## Connmunicator

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



# From the Superintendent 

## Greetings to the Colt Educational Community!

While the 2016 bond has been a boon for our district leading to new and improved academic success for our students, it has become clear that changes need to be made regarding the current middle school and two elementary schools.

Back when the district was much larger, Northeast Middle School (NEMS) was built to accommodate more than 700 students. Currently, it houses only 260 students.

Originally, the second phase of the bond was set to spend $\$ 10,000,000$ to remodel the building and continue using it as a middle school. If this were to happen, when completed, the building would have two-thirds of its rooms new but empty. This is unacceptable both financially and educationally.

On the other hand, our two elementary schools, North and Green Meadow, have a combined total population of 620 students. North is a larger building but Green Meadow is so full we have five portables for classrooms.

Additionally, Comstock does not run its preschool programs but instead transferred that authority to Kalamazoo RESA in 2014. We are the only district in Kalamazoo County that does not operate its own preschool programming.

With these issues in mind, beginning with the 2019-20 school year, there will be a partial reconfiguration of the district which will result in increased programming for students and families, as well as a much more fluid and efficient use of our buildings.

While there are some details yet to be worked out, we will be opening the Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA) next year. To be located at Green Meadow, this program will encompass all of our preschool programming, including morning and afternoon daycare.

Consequently, Green Meadow and North Elementary Schools will merge to form Comstock Elementary School in the building now known as NEMS. As previously mentioned, this building can hold more than 700 students, so there is sufficient space for the combined populations of both schools and future growth as needed.

Uniting our two small elementary schools offers tremendous benefits - balanced sections; greater elective or special offerings; efficiency in service; greater space for music, technology and science; as well as a full-sized gym and large cafeteria.

The district will begin remodeling this building as an elementary school in the summer of 2020 and when construction is complete in late 2021, Comstock Elementary School will be completely new inside and fully air conditioned.

Finally, North Elementary will transform into Comstock Middle School. This building holds more than 350 students, so the current NEMS population of 260 will fit well. W it h the voter-approved bond money, we expect to remodel the cafeteria, update technology and science labs, and improve both the appearance and thermal efficiency of the outside of the building with a new exterior surface and new windows and outside doors.

For more information on the proposed reconfiguration, please see the article on page 3 spelling out the specific changes.

We are seeking public input, so I invite the community to give feedback at any upcoming Board meeting. If you wish to contact me directly, please feel free to do so at thoenesj@comstockps. org or 269-250-8906. I look forward to our conversation!

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes
Superintendent
"It's a great day to be a Colt!"



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS www.comstockps.org

Dr. Jeff Thoenes<br>Superintendent

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pamela Dickinson, President Shirley Amos, Vice President Karen Howes, Secretary Brandy Brown, Treasurer Saralynn Brown, Trustee Matt Schreiner, Trustee Dori Scholly Trustee
Ken Greenwood, Appointed Treasurer Faye Goldner, Appointed Recording Secretary

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by supporting, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach his/her full potential through education.

## VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an educational community where every person is empowered to reach his/her full potential.

## 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 Dr. Jeff Thoenes at thoenesj@comstockps.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.


## Summary of District Reconfiguration

## Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA)

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, we will operate our own CELA - an early childhood center. In doing this, CPS will be centralizing early childhood programming into one building. This programming will include: the federal Head Start program, Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), and the Early Childhood Special Education Program that collaboratively serves a number of preschool children with special needs.
In addition, CELA will offer tuition-based programming which will include traditional preschool as well as STEM, Language Immersion, and Reggio Emilia options. Taking this step allows us to better serve our community and its families as well as caring for the future. Having more preschool children in 2019 will potentially lead to increased enrollment in K-12 in the future.

## Here are the CELA highlights:

- Mark Wilke, current principal at North Elementary, will be the CELA principal.
- Before and After School Childcare.
- Ownership of these programs allows us to promote our district to the community.
- Future purchases will include preschool playground equipment and preschool furniture and curriculum needs.


## Here are the Elementary School highlights

Having all the elementary grade levels in one building is a sound and prudent financial decision and makes complete educational sense as well. Staff will be able to forge earlier relationships with students and families, and students with one another.
Combining students in kindergarten precludes
having to do so later in sixth grade at the middle school when it is much more challenging emotionally, psychologically, and educationally.
Additionally, a single elementary school lends itself to higher efficiency for same-grade staff collaboration and specials scheduling.

## Here are the Elementary School highlights:

- Susan Caswell, current principal at Green Meadow Elementary, will be the principal.
- The assistant principal's position will be filled through the traditional interview process. This is cost neutral since we are eliminating the interim assistant principal at NEMS next year.
- Grades K-5 including Young 5 s.
- Elementary playground equipment will be moved to Comstock Elementary this summer
- Comstock Elementary is a Leader in $\mathrm{Me}{ }^{\circledR}$ Lighthouse School!
- Centralized services for special education, the child study process, interventions, and Title I support
- Balanced class sizes and equal distribution of students.
- Co-Teaching opportunities and enhanced professional learning communities for teachers along with better curricular coordination and training.
- Remodeled by late 2020-21, the building will be completely air conditioned. Floor plans will also be updated.


## Comstock Middle School

We are pleased to not only reconfigure and restructure our middle school programming but reimagine it as well. We will be offering students a 7-period day with four core and three elective courses each day for every student or 12 elective
blocks for the year. In the previous schedule, students had about half that many elective options.

Students will now be able to take traditional electives such as band, choir, and art but also many new and exciting elective learning opportunities - Leader in Me, College and Career Academy, Project Lead the Way (an engineering, robotics, and computer sciences program), Proj-ect-based Learning, dance, as well as "core plus" classes such as Young Authors (ELA), Mathletes (math), and others. "Core Plus" courses are designed by individual teachers around an area of personal interest directly related to their area of certification. Also, Spanish, health, and computers will be offered for high school credit.

## Here are the Middle School highlights:

- David Kirksey, current interim principal at Northeast Middle School, will be the principal.
- Grades 6-8.
- During the transition period, physical education will take place in the gymnasium and other locations while middle school athletic competitions and sporting events will take place at Comstock Elementary School.
- Teachers will host breakfast in the classrooms, but students will be served lunch in the cafeteria.
- Electives such as band, choir, art, and technology will have designated classrooms.
- Future construction will include remodeling the cafeteria, upgrading the science and technology labs, and replacing obsolete exterior doors and windows. Air conditioning and a new gymnasium are parts of the long-term plan for the building.


## May Election Information

There will be an election on May 7, 2019, for all voters in the Comstock Public School District (Precincts 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7). Polls will remain open from $7 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. until $8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. on the day of the election. However, any registered voter may now vote by absentee ballot
Registration deadlines and requirements have also changed. Here are some important dates to remember:
*April 22 - Last day to register in any manner other than in person.
*April 23 through May 7 at 8 p.m. - In-person registrations available with the Clerk (Proof of residency is required.)
${ }^{*}$ May 3 at 5 p.m. - Deadline to request absentee ballot via mail. *May 6 at 4 p.m. - Deadline to request absentee ballot in person.

Be sure to contact the clerk if you have any questions at 269-381-2360 or clerk@comstockmi.gov.

## Sinking Fund Information

On Monday, February 4, 2019, the Comstock Board of Education adopted a resolution submitting a sinking fund proposal to voters in the district at an election to be held on May 7, 2019. The sinking fund is a 10 -year, 1 mill proposal. For every $\$ 100,000$ of home value, the contribution would be approximately $\$ 50$ per year or about $\$ 4$ per month or about 14 cents per day.
Michigan Law restricts the use of sinking fund monies. The district will use the sinking funds to upgrade and repair our infrastructure and facilities. Sinking funds may not be used for wage, salary, or benefit increases.
According to our accountants, the sinking fund
will generate revenues of about $\$ 500,000$ a year. Here is a list of projects we have targeted for priority with sinking funds:
*Paving projects at all buildings
*Roofing especially at Green Meadow
*Flooring and carpeting *Windows
*Doors *Ceilings *Sidewalks
*Upgrades to the computerized facilities and building management system that runs furnaces, boilers, and other related equipment
*Upgrading the outer walls of both North Elementary School and STEM Academy by removing the original surface and replacing it with a new material

If you have any questions, contact Superintendent Dr. JeffThoenes at thoenesj@comstockps.org or 269-250-8906 for more information.

## Board Briefs

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

## January 14, 2019

- The oath of office was administered to board members, Shirley Amos, Matthrew Schreiner, Saralyn Brown, and Dorinda Scholly.
- Approved officers for 2019 as follows:

President: Pamela Dickinson
Vice-President - Shirley Amos
Secretary - Karen Howes
Treasurer - Brandy Brown

- Board Trustee Dori Scholly will be the Board's Legislative Liaison.
- Approved the Board of Education calendar. The Board will meet at $6 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{m}$. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Meetings are held at the Comstock Educational Service Center, 3010 Gull Road.


## REGULAR MEETING

## January 14, 2019

- The Sunrise Kiwanis Club presented a check for $\$ 500$ to help fund the sixth grade trip to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.
- Accepted the resignation of Lindsay Smeltzer, NEMS special education teacher.
- Appointed Sarlyn Brown as Board liaison at Green Meadow and Dori Scholly for Transportation.
- Accepted the bid from Barber Marketing Inc., BMI Supply, in the amount of $\$ 46,994.94$ for LED light fixtures for the auditorium.


## REGULAR MEETING

January 28, 2019

- Approved the budget amendment for the 2018-19 school year.
- Approved the administrator contracts for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.
- Set a special meeting for Monday, February 4, to approve the sinking fund resolution.


## SPECIAL MEETING

## February 4, 2019

- Approved the resolution requesting a sinking fund of 1.00 mill for 10 years to be placed on the May 7, 2019, election ballot


## REGULAR MEETING

## February 11, 2019

- Approved voting for Dorothy Dilsaver for the MASB Board of Directors Region 6.
- Ryan Warner, high school math teacher, reported that he is co-coaching a robotics team with former board member, Mike Hicks.
- Charlene Daily, high school chemistry teacher, reported on changes to freshman science and lab techniques for the next school year.
- Kary Mack, high school Spanish teacher, reported that the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy was created to recognize high school graduates who have language proficiency in English and at least one additional languag.


## High School Students Get Free Books

During the high school's recent Book Fair, each student received up to $\$ 30$ in free books. This first-ever Book Fair for the school is part of the district's commitment to literacy.

Before the Book Fair, students completed surveys to gather information about what book genres they were interested in reading.
CHS then partnered with Bookbug, a local bookstore, to bring books that matched the students' favorite genres. Bookbug brought hundreds of brand new books and even ordered books that were not on hand to further meet student reading preferences.
Thanks to all who participated, volunteered, and made this event so enjoyable!


Dori Scholly, retired Comstock Elementary teacher and current Comstock Board of Education Trustee, volunteered at the Book Fair. Here she is with CHS students showing off their book purchases.


English teacher, Mr. Law, looks over books with student, Josh Small, during the Book Fair.

## SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Become a School Bus Driver! METS, the transportation employer for Comstock Public Schools, is currently hiring school bus drivers for part-time assignments starting at \$14.75 per hour.


No experience is necessary and training will be provided to qualified candidates. Apply today by sending your resume to: recruiting@ contractbusdrivers.com.
For more information, please call (269) 250-8690, or toll free at (888) 996-8586

## High School Winter Honor Roll

## 9th Grade High Honor Roll-3.5 GPA \& above

Ballinger, Nyaira A.; Brownell, Kaylee A.; Burns, Keyondra R.; Clare, Jasmer S.; Cook, Jada S.; Duff, Sha’Mya L.; Hall, Amelia L.; Jackson, Ethan P.; James, Raeanne E.; Martin, Harleigh P.; Putti, Domenic W.; Rooney, Jacob; Searles, Matthew J.; Stratton, Taylar A.; Velasquez, Brooklyn N.; Webster, Madigan O.; White, La’Kario K.; Woody, Maxwell B.

## 9th Grade Honor Roll - 3.0-3.49 GPA

Beebe, Destiny A.; Boland, Nolen W.; Burns, Keyonna I.; Copeland, Isyss A.; Cosby, Justice J.; Drake, Owen R.; Edick, Audrey K.; Fischer, James D.; Haase, Rebecca E.; Haskins, Haydn T.; Hood, Ethan D.; Mielke, Xandra P.; Mikle, Miceala E.; Morse, Keagen L.; Nathaniel, Gianna.; Nichols, Caleigh N.; Null, Sean M.; Owens, Kyla M.; Patov, Alexander M.; Patterson, Israel M.; Riggins, Madison L.; Schmidtke, Gavin R.; Shannon, Arianna N.

## 10th Grade High Honor Roll - 3.5 GPA \& above

Beyer, Tilman G.; Boven, Alexandra N.; Cannon, Macy L.; Carroll, Natalie L.; Congdon, Jackson G.; Henline, Josef C.; Johnson, Vaisha D.; Kish, Alexander M.; Kruis, Julia M.; Lorsche, Franka; Mulder, Gabriella N.; Plosick, Cody M.; Rabick, Samuel D.; Tiffany, Brionna A.; Warner, Thomas M.; Wilkins, Dalton A.;Wintz, Carter J.

## 10th Grade Honor Roll-3.0-3.49 GPA

Bosma, Alyssa K.; Caswell, Evan J.; Cervantes Rosillo, Jessica; Cosby, Shawn A.; DeYoung-Foster, Natalie K.; Duncan, Thomas M.; George, Skylar R.; Haynes, Ibrahim A.; Heath, Alivia J.; James, Megan E.; Johnson, Sierra E.; Koss, Jeffrey A.; Littlejohn, Kami A.; Markus, William D.; Moore, ANiya S.; Mortimer, Kyle B.; Osborn, Macy L.

## 11th Grade High Honor Roll - 3.5 GPA \& above

Ballesteros, Carolina A.; Boland, Haley J.; Carlson, Olivia I.; Curry, John R.; Dratt, Dayton A.; Hattan, Zachary A.; Hines, Dominique S.; Hofacre, Alexus M.; Kreitlow, Adam M.; Militzer, Kelsey G.; Over-holts-Doty, Madisynn I.; Richards, JenniferMegan M.; Rolan, Austin J.; Vandrey, Zoe L.

## 11th Grade Honor Roll - 3.0-3.49 GPA

Allen, Josette M.; Bavin, Brandon J.; Bogema, Samantha S.; Camburn, April R.; Gettys, Jason; Givan, Tariq D.; Gross, Austin R.; Lennon, Madison C.; Matthews, Eriana L.; Miller, Robert J.; Patterson, Moe’ Nae L.; Samuels, Angel L.; Sivley, Jessica L.; Small, Joshua E.; Weston, Caleb H.; Wingler, Carter J.

## 12th Grade High Honor Roll - 3.5 GPA \& above

Abella, Jeztrelle P.; Ansel, Daisy J.; Baumgartner, Keilani J.; Behrmann, Andrea M.; Burns, Kaitlynne A.; Cannon, Marcus W.; Caswell, Madelyn E.; Clements, Tanner S.; Dodson, Emily K.; Duncan, Michael R.; Hainer, Emily C.; Hall, Lily A.; Hang, Vien.; Harper, Janice M.; Hemenway, Alexander J.; House, Abby S.; Jackson, Noah J.; Jeffrie Jaime R.; Kendall, Jack G.; Kuivenhoven, Tyler D.; Langejans, Gabrielle N.; Mason, Alexander J.; Otto, Emmalee A.; Sivley, Patricia A.; Skane, Bradley T.; VanAvery, Jesse A.; Veenhuis, Evan M.; White, Adrian L.; Willis, Branden M.;Woodman, Aliyah B.

## 12th Grade Honor Roll - 3.0-3.49 GPA

Cady, Sarah E.; Earl, Timothy B.; Hemenway, Christian M.; Howes, Grant F.; Irizarry, Issacc D.; Jernstadt, Wyatt B.; Jones, Ceyth L.; Learn, Taylin A.; Lewis, Imani E.; Martin, Jacob K.; McElrath, Samantha M.; Mollohan, Cole M.; Nguyen, Vincent P.; Palumbo, Carly N.; Perez, Cortez M.; Rooney, Michael K.; Smith, Katie J.; Thomas, David A.; Whitehead, Vernard; Woodward, Olivia M.

## Students Learn <br> Physics of Sledding

Ryan Warner's high school physics class investigated the physics of sledding at Robert Morris Park. Students collected data on the height of the hill they sledded down and the speed they were going at the bottom to calculate the work done by friction as they sledded. Students compared these results to another, steeper hill.
"It was a fun and educational experience," said Mr. Ryan.

(Left to Right)Hayden Heath checks the speed of sledder, Brendon Blades.

(Left to Right)Discussing the next step in the experiment are Brendon Blades, Dexter Stanley, Hayden Heath, Cole Mollohan, Grant Commissaris.

## JV Boys Basketball Team Earns BCS Conference Championship



The JV Boys Basketball Team who won the BCS Conference Championship are (Back row, left to right): Joe Allan, Coach Cotter, Carter Wintz, Kyle Mortimer, Kareen Owens, Dalton Wilkins, Evan Caswell; and (front row, left to right) Corn Shaver, JR Kellum, Caleb Howard, and Gabe Romero-Pole.

The Comstock JV Boys Basketball team enjoyed a special 2018/2019 season with a 16-4 record and a BCS Conference Championship with an unbeaten 10-0 record in league play.

These young men will have a major opportunity to continue the growth of the Comstock boys basketball program in the future.

High school boys interested in playing basket-
ball next year should plan on attending the meetings in May about summer workouts, practices and tournaments.

For more information on the boys program, please contact Josh Beeke, head varsity coach, at jbeeke12@yahoo.com) or Jimmie Cotter, JV coach, at cotterj@comstockps.org).

## NHS Members' Achievements

The National Honor Society announces achievements of its members:

- NHS president Madelyn Caswell has been accepted into nursing school at Wayne State University.
- Daisy Ansel broke the school career points record in basketball.
- Zachary Hatten was nominated Goalie of the Year on the Blades Hockey team.
- Abby House has been accepted at Lourdes University to play basketball.
- Emma Otto has been accepted into the Grand Valley State University Dance Team and the Michigan State University Dance Team.
- Jeztrelle Abella has been accepted at Kalamazoo College with 90 percent of her tuition paid for.


## Comstock National Honor Society Serves the Community



Comstock's National Honor Society (NHS) has hosted many service projects this school year. The most successful was Warm Up The Winter where the group partnered with the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission once again to collect and hand out warm clothing to those in need. Once the donations were collected from boxes placed around the community, students organized them into categories and took them to the Gospel Mission.
Along with the warm clothing, NHS members also passed out hot chocolate donated by Biggby Coffee. Some recipients were thrilled and took many items for everyone in their family, while others were shocked and a little nervous. However, NHS members talked to everyone because sometimes people just need friendly and warm interactions with others. In the future, NHS hopes to expand this service project to provide more people with warm clothing for the winter.

The Honor Society also worked a lot with the elementary schools this past year. During the Christmas season, NHS members visited Comstock North Elementary, STEM Academy, and Green Meadow Elementary to help first grade students write letters to Santa.

Wearing ugly sweaters and other festive attire, NHS members talked with students to learn what they would like for Christmas. After that, they took the letters and ensured that each child received a letter back from Santa. It was a way of spreading spirit and hope during the chilly holiday season.
The National Honor Society thanks the community and local businesses for all of the donations and inspiration to improve our Comstock district and the lives of community members.

## Ski Club Wraps Up the Season

The Ski Club had another successful and fun ski and snowboard season. This year's club had 40 students and 45 adults, slightly up from previous years.

Coach Tracy Daniel, who has led the club for 23 years, congratulates all this year's members which included Comstock students, family members and friends.

Thanks also go out to CHS Dean Chelsie Taylor and parent Russell Heath for helping chaperone the club's Thursday night trips to Bittersweet Ski resort in Otsego.

Club members also appreciate Kim Johnson and the CPS transportation crew for getting the group to and from the slopes safely.
Consider joining the club for next year's ski and snowboard season. These outdoor activities can help you get over cabin fever and the winter blues. Plus, you can enjoy Michigan's beautiful winters and appreciate the state's winter wonderland. To make winter go by faster, get out and play in the snow.


Senior boarder, Emily Dodson, and freshman skier, Amelia Hall, love spending time together on the golf course in the fall and on the slopes in the winter.


German foreign exchange students, Tilman Beyer and Franka Lorsche, were so glad they joined the Ski Club.


2019 CPS Ski and Snowboard Club members.

## Community Auditorium Events - Open to the Public

## April:

6-Borgess Marathon Run Camp - 7 a.m.-Noon, Colt Center.
9 - West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Spring Band/Choir Concert, 7 p.m. (includes band, orchestra, choir) $\$ 3$ at the door.
13 - Comstock Senior Oscar Night, 7 p.m. FREE.
17 - Green Meadow Music Program - 7 p.m. - FREE
May:
3-4; 9-11 - Peter Pan-Homeschool Performing Arts: 7 p.m. Also Matinée
(May 4 and 11) at 1 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472
6 - Comstock STEM/Northeast Middle/High School Choir Concert, 7 p.m. Free.
13 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir Concert, 7 p.m. Free. Doors open at 6 p.m.
14 - Kalamazoo Christian High School Choir/band Concert, Free, Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; House at 7 p.m.; Concert at 7:30 p.m.
15 - NEMS/STEM Middle School Band Concert, 7 p.m. Free.
16 - Comstock High School Band Concert, 7 p.m. Free.
21 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Musical, Performances: 12:45 p.m.;

7 p.m. For ticket info, call 544-2332.
22 - Comstock High School Honors Convocation, 5 p.m. Free.
23 - The Montessori School Concert, 6:30 p.m. Free.
24 - Gull Lake High School Band Concert, 7 p.m.
29 - Barclay Hills Graduation, 7 p.m.
30 - Compass High School graduation, 7 p.m.
June:
1 - Traci Phelps Dance Studios Performance, 2-5:30 p.m. Call Studio for details/tickets.
4 - STEM Middle School Awards Night, 5-6 p.m.-Doors open at 4:30.
5 - Comstock NEMS Awards Program, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.
8 - Tamburitzans-Comstock Community Center Fundraiser Show, 7:30 p.m.
9 - Momentum Dance Studio Recital: 2 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. Call Studio for details/tickets.
17-21-Homeschool Performing Arts Drama camp. Look online for registration and details. hpami.org
22 -Trinity Prep Center Dance Recital, 2 p.m.

## Compass High School

## Compass Thanks Community for Support

Compass High School has been fortunate to have a lot of involvement from the community during this school year. The generosity has allowed Compass to offer new programs to our students as well as sustain some of the older programs we offer our students.

Compass teachers offer tutoring in the afternoons for students who may be struggling academically. Several businesses have donated pizza this year to help increase attendance. We extend thanks to Jaspare's, Jet's, Papa John's, Hungry Howie's, Mancino's, Godfather's, and Cottage Inn. We can't thank these Comstock businesses enough for helping the students at Compass. Data shows we have more students in attendance when we offer them pizza.

Additionally, the Hands Up Foundation donated 25 turkey dinners to the families at Compass High School. Many thanks to them for giving Comstock families an opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner in the comfort of their homes.

Compass had even more support as the YMCA donated memberships to graduates and students at Compass High School. These memberships were given to students for completing the requirements of a Michigan Merit diploma, as well as for having met specific criteria that will ensure they will be positive leaders within the community.

We also thank The Guitar Center Foundation for providing us with guitars that will allow students at Compass to participate in guitar club.


Ka'ron Alexander stayed for tutoring, got some work done, and ate some pizza.


Josh Ehrman participates in an electric safety certification training at The Groves KVCC.

Data has shown that students who participate in after-school clubs have increased attendance and grades.
The military, KVCC, and Western Michigan University also provided donations.

Thanks also go to anonymous community members for non-monetary donations such as art supplies and items for therapeutic groups.

Lastly, we would like to thank The Kalamazoo Community Foundation for their generosity. The Fetzer Institute Advisory Committee awarded Compass $\$ 3,000$ so that the students at Compass High School can participate in certificate programs at KVCC. These certificate programs will allow our students opportunities to become successful leaders within the community by giving them knowledge to help them jump-start a career.
Thank you to all of the community businesses and members for helping support students at Compass High School. Your kindness and generosity will help our students find success, and pursue their dreams!

Sincerely,
The Compass Staff

## Hazardous Weather Communications



With hazardous weather conditions just around the corner, Comstock Public Schools is encouraging all parents to talk with their children about the possibility of school closing due to bad weather. In the event that school must be closed early on any given day, please have a plan developed with your children so they arrive home safely.

Every effort is made to make a decision to close school by 5 a.m. and to notify the news media immediately. However, the district has no control over how quickly the information is disseminated by the media.
Below is a list of the multiple ways you can be notified of early closings, or school closings:

You may sign-up to follow Tweets at https://twitter.com/ComstockPS regarding school closings or go to our website at www. comstockps.org.
Make sure your Infinite Campus portal is current with correct contact information in order to receive ShoutPoint notification.
For the latest school closings, turn your radio or television to the following stations:

## CALL LETTERS

98.5 FM, 96.5 FM (WNWN, WFAT) 100.9 FM (WQXC)

903 AM, 1400 AM (WBCK, WRCC) 106.5 FM, 590 AM, 1470 AM (WQLR, WKZO, WQSN)
107.7 FM, 103.3 FM (WRKR, WKFR)

TV 3 WWMT-TV
TV 8 WOOD-TV
TV 4 WOTV

## STEM Academy

## S'EM Academy Students Learn from Scientists in Antarctica

Fourth graders at the STEM Academy recently participated in a video conference with Jack and Schuyler, polar scientists working at Palmer Station in Antarctica. The students first met some of the polar scientists in late November, when Columbia University offered schools an opportunity to talk with a polar expert. The second, fourth, and sixth graders participated in that Facebook Live feed.

The fourth graders continued their study about Antarctic food web ecology. They also learned how polar scientists are conducting long-term experiments and recording observations to understand the changing climate.

In early March, the fourth graders along with two other schools from around the United States participated in a video conference where they asked the polar scientists questions about the research the children had been studying. It was an amazing experience for these students as they learned about a current concern for our planet.
In 1990, the United States National Science Foundation (NSF) created a national network of long-term ecological research (LTER) sites. Palmer Station Antarctica is one of those sites. LTER is an interdisciplinary polar marine research program of scientists who work along with postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, undergraduate students, station and affiliated personnel from various universities and research institutions.

According to their website, pal.lternet.edu/ about, they examine the "oceanic, atmospheric, and biogeochemical processes that result from natural disturbances, environmental change and human impacts on the western Antarctic Peninsula."



STEM Academy students participate in a question/answer session with polar scientists.


Xander Rudd asks the scientists a question.


On the screen, the two polar scientists, Jack and Schuyler, talk about how the humpback whale has been affected by climate change.

## STEM Academy Students Host Winter Wonderland

Comstock STEM Academy seventh graders practiced the 21 st Century Skills of taking initiative, empathy, and creativity by treating their second grade buddies to a Winter Wonderland extravaganza.

Planning and organizing this event, STEM's middle school students gave back to their young friends while being positive role models. The seventh graders set up stations with various activities such as crafts, games, and making slime to entertain the second graders they've been buddies with all year long. In line with the event's theme, many of the activities had a winter connection such as "pin the nose on the snowman."
Attending school in a a K-8 building has many benefits for both older and younger students. The seventh graders are thankful to have the opportunity to plan events for the younger STEM students.


Maizie Clark, Grace Anglin, Krisha Patel, and Bella Havlock-Martin help students make their own slime.


Comstock STEM Academy seventh graders hosted a Winter Wonderland extravaganza.


Michael Howes and Elliot Fahl host a "Plinko" game made out of robotics parts.


Macy Searles and Anna Putti help students play "Pin the Nose on the Snowman."


## Green Meadow Elementary

## Green Meadow, High School Showcase Leader in Me At Symposium

When the Leader in Me organization held its first symposium in Western Michigan, Green Meadow Elementary and Comstock High School participated in the symposium and were two of three schools participants could visit to see Franklin Covey's Seven Habits of Successful People in action.
With the help of Nicholas Sasak, Student Lighthouse Coordinator, Green Meadow's Student Lighthouse team presented two songs using music from "Mr. Blue Skies" and "Eight Days a Week," rewritten with Seven Habits lyrics.
Fifth graders Alyssa Gettys Lewis and Darren Cox shared how the Seven Habits have changed their lives at Green Meadow.
Also, at the symposium, Comstock led different breakout sessions. Kelly McVerry and Courtney Boyce presented the 4DX Process and how to align Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) across all grade levels.
Shawn McMeekan and Principal Susan Caswell led a session on integrating school improvement with the Leader In Me program. High School students Kaitlynne Burns, Abby House, Nikki Dankert, Emily Hanier and Natalie Carroll presented the Student Lighthouse Team and an overview of their second year with Leader in Me.

When the symposium attendees visited Green Meadow, they were greeted with a kindergarten and first-grade version of Seven Habits sung to the tune of "Baby Shark."

Classrooms were open for guests to tour and see students engaging with the Seven Habits. Throughout the building, students were posted at various stations to answer questions for the visitors.
It was an exciting day of sharing of Comstock successes.


Lee Esperance and Bradley Tucker share Green Meadow's School Wide Lead Measure and tracking system.


Jace Plane and Pauly Foster discuss the importance of the
Student Lighthouse Team and the role the team plays in
Jace Plane and Pauly Foster discuss the importance of the
Student Lighthouse Team and the role the team plays in decision making at Green Meadow.

CHS student presenters were Natalie Carroll, Kaitlynne Burns, Abby House, Nikki Dankert, Emily Hainer, and


Emily Hainer, Abby House, Kaitlyn Burns and Shalynn Miskowski speak on the Student Panel.


## Brook Dove.

## Green Meadow

 Students Enjoy
## Pirates in Pajamas



During Pirates in Pajamas Night, students answered questions while walking the plank.

The Comstock High School National Honor Society helped GM students on a literacy voyage with a special night called Pirates in Pajamas. Students came to Green Meadow dressed in pajamas to listen to stories, have pizza, and participate in fun activities like Walk the Plank, Treasure Dig, and Toss the Parrot.

Pirate Brian and Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes were our special guest readers.

Best of all, students left with a bag of goodies and a brand new book.


Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes and Pirate Brian were great guest readers.

# Kiwanis Club Presents Check to Green Meadow Elementary 



The Sunrise Kiwanis Club recently presented a grant check for $\$ 420$ to Green Meadow's instructional coach, Shawn McMeekan. Mr. McMeekan had submitted a grant proposal to the club and it was selected as deserving of support.

Mr . McMeekan will use the funds to purchase children's magazine subscriptions, a magazine rack, and binders for each magazine. The magazines will be placed in Green Meadow's media center for circulation.
The intent of this purchase is to provide students with high interest magazines to help them develop their literacy.
Green Meadow extends a special thank you to the Sunrise Kiwanis Club for this donation. If you would like to learn more about the Sunrise Kiwanis Club and how they support the community, please visit: https://www.facebook.com/kalamazoosunrise/ or kiwanis.org.

Shawn McMeekan accepts the grant check from Alice Witt of the Sunrise Kiwanis Club.


# COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES 

## Boys Varsity Baseball

| Tue, Apr 9 | Galesburg-Augusta HS | $4: 00 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Sat, Apr 13 | @ Bridgman Round Robin w/Coloma | $10: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| Tue, Apr 16 | @ Buchanan HS | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Thu, Apr 18 | Athens High School | $4: 00 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Mon, Apr 22 | Three Rivers HS | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Tue, Apr 23 | @ Parchment High School | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Tue, Apr 30 | @ Bridgman Public Schools | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Fri, May 3 | @ Benton Harbor High School | $4: 00 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Tue, May 7 | Brandywine High School | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Wed, May 8 | Plainwell Schools | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Sat, May 11 | @ Bangor Invitational | $10: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| Tue, May 14 | Berrien Springs HS | $4: 15 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Tue, May 21 | @ BCS Rain Date | TBA |
| Tue, May 21 | Allegan Public Schools | $4: 15 P M$ |
| Fri, May 24 | Battle Creek Central HS | $4: 15 P M$ |
| Tue, May 28 | @ Kalamazoo Christian HS (Single Game) | $4: 30 \mathrm{PM}$ |
| Sat, Jun 1 | @ MHSAA District - at Lawton MHSAA | TBA |

Boys \& Girls Varsity Track
Wed, Apr 10 @ BCS Parchment Dual 4:15PM
Fri, Apr 12 @ Gull Lake Invitational 2:00PM
Wed, Apr 17 BCS Berrien Springs Dual w/Covert/Lakeside/Albion
Fri, Apr 19 Comstock Invitational
Wed, Apr 24 BCS Comstock Quad vs Brid w/Parch \& Buch, Lakeside/Albion

4:15PM
Fri, Apr 26 @ Schoolcraft Invitational 3:00PM
Tue, Apr 30 @ BCS Berrien Springs Quad vs Buchanan 4:15PM
Fri, May 3 @ Parchment Invitational
Wed, May 8 @ BCS Parchment Quad vs Brandywine Mon, May 13 Comstock Invitational
Sat, May 18 @ MHSAA Regionals at Centreville
Wed, May 22 BCS Conference Meet

## Boys Varsity Golf

Tue, Apr 9 @ BCS Parchment Jamboree Eastern Hills 4:00PM Tue, Apr 16 BCS Comstock Jamboree - Eastern Hills 4:00PM Fri, Apr 19 Comstock JV Golf Invite - Hickory Ridge 9:00AM Wed, Apr 24 @ BCS Berrien Springs Jamboree Indian Lk4:00PM Mon, Apr 29 @ BCS Buchanan Jamboree -Orchard Hills 4:00PM Thu, May 9 @ BCS Brandywine Jamboree - Signal Point4:00PM Thu, May 16 @ BCS Conference Meet at Hampshire 9:00AM

## Boys Varsity Soccer

Wed, Apr 10 Berrien Springs HS
Fri, Apr 12 @ Lawton Community Schools
Tue, Apr 16 Covert Public Schools
Thu, Apr 18 @ Hartford Public Schools
Mon, Apr 22 Brandywine High School
Wed, Apr 24 @ Parchment High School
Fri, Apr 26 Schoolcraft High School
Mon, Apr 29 @ Lake Michigan Catholic HS Wed, May 1 Buchanan HS
Fri, May 3 Dowagiac High School Mon, May 6 @ Bridgman Public Schools Wed, May 8 @ New Buffalo High School Thu, May 9 @ Cassopolis High School Mon, May 13 @ Maple Valley High School Wed, May 15 @ Watervliet Mon, May 20 Michigan Lutheran HS

## Girls Varsity Softball

| Tue, Apr 9 | Plainwell Schools |
| :--- | :--- |
| Tue, Apr 16 | @ Buchanan HS |
| Thu, Apr 18 | Athens High School |
| Sat, Apr 20 | @ Schoolcraft High School |
| Tue, Apr 23 | @ Parchment High School |
| Thu, Apr 25 | @ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School | 10:00AM 4:15PM 4:30PM

Tue, Apr 30 @ Bridgman Public Schools 4:15PM
Fri, May 3 @ Benton Harbor High School 4:00PM
Tue, May 7 Brandywine High School 4.15PM
Thu, May 9 Hackett Catholic Prep 4:15PM
Tue, May 14 Berrien Springs HS 4:15PM
Fri, May 17 @ Mendon High School 4:30PM

Sat, May 18 Comstock JV Softball Invite 9:00AM
Tue, May 21 @ BCS Rain Date
Tue, May 21 Allegan Public Schools
Fri, May 24 Battle Creek Central HS

4:00PM
4:15PM
4:00PM
Tue, May 28 Delton-Kellogg HS
Sat, Jun 1 @ MHSAA District - at Lawton
6:00PM
6:00PM
6:30PM
5:00PM
6:00PM
6:00PM
6:30PM
5:00PM
6:00PM
5:00PM
5:00PM
6:00PM
5:00PM
5:30PM
5:00PM
6:00PM

## Girls Varsity Tennis

Wed, Apr 10 Otsego HS
4:30PM
4:30PM

## TBA

TBA
4:30PM
4:30PM
9:00AM

## 4:30PM

4:30PM
4:30PM
9:00AM
4:30PM
TBA
4:00PM
4:30PM
TBA
9:00AM

## Athletic Department News

## Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

The Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 27, at the WMU Fetzer Center. Doors will open at $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. and the induction to follow at 6:45 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for $\$ 25$. Come support these great Comstock alumni and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 22.

Athletes being inducted are: Rich Bailey, Comstock Teacher \& Coach 1983-2018; Bryan Crosby, Class of 1985; Ayanna Wilson-Byrd, Class of 1993; Jennifer Layne, Class of 2002: and the 1987 State Championship Volleyball Team comprised of Sherry Anderson, Becky Carlson, Pam Davan, Sue Jackson, Angela Jones, Pam Siwik, Connie Thomas, Dawn Vandyk, Keri Wallace, Joy Watts and Coach Jeff Borr.


The girls varsity basketball team won the BCS Conference Title for the third straight year.

## BCS Conference Girls Basketball Champions

The varsity girls basketball team finished their regular season with a 16-4 record and won the BCS Conference Title for the third straight year. Congratulations to seniors Daisy Ansel, Kaitlynne Burns, Madelyn Caswell, Abby House, Jaime Jeffries, Gabrielle Langejans; juniors Kelsey Militzer, Jessica Sivley, Kelci Wilson-Abrams; sophomores Macy Cannon, Maya DeYoung-Foster, and Brionna Tiffany. Great job!

## MHSAA State Qualifier

Congratulations to Coach Jason Hayes and Brandon Bavin for representing Comstock in the MHSAA State Finals. Brandon finished the tourney with a 1-2 record but wrestled well. We're very proud of his achievements this year.


## Career Scoring Record

Senior Daisy Ansel broke the career scoring record held by Stacy Stanton from 1991-2019. Daisy currently sits at 1,662 points and counting.

Senior Daisy Ansel

High School and Middle School Physicals A reminder that your son/daughter has to have a physical on file with the athletic office in order to be able to participate in sports. Physicals for the 19-20 school year must be dated after April 15, 201,9 to be valid.

## Spring Sports Awards Banquet

The spring sports awards banquet will be held on Thursday, June 6, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. All spring high school and middle school sports will be invited to attend the banquet.


The boys wrestling team won the MHSAA District and the BCS Conference Titles for the second year in a row.

## MHSAA District and BCS Conference Wrestling Champions

The boys wrestling team won the MHSAA District and the BCS Conference Title for the second year in a row. Congratulations to seniors Cameron Gilley, Noah Jackson, Rodrigo Juarez, Jack Kendall, Zachary Perkins, Teague Roellchen, Jesse VanAvery; juniors Brandon Bavin, John Curry, Sage DeCamp; sophomores Arron Alvarado, Markeyis Boland; and freshmen Cody Coronado-Burnett, Jacob Rooney, Robert Sivley, Alex Vercruysse; and Coach Jason Hayes and Assistant Coach Mubark Hasan. Great job!

## Comstock Public Schools 2018-2019 School Calendar

May 7
May 27
June 10
June 11
June 12

High School Conferences
MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE
Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams) Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS (High School Exams)
Records Day P.M.

4:00-8:00 PM

Full Day Students K-12 No Students / No Staff
Half Day Students \& Teachers K-12
Half Day Students \& Teachers K-12
Half Day Students K-12
Last Day for Teachers

## Comstock Township Library Events

Library Hop: April 1-30, 2019. A road trip adventure. Local libraries have joined together to share public events and help you discover other communities. To participate, pick up a Library Hop passport from your home library. This allows you access to the events on the itinerary at other libraries. Get your Passport stamped at each library you visit. Comstock Township residents who participate should present their stamped passport to the Comstock Township Library by May 6 to be entered in a drawing for a $\$ 25$ gift card. Earn one entry into the drawing for five stamps, two entries for 10 stamps, three entries for 15 stamps, and four entries for all stamps. Drawing will be held on May 7. For more information, go to www.libraryhop.org.
National Library Week is April 7-13, 2019. Visit us during this week and check out books for a chance to enter a drawing for a gift card. One chance ticket per patron per visit. If you register for a library card during this week, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate. Double your chances by checking out materials the same day you register!
Fine Forgiveness: You forgot? We forgive! Fine Forgiveness will last for only one week: May 6-11, 2019. Comstock Township Library will waive up to $\$ 20$ in overdue fees on returned material. You have the opportunity to have all your fines wiped away and have a brand new chance to borrow books and movies, use the computers and make use of all the services the library offers. We look forward to seeing you again!

However, you must take the initiative to clear your record by coming into the Comstock Township Library. You may return any overdue library materials with No Questions Asked. You bring them back, we check them in and waive fees up to $\$ 20$ per patron. If you have lost an item and cannot return it, we will forgive the overdue fees if you pay for the item during this week. You just have to come by and talk to us to get the record cleared. Lost your card? During Fine Forgiveness week, we will waive the $\$ 1$ replacement fee.

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

Adult Craft: Faerie House. Wednesday, April 17, at 5:30 p.m. Decorate a faerie house to use in your home or your garden. Registration is required for this free event and begins on April 1 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling $345-0136$. Space is limited.
Quiltfest 2019: April 25-27. Local quilters will be displaying their colorful works. Come visit and vote for your favorite quilt. A $\$ 25$ gift certificate will be awarded to the top nominated quilt, and a door prize winner, $\$ 25$ gift certificate, will be drawn from the ballots. Quilts will be on display during regular library hours.
Ask-A-Lawyer, Thursday, May 2, 6-8 p.m. Join Robert Reilman to get your legal questions answered. This program is free and sign-ups begin on April 22 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited. (Your legal questions will be answered in the order you arrive, but you must register).
Adult Craft: Thursday, May 16 at 6 p.m. Happy Our Art Canvas Painting! Happy Our Art will be here for a guided-canvas painting. Registration is required for this free event and begins on April 29 on our website. "o to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

Community Yard Sale: Saturday June 8, 2019, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Start planning now to participate in or attend the Community Yard Sale hosted on the library grounds. Sellers may purchase a $10 \times 10$ space for $\$ 5$, due at registration. To reserve your space, please stop by the library starting May 13. Tables, chairs and change are not available; you must bring your own. *Multiple spaces can be purchased for a larger sale area* No food items, please. 30 spaces available. Spaces are not available inside the library. Vendors' choice to set up in the case of inclement weather.

## YOUTH AND TEEN EVENTS

Regular Storytimes at Comstock Township Library will run until May 2, 2019. We are still accepting children in our Tuesday Wee Ones and Thursday Preschool Storytime. Call the youth department to register your child.
Mondays: Preschool Storytime (recommended for 3-5 year olds) from 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Tuesdays: Wee Ones (recommended for birth- 2 year olds) from 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Wednesdays: Toddler Storytime (recommended for 2-3 year olds) from 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Thursdays: Preschool Storytime (recommended for 3-5 year olds) from 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Thursdays: STEAM Storytime (3-6 year olds) from 1-1:45 p.m.
Family Storytimes: Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m., we will have a drop-in, all ages storytime running May 9 August 8.
May the 4th Star Wars Storytime: Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. A long time ago, in a library not-so-far away.... Celebrate International Star Wars Day with us as we host an out-of-this-world storytime! Come dressed as your favorite Jedi or Sith Lord and enjoy stories and crafts! Open to all ages.
1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Pre-Kindergarten. Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents to read 1000 books to their young children before they begin kindergarten and earn prizes along the way. Reading to your children beginning at a young age is the single most important thing parents can do to help their children become successful readers as they get older. Any child can participate until s/he enters kindergarten. Pick up your tracking sheet at the Youth Desk today!
STEAM Adventures: April 17, from 4-5:30 p.m. This new monthly program is open to all K-5 elementary students. Explore a new STEAM topic every month with hands-on experiments. Register on our online calendar or call the youth department for more details.
LEGO dates: April 10, all day. LEGOs will be out in the children's department all day. Come and build something awesome to display until the next meeting! No registration required.
T(w)een Tuesdays: Open to all middle and high school students (or ages 11-18). Join us every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. for games, crafts, snacks and other fun activities. No registration required. Select nights will be dedicated to anime or food parties.
Teen Book Discussion - The Hate U Give, led by Comstock High's Black Student Union: April 11 from 5-6 p.m. Join Comstock High School's Black Student Union group as they lead a discussion on Angie Thomas's famous novel, The Hate $U$ Give. This event is

## CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Saturday, April 20, and Saturday, May 25, and Monday, May 27.
*During bad weather, please call to see if the library is open.
intended for middle school and up and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.
Mason Jar Instant Noodle Soups: Join Hether Jonna Freyer (the Fresh Food Fairy) on Wednesday, May 29, at 5:30 p.m. Learn to make Mason Jar Instant Noodle Soups that are the perfect on-the-go lunches for school, work, or anything else you've got going on in your busy day. They are packed full of raw veggies, quick-cooking noodles and shredded chicken. They can also be made vegan!
Participants will learn different ways to customize these Mason Jar Instant Noodles by adding different seasonal vegetables, herbs, and even adding different flavorings like fish sauce or miso paste.
Registration is required for this free event and begins on May 13 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

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. Check out our OVERDRIVE eBooks and audiobooks! https://smdl.overdrive.com/

## 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.

