft. Call Rachael for further details.

End-of-Life-Care Program: Wednesday, October 28, at 3 p.m. Join Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan to familiarize yourself with their services. Questions like how to access hospice services and when one should start thinking about it will be covered. Sign-ups are required for this free program and begin on Monday, October 5. Call 345-0136 for more information.

November: Santa Beard Tulle Wreath, November 18, 5:30 p.m. Make and decorate a holiday wreath made out of holiday spirit and tulle. Sign-ups begin on Monday, November 2, at the adult reference desk and space is limited. Free craft. Call Rachael for further details.

Join the Comstock Township Library on **Saturday, December 5, from 1 - 3 p.m.** for our annual **Holiday Open House**. Meet local author Bonnie Jo Campbell; enjoy holiday cookies and cider; a performance by the music duo, Catbird; meet Mrs. Claus; make a children's craft; play children's games; and see live reindeer. The reindeer will be outside, so, please dress warmly. Please bring your camera, as pictures with Bonnie Jo Campbell, Mrs. Claus, and the reindeer will be allowed. Free!

We want your family history to add to our Local History Collection. Put your family's name in perpetual history in our collection. In an effort to bring more attention to the Comstock Township Library's local history room and historical resources, the Information Services Department will be collecting "family stories" throughout the upcoming fall and winter months. The library will release announcements this fall via online – on the website and on Facebook – and print media – in "Paginations" and in "The Comstock Communicator" – to encourage library patrons who have grown up and lived in Comstock Township for many years, or who have Comstock Township residents in their family, to participate.

Participants will be asked to bring in personal items or personal recollections about historical Comstock either for donation or reproduction. Items include things like old school yearbooks and publications, family Bibles, photographs of buildings and locations around Comstock, military papers, and other community photographs or publications. Once items have been collected or reproduced, they will be combined into a community display and will be open to the public. Contact Beth or Rachael at 345-0136.

Quiltfest: The Comstock Township Library will host a showcase for local quilters and their wonderfully creative and colorful quilts, February 18-20, 2016. This free event will include a demonstration by Bernina Sewing Center and Quilt Shop, a Saturday activity for children, and a re-

CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans Day. The library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, and be closed on Thursday, November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

ception to meet the quilters. Quilters are invited to register for this event January 25-February 13. Space is limited. Watch for further details in January 2016.

Events in the Young Peoples' Department

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: Pre-Kindergarten. On behalf of the 1000 Books before Kindergarten Foundation, Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents and caregivers to read 1000 books to their young children and earn prizes along the way. Any child can participate until s/he enters kindergarten. Stop by the Young People's desk to register and pick up a tracking sheet. **Registration is ongoing!**

STORYTIME: Ages 1-5. Registration for the Fall Storytime sessions began the week of September 8. Register your child for a 45-minute session which includes 30 minutes of stories, songs, and other activities followed by a short craft. Storytimes began the week of September 14 and will run through November 19. Storytime sessions are as follows:

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|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mondays: | 10:30-11:15 a.m. 1-3 year olds |
| Tuesdays: | 10:30-11:15 a.m. 1-3 year olds |
| Wednesdays: | 10:30-11:15 a.m. 3-5 year olds |
| Thursdays: | 10:30-11:15 a.m. 3-5 year olds |

SATURDAY STORYTIMES: Ages 1-5. Can't make it to Storytimes during the week? Join us for a Saturday storytime session! No registration is necessary for this drop-in session which includes 30 minutes of stories, music, and parachute play. Saturday Storytimes will be on the following dates:

Saturday, October 10, 10:30-11 a.m.
Saturday, November 7, 10:30-11 a.m.

LIVIA THE LIBRARY DOG: All ages. Practice your reading skills to a certified therapy dog! Kids can choose whatever book they'd like to read to the therapy dog. Registration is required and begins the week before this free event. Livia will be at the library on the following dates:

Comstock Township Library Events *(continued)*

Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m.

(Registration begins Monday, October 5.)

Saturday, November 7, 11 a.m.

(Registration begins Monday, November 2.)

FAMILY BOOK CLUB: Grades 3 and up. Read and discuss a new book each month and enjoy themed activities and a snack. Parents and kids can read the book together or read the book separately. Copies of the books are available for check-out through the Comstock Township Library or through Interlibrary Loan. Registration is required and begins the Monday before the events. Meeting times and books are as follows:

Friday, October 2, 4:30 p.m.: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by J.K. Rowling
(Registration began Monday, September 28.)

Friday, October 30, 4:30 p.m.: *Meet Molly* by Valerie Tripp *(Registration begins Monday, October 26.)*

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: Grades 6-12. Earn community service hours by recommending and helping to plan teen programming events for you and your friends, suggesting items for the young adult collection, and more! Registration is required and begins the Monday before the event. Meeting times are as follows:

Friday, October 9, 4 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, October 5.)

Friday, November 6, 4 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, November 2.)

Friday, December 4, 4 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, November 30.)

MAKER SPACES: All ages. Stop in to play and create with different materials every month! Children under 5 need to have an adult helper with them. No registration is necessary for this free event. Maker Spaces dates are as follows:

Friday, October 16, 3:30-5 p.m.

(Lego Creations)

Friday, November 13, 3:30-5 p.m. *(Perler Bead)*

Friday, December 11, 3:30-5 p.m. *(Ornaments)*

TEEN HALLOWEEN PARTY: Tuesday, October 20, 5-7 p.m. Grades 6-12. Come dressed in your Halloween costume and join us for games, crafts, pizza, and watching *Nightmare Before Christmas*. **Registration is required for this free event and begins Monday, October 12.**

FALL FESTIVAL: Saturday, October 24, 10:30

a.m. or 1:30 p.m., all ages. Come dressed in your Halloween costume for this autumn party, which will include crafts, games, photo booth, cider and donuts! **Registration is required for this free event and begins Monday, October 12.**

LEGO CLUB: Friday, November 20, 3:30-5 p.m., all ages. Use your imagination to build a Lego creation for us to display in the youth area of the library! We will provide a variety of Legos including Duplo Legos for younger participants.

Registration is required for this free event and begins Monday, November 16.

DROP-IN CRAFTS: Saturday, November 21,

10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., all ages. No registration is required for this free drop-in session. Choose three crafts from a variety of previously offered crafts. Quantities and styles may be limited.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT: Saturday, December 12, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., all ages.

Decorate a milk carton gingerbread house with candies and frosting. We will provide all the supplies! Children under the age of 5 must have an adult to help them; **Registration is required for this free craft and begins November 30.**

FOR EVERYONE!

WE HAVE eBOOKS! Call us for more information! 345-0136.

The library now has a Cricut Expression available for patron use. You must be 18 years or older or with a parent or guardian to use and must provide your own cardstock. Please call 345-0136 for further information.

Would you like to learn how to research genealogy using Ancestry Library Edition? Please call the library 345-0136 to set up an appointment with a librarian.



Call the library to make sure we are open if there is inclement weather.



We now have tutor rooms and Wi-Fi available! Call 345-0136 for more information.



We now have a fax service! Must use credit or debit card to send.



Now Available

OverDrive! Download free audiobooks and e-books from home using your computer, MP3 player, e-book reader, and other compatible devices.



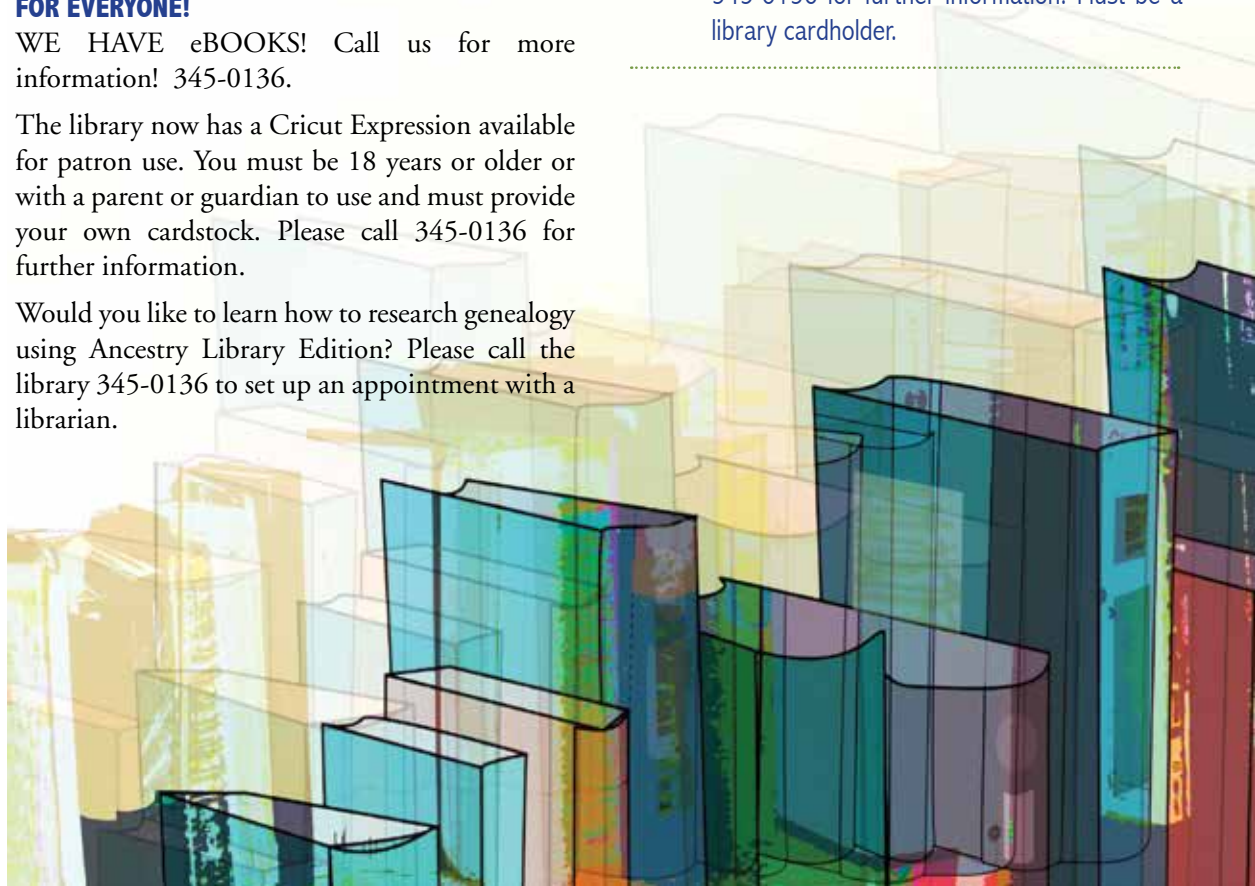
Computer Help

Have a question about the computer? Would you like to learn how to use the computer? Please call 345-0136 to set up a block of time for one-on-one help. Must be a library cardholder.



Need Resume Help?

Please call to schedule an appointment or visit the adult reference desk to do so. We will help you write a cover letter or resume, or just proofread one you already have. Call 345-0136 for further information. Must be a library cardholder.



BAND BOOSTER FRUIT SALE

The Comstock Band Boosters will be taking orders for their annual fruit sale. This year's quality fruit will once again be coming from the Florida Indian River Groves. We are offering grapefruit, oranges and split cases. Please support Band Boosters by sending in your order accompanied by a check.

COMSTOCK BAND BOOSTERS

QUALITY CITRUS

FRESH FROM THE FLORIDA INDIAN RIVER GROVES

PRICES

Navel Oranges

Small Carton (20-40 pieces) \$20.00

Large Carton (40-80 pieces) \$28.00

Grapefruit

Small Carton (16-24 pieces) \$19.00

Large Carton (32-48 pieces) \$25.75

Split

Small Carton (16-30 pieces) \$21.75

Large Carton (40-50 pieces) \$28.75

Orders due Monday, November 9, 2015 . Order form must be accompanied by a check made out to Comstock Band Boosters. Please mail to:

Barb Patrick

6178 Enola

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Pick up will be between Dec 1-Dec 18. You will receive a call to confirm the date, time and place.



| Quantity | Type/Size | Unit Price | Total |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------|
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| Total | | | |

Name _____

Phone _____