

# The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL | COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | CELA



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## MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read  
Center Point*

A newsletter about the  
Comstock  
Community Center



# From the Superintendent

## District Offers Summer Success Camp

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Now that we are nearing the end of this most unusual school year, it is time to look to the future and plan ahead. As superintendent, I'm thrilled to let you know that the district soon will be offering Summer Success Camp.

However, due to limited space, this exciting opportunity will be by invitation only. With all of the support we've been able to offer throughout the year, there are some students who, due to the pandemic and its interruption of school routines, could have accomplished more academically and would benefit greatly from additional instructional opportunities.

Children who attend Summer Success Camp will improve their progress in mastering grade level objectives through a series of innovative learning opportunities that include physical movement; Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); and Social Emotional Learning. Our goal is to support your children throughout the entire year, both in the school year and the summer.

Summer Success Camp sessions will be Mon-

day through Friday beginning June 14, 2021, at 8:15 a.m and lasting until 11:45 a.m. As an added bonus, the district will be providing breakfast, lunch, and limited transportation. The program will be offering a half day of intense fun, with embedded reading, math, and STEM instruction. Daily attendance will be required to be successful.

A student may attend either Session 1 or 2, or both!

- Session 1: June 14 - July 2; July 12 - July 16
- Session 2: July 19 - August 13

The program will have weekly themes including Sports/Olympics, Summer Safari Outdoor Adventure, Mad Scientists, Let's Get Digital, Video Games, and Wet and Wild Earth

Look for invitation letters coming soon. Be sure to respond quickly due to limited space!

If you have any questions about the Summer Success Camp, feel free to reach out to your child's principal.



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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes  
*Superintendent*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Pamela Dickinson, President
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### 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.



@comstockPS

## Board Briefs

### REGULAR MEETING

**March 8, 2021**

- Reconfirmed the District's Extended Continuity of Learning Plan.
- Approved awarding the bid for CES food service equipment to Stafford-Smith, Inc.
- Authorized the sale of bonds designated 2021 School Building and Site Bonds, Series III.

### REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)

**March 22, 2021**

- Approved the authorizing resolution to enter into a participant agreement with Michigan CLASS

(Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System).

### REGULAR MEETING

**April 26, 2021**

- Approved reconfirmation of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan.
- Approved the MCACA Grant.
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations and conduct the Superintendent's quarterly evaluation.
- Approved contract with Comstock Paraprofessional Association.

# District Updates: Building Status, Condition, and Potential Projects

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

As part of our district's newly revised Strategic Plan Summary 2021-25, the Board has established seven equally important Focus Areas. One of these focal points is *Facilities, Operations, and Technology* which has the specific goal stating that *Comstock Public Schools* will maintain and modernize facilities and operations.

With this end in mind and as an important step in evaluating our district's infrastructure, I have compiled the following information which provides a quick overview of our school buildings' status, condition, and potential projects. I urge all Comstock Colt stakeholders to read this information to better understand the current state of our district's facilities.

## STATUS

The district currently operates six school buildings: **Comstock Early Learning Academy** serves our preschool-aged children. This building was constructed in 1950 and is now 71 years old. It was originally named *Green Meadow Elementary School*.

**Comstock Elementary School** serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This building was constructed in 1972 and is now 49 years old. CES is the district's newest or "youngest" building, and was originally named *Northeast Middle School*.

**Comstock Middle School** serves students in grades sixth through eighth. This building was constructed in 1957 and is now 64 years old. It was originally named *North Elementary School*.

**Comstock STEM Academy** serves kindergarten through eighth grade students. This building was constructed in 1949 and is now 72 years old. The STEM Academy "wins" the prize as the district's oldest building. It was originally named *East Elementary School*.

**Comstock Compass High School** serves students in ninth through twelfth grades. This building was constructed in 1956 and is now 65 years old. It was originally named *Gull Road Elementary School*. The district's superintendent's office and administration are housed in the back of Compass High School.

**Comstock High School** serves students in ninth through twelfth grades. This building was originally constructed in 1965 and is now 56 years old. The facility also includes the Comstock Community Auditorium built in 1991 which is now 30 years old, and the Bob Hamet Athletic Complex which includes the football field and stadium, tennis courts, and the softball and baseball fields.

## CONDITION

With the exception of Comstock Elementary School, all of our schools are over 50 years old. At the time of their construction in the late 1940s, 50s, and early 60s, these buildings met the quality standards for that era and were made from materials that were expected to have a useful life of 30-40 years. The buildings are all far past their life expectancies.

When the 2016 Bond construction work currently underway at Comstock Elementary School is completed, the fully renovated school will be air conditioned. However, none of the other buildings, with the exception of their offices, have air conditioning nor is there sufficient funding in the remaining bond funds for the additional installation of air conditioning. Moreover, since the 1960s, the standards for school design and construction have radically changed and improved especially regarding safety, energy efficiency, air quality, flooring, technology, computers, transportation, food service, and serving children with special needs.

## POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Accordingly, given the time of their design and the advancement in construction standards over the past half century, all of our buildings (with the exception of Comstock Elementary School) have the following common potential projects:

- i. New exterior windows
- ii. New exterior doors
- iii. New carpeting, flooring, and baseboards
- iv. Roof repair or replacement
- v. HVAC systems (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)

Additionally, these schools have the following individual or unique potential projects (Note: The cost of these projects exceeds current resources. Consequently, we are in the process of determining top priorities within each building as well as across the district):

### Comstock Early Learning Academy

- Install new blinds and window coverings
- Repaint the interior of the building
- Address the condition of the garage

### Comstock Middle School

- Renovate the art room
- Renovate the choir room
- Build new band room
- Remodel the kitchen and food service areas
- Build outdoor learning space

**Comstock STEM Academy** (options include but are not limited to the following:)(Note: Currently the school has 16 sections of students and 15 rooms)

- Remodel the current building without any expansion?
- Remodel the current building and add a middle school wing?
- Build a new K-8 building at the current location?
- Build a new K-8 building at another location?
- Expand the program by adding a STEM option at Comstock High School?

### Comstock Compass High School

- Install hallway heaters and classroom thermostats
- Repaint the interior
- Repaint the exterior
- New flooring and ceiling for the cafeteria
- Resurface the parking lot
- Extend electricity to the shed

### Comstock High School

- Remodel band room including expanding storage, removing the risers, adding bathrooms, and installing air conditioning
- Remodel the kitchen and food service areas
- Replace hallway lockers
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Repair the elevator
- Install modern lighting
- Repaint the interior
- Replace hallway registers
- Remove and replace obsolete drinking fountains
- Update the woodshop classroom

### Comstock Community Auditorium

- Install new interior doors and locks
- Install new flooring for the Colt Center
- Renovate the kitchenette
- Enlarge the scene shop

### Bob Hamet Athletic Complex

- Install artificial turf
- Remodel the bathrooms
- Remodel the stadium entrance
- Repair the track
- Remodel the tennis courts
- Reduce parking
- Improve drainage and irrigation
- Upgrade some of the fencing

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me either via email, phone call, or personal visit. I can be reached at [thoenesj@comstockps.org](mailto:thoenesj@comstockps.org) or 269-250-8906.

# Bond Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Our efforts to modernize the district's facilities continue in earnest, and I've received a number of inquiries recently from community members and stakeholders about the ongoing construction and renovation projects. To address these questions, I've put together this construction update which discusses the progress we've made over the past two months since the last edition of the *Comstock Communicator*. Additionally, I'll provide a look ahead at what is planned for this summer and beyond.

**Comstock Elementary School** - Phase 2 is now complete and in use. This large phase included a total remodeling of the cafeteria, two classrooms, art room, music room, faculty lounge, technology office, and multipurpose room. In addition, there are new and spacious bathrooms located between the cafeteria and gymnasium. Together, Phases 1 and 2 equal approximately half of the entire elementary school project.

Phase 3 is now fully underway and is nicknamed "Narnia" by the staff and students. These five classrooms are accessible through a set of double doors off of the main hallway and this area is the smallest phase of our CES renovation. When finished in June, all of these rooms will be identical to the standards and appearance of the other new rooms from Phases 1 and 2.

Importantly, this summer, a professional painting crew will completely repaint the gymnasium giving it a bright and clean appearance. The gymnasium has not been repainted since the building opened 49 years ago in 1972. Finally, to "top off" the elementary projects, the district is making the smart move to completely replace the school's worn and aged roof. This decision is intended to protect the public's investment that the newly renovated interior represents.

**Comstock Middle School** - The biggest change is that our new middle school gymnasium is done and is a tremendous source of Colt pride and joy. In terms of aesthetics, the navy blue metallic paneling along the upper portion of the outside surface looks better than expected. This paneling gives the facility an attractive, modern appearance, and increases the energy efficiency of the structure. The air-conditioned facility has sufficient space to host both middle and high-

school-level events and is now arguably the finest middle school athletic facility in the county.

This summer, the work goes on at CMS. Crews will install the metallic siding that matches the gymnasium along the north and west faces of the school. To accomplish this, crews will actually remove the original classroom walls, built in 1957, pour new fittings, and then rebuild the walls to modern standards. Crews will install new, double-paned glass windows and when all is ready, put the navy blue siding in place. Having this paneling on the north and west faces of the building facing 26th Street and H Avenue will greatly enhance the "curb appeal" of the structure.

The summer "to do" list also includes remodeling three science rooms as well as five classrooms along the western side of the building facing 26th Street. After the windows are installed, we will be repainting and recarpeting these rooms.

Finally, this summer we will be adding a parking lot in the front of the school which will be for staff and visitors. The bus loop will remain in place and our current north lot will be for student drop off and pick up, and parent parking. This separation of the buses and cars will help ensure the safe and efficient arrival and departure of all Colts to and from school.

**Compass High School and Administration Building** - In similar fashion to the middle school, the parking lot that serves both Compass High School and the Administration Building will be remodeled, rebuilt, and reshaped. When all is done, the parking lot directly at the back of the school will double in size, the entranceway to the lot will be straightened, and a portion of the unused parking lot to the west of the building will be converted back into green space. All of the other sections of the lot will be resurfaced.

In addition, the full exterior of the building will be repainted to match the work done about a year ago. With these summer improvements, Compass will look and feel like a new building.

## Thank You!

As always, thanks to our community for the funding that made these projects possible, our Board for their support and vision, as well as our facilities crew led by Facilities Director Sean Gillette, and partners GMB Architects and Miller

Davis Construction Management. Without the combined efforts and synergy of these groups, none of this would be possible.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me either via email, phone call, or personal visit. I can be reached at [thoenesj@comstockps.org](mailto:thoenesj@comstockps.org) or 269-250-8906. If you happen to see me at a future school event or in the community, please take the time to say "hi" and allow me to introduce myself - I look forward to our conversation!

## Community Auditorium Events

### June:

- 1 STEM Middle School Awards Night, 5-6 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
- 3 Compass High School Graduation: 6 p.m.
- 5 Traci Phelps Dance Studios Performance: 3 recitals: So call Studio for details and tickets. Limited seating due to social distancing.
- 12 Momentum Dance Studio Recital: Noon and 6 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 p.m. Call Studio for details/tickets. Limited seating due to social distancing.
- 13 Trinity Prep Center Dance Recital: 2 p.m.
- 18-19 Excel Dance - Shows are 10 a.m.; 2 p.m.; and 6 p.m.. Call studio for tickets and details. Limited seating due to social distancing.
- 26 Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs - Seminar, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### July:

9-11 Rain Dates: 16-18 - Center Stage Theater Summer show: Giving Kalamazoo Hope .... A Fun-Filled Variety Show: It will be like a drive-in movie where sound will be heard on your car radio. It will be presented in the parking lot at Comstock High School. Refreshments will be served. Go to their website for details - <https://kzooc.com>. This is a FREE event.



## 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](http://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, WEAT)  
 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

# District to Host Forums About Building Needs

The District will be hosting several forums in June, August, and October to gather input from the community regarding facility needs. The June dates which will be identical in format and content, are:

Virtual Forum - Tuesday, June 15, at 7 p.m.

In-Person Forum - Tuesday, June 22, at 4 p.m.

These forums are the result of a study conducted by the Facility Needs Exploratory Committee. For several months, the committee, co-chaired by Michael Moncel and David Yarnell, has been studying building needs and soon will be matching the needs with the funding that could be available. Many people have been involved in this study so far – including school personnel who know the needs better than anyone else.

The committee is examining the possibility of presenting district residents with the opportunity to provide additional bond funding for future facility projects while not increasing the tax burden. The committee is targeting May, 2022, for a bond proposal that, if approved, would provide approximately \$30,000,000 while maintaining the current debt millage rate. It is important to note that Comstock Public Schools currently has the lowest debt millage level of all districts in the Kalamazoo area at 5.0. One district has a debt millage over 10, and the average of the 13 area districts is 7.2 debt mills.

If voters have the opportunity to approve this bond issue and do so, Comstock would continue

to levy 5.0 debt mills -- the lowest of area schools.

All of the district's buildings and infrastructure have been undergoing significant improvements, thanks to a 2016 bond proposal and a 2019 sinking fund both approved by voters. Still, there are significant needs.

For example, preliminary estimates are that we need over \$7 million in roofing repairs. Also, since all of our school buildings are about 50 years of age or older, only a small percentage of those spaces have air conditioning. This does not meet modern standards for schools and education. Who would build a school these days without air conditioning and the kind of ventilation needed to keep our students and staff healthy?

Thanks to recent construction projects, the needs of our buildings vary -- ranging from Comstock Elementary School, which will be totally rebuilt and modernized by January, 2022, to the STEM Academy, which was built in 1949 and is housed in the district's oldest building. Given the age and condition of the STEM Academy, the school needs to be either totally rebuilt or replaced.

We will work hard to keep our stakeholders informed throughout the process so everyone can make an intelligent and informed choice about the future of Comstock Public Schools.

For further information, feel free to contact us!  
 Michael Moncel - [michael.moncel@gmail.com](mailto:michael.moncel@gmail.com)  
 David Yarnell - [ddyarnell1@gmail.com](mailto:ddyarnell1@gmail.com)

## 2020-21 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

June 4, 7, 8, 2021

Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)

Half Day Students and Teachers K-12

June 8, 2021

Last Day for Students/Records Day PM

Half Day Students AM/ Staff

Records Day PM

# District Remembers Beloved Band Director



Staff and students have been remembering, Jason Fritz, high school band director, who died in a motorcycle accident in March.

He was the band director for just short of three years

but left a lasting legacy.

In a tribute to Mr. Fritz, Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes said, "Over the past 2 1/2 years, I watched with pride as he built and expanded on the success and legacy of 'The Band of Blue.' I will miss his energy, commitment to success, and student advocacy."

Dr. Thoenes recalls meeting Mr. Fritz at a back-to-school picnic just after both had been hired into the district. Standing in the food line, Dr. Thoenes noticed the man in front of him who was taller than he.

"Since I'm 6' 2" I seldom have to look up at people but I did at this guy - he was tall." recalled Dr. Thoenes.

He struck up a conversation with the taller man and found out he was the new band director, Jason Fritz.

"We hit it off immediately," said Dr. Thoenes. "From this initial conversation, it was readily apparent that he was knowledgeable, experienced, and enthusiastic - a true 'gentle giant.' Mentally, I congratulated the committee that had recruited and hired him. Comstock bands were in great hands."

As band director, Mr. Fritz helped revive school spirit by bringing back the fight song and forming relationships, said Dr. Thoenes.

CHS Principal David Kirskey worked with Mr. Fritz both at Northeast Middle School when he was principal there and then at the high school.

"I was able to watch Jason change kids' lives through music," he said. "I sat back and watched in awe as Jason would take a student who struggled in a traditional classroom, hooked them with music, grounded them with an instrument, and made them fall in love with performance. True metamorphoses were occurring in Mr. Fritz's classroom."

At the high school, Mr. Kirksey watched as

Mr. Fritz built up the band with his passion for music which was contagious. He introduced a pep band, revamped the marching band, put students in leadership roles and trusted them to perform.

Having created a family with the band students, Mr. Fritz was more than a band director, according to Mr. Kirksey, providing for students in need out of his own pocket, for example.

"When he saw a student on the verge of dropping out of school, due to a home situation, Jason intervened," said Mr. Kirksey. "If he had not provided for this student, I have no doubt that they would have not made it to graduation day. That student has a high school diploma because Jason loved them and cared about their future."

Students also speak of the tremendous impact that Mr. Fritz had on their lives. Justin Webster was inspired by Mr. Fritz who supported him in his musical pursuits, pushing him to learn to play the guitar, bass, and drum set/percussion.

"He got the ball rolling for me and pushed me to do things that I never believed that I could do," said Justin. "I would've probably quit everything musically without him. He has had such an impact upon me and I'm so happy he was part of my life for almost three years."

"Mr. Fritz will forever inspire me to be as friendly and supportive as I possibly can be. He never discriminated and was always one of the best people you will ever meet."

Genesis Pelfresne noted that Mr. Fritz was more than a band director, but an agent changing something in his students.

"Whether he taught you determination or generosity, love or acceptance, or just how to see something you couldn't before, he showed us why we were all important," she said. "We all have our parts and instruments that need to come together to form a song."

Even if some band members were off-tempo or stepped out on the wrong beat, Mr. Fritz led them out onto the field trusting them even if everything wasn't perfect, she said.

"Fritz wasn't afraid to put us out there because he knew that encouragement and love would push us on and that was all that mattered to him," she said. "I believe that he heard the difference as we played, and I could have proven it by pointing out his big smile as we marched past and up the bleachers, ready to see the next

performance."

Mr. Fritz's influence extended beyond the Comstock band program. Leaders of band programs from Plainwell, Mattawan, Three Rivers, Bangor, and Wyoming High Schools sent sympathy posters and cards to the district and the Band of Blue.

Responding to these expressions of sympathy, CHS Principal David Kirksey sent a note saying, "We cannot thank you enough for sacrificing the time and energy to create a poster, have it signed by so many members of the band community, and then share it with us. I have witnessed our band students walk into the room and see the posters as they have been hung. As the students read the posters, they inevitably smile. You, and your students, are responsible for these moments."

Summing up his own relationship with Mr. Fritz, Principal Kirksey said, "Jason Fritz was a special man who embodied love for all who were within his orbit. There are few people like Jason - and I count myself as one of the lucky ones to have been a part of his world for as many years as I had been."

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## Remembering Mr. Fritz

By Evan Springer

*Music is a mysterious thing.  
It brings forth a slew of emotions  
with just the beat of a drum or a blow of the  
horn.*

*Mr. Fritz knew this.  
I watched as he inspired young people  
through music;  
He ignited a never-ending passion for music in  
his students.*

*He also taught us to use music as an outlet,  
To express ourselves using something other  
than words  
Something more powerful.  
So I say now, for those who can't say their grief  
in words,  
Express it through the sweet, sorrowful sound  
of music,  
Play it loud and play it clear.  
Leave no room silent.  
For that is what Mr Fritz taught us:  
That music speaks louder than words.  
Rest in peace Mr. Fritz. You will never be  
forgotten.*

## KRESA Honors Two Comstock Educators

The KRESA Parent Advisory Committee recently honored speech pathologist, Patty Anderson, and special education teacher, Emily Jones, with the Excellence in Special Education Award.

This prestigious recognition is given each year to a select few for outstanding service and contributions to the profession. Recipients must be nominated by parents and/or peers.

## Facilities Vehicles Have New Look

When you see the district's facilities vehicles around the community, you'll notice they have new stylish labeling on the sides and rear gates.

Jason Hall, communications specialist, created the design and layout for the vehicles.

"Since these vehicles are often seen in public, the labels will allow the vehicles to promote a positive and professional image of the district to community stakeholders," said Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes, superintendent.

## Board Holds Professional Development Session

The School Board recently held a professional development session on "Best Practices for Board Governance." The session was presented by David Killips of the Michigan Leadership Institute.

Attending the workshop were Board President Pamela Dickinson, Vice President Matt Schreiner, Secretary Dori Scholly, Treasurer Paul Lamphear, as well as trustees Saralyn Brown, Karen Howes, and Kayleen O'Donnell, and Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes.

The Board's consensus was that, even though this has been an unusual school year with new and unprecedented challenges, the Board and administrators are working collaboratively to serve the best interests of the students, staff, families, and community.

## School Board Honors Staff

For Staff Appreciation Day, the School Board gifted staff members with a Comstock Public Schools mousepad custom designed by Jason Hall, communications specialist.

Board treasurer, Paul Lamphear, visited each building and delivered the gifts on behalf of the School Board.

### Comstock High School

## Seniors Earn KRESA Scholarships

Comstock seniors, Shelby Alexander and Sam Rabick, recently received Excellence in Education Scholarships from the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). They were among 43 seniors from area public and non-public schools to be awarded the \$1200 scholarships.

The Excellence in Education program was created in 1986 to honor high achieving seniors in county schools. It also awards Educator Incentive Grants to teachers for additional training.

Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$1.3 million in scholarships to 1,847 students and \$578,791 in grants to 738 educators.

## Prom Dresses Donated to High School

When a teacher heard that a student was sad because she couldn't afford a prom dress, she remembered the "Cinderella Project" sponsored by Memories Bridal and Evening Wear. This annual event gives prom dresses and accessories free of charge to high school students in need. Founded in 2006, the project has given away hundreds of dresses.

When Memories Bridal was contacted about this year's event, it was discovered that it wasn't being held due to COVID. However, the owner gladly donated some dresses for girls wanting to attend prom. In addition, CHS special education teacher, Maria Standal, donated some of her own dresses.

The donations allowed the young women to attend prom in a dress of their choosing. After the prom, they were also allowed to keep the dresses.

## Comstock Joins New Athletic League

By Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes, Superintendent

On behalf of the Board of Education as well as the Athletic Department and Colt coaching staff, I'm pleased to announce that beginning with the 2021-22 school year, Comstock Public Schools will be joining the Southwest 10 Conference. This conference is a better fit geographically for our district and will thus require less travel, time, and expense for league competitions. The SW 10 consists of the following districts:

Bangor Public Schools	Bloomington Public Schools	Centreville Public Schools
Mendon Community Schools	Marcellus Community Schools	Cassopolis Public Schools
White Pigeon Community Schools	Decatur Public Schools	Hartford Public Schools

My personal thanks to Athletic Director Justin Ansel for having the vision, expertise, and professionalism to make this opportunity possible for our community.

The entire Colt Nation looks forward to seeing our student athletes in action next year on the court, field, or diamond. Regardless of who wins or loses, we are eager for positive and rewarding competitions, and appreciate our new league members for this opportunity. Go Colts!

## CHS Honors Star Teachers

Recent winners of the Star Teacher Awards at the high school were Robert Nolan, chemistry teacher, and Maria Standal, special education.

## High School Hosts Vaccine Clinic

Comstock High School hosted a COVID-19 vaccination clinic this spring put on by The Family Health Center. Held at the football stadium parking lot, the free, drive-by clinic served several hundred people who might otherwise not have had the means or opportunity to obtain the vaccine.

Thanks to CHS Principal David Kirksey for the service and support he provided to make this health event happen.

## District Partners with the Township Library

The Comstock Township Library and Comstock Public Schools have partnered to support student literacy success and to ensure that every CPS student has access to books and resources found at the public library.

Students enrolled in the STEM Academy can now use their student ID number to check out materials from the library and to access digital library materials and resources.

The STEM Academy piloted this project for this year and because of its success, the program will be implemented districtwide starting with the 2021-22 school year.

### Comstock High School

## NHS Raises Funds for Animal Rescue

The Colt Chapter of the National Honor Society recently raised \$2,076.25 for the Animal Rescue Project (ARP) fundraiser. They also donated supplies to ARP.

ARP operates a no-kill shelter and adoption center in Kalamazoo. They rescue and find homes for dogs, cats, kittens, and puppies.

For more information, check out their website at [animalrescueproject.org](http://animalrescueproject.org).

## Senior Honored in EFE Program

Senior Sam Rabick was recently honored for his participation in KRESA's Education for Employment (EFE) program. Sam was selected as the top student in the Electronics and Robotics program. He was nominated for the award by his instructor, Kenneth Riggs.



## Comstock Boys and Girls Middle School Summer Basketball Camps

Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Ernie Ramirez and multiple assistant coaches will be hosting a four-day basketball camp for boys and girls entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grades next year. Each day has different fundamentals and drills that are designed for middle school basketball players.

**Cost** - \$25 for all four days of the camp. Checks/Money Orders can be written to Comstock Basketball. Registration form and fee can be dropped off at Middle School, STEM offices or mailed to Justin Ansel 2107 N 26th St., Kalamazoo 49048.

### Date/Times

- Ball Handling - Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13 - 1-3 p.m. at Comstock High School
- Shooting - Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20 - 1-3 p.m. at Comstock High School

**Camp Details** - Ball Handling/Shooting - Will teach players exercises and drills full court and half court on how to dribble with head up on a swivel with resistance, proper ball handling and shooting stance, cut catch and shoot, how to drive through a defender (Post and Wing), make consistent free throws and how to finish at the basket with either hand.

### Message from Coach Ernie Ramirez and Contact Info

Make sure your child has proper gym attire, shoes and address any medical conditions your child may have on the registration.

Coach Ernie Contact Info - Cell #616-405-7488  
or email [ernie2255@yahoo.com](mailto:ernie2255@yahoo.com)

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### **Camp Registration: \$25**

*Checks can be made out to Comstock Basketball*

Please return the registration form and payment to the office at your school by June 8 or mail to:

Comstock High School  
Attn: Athletic Director  
2107 N. 26th St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Congratulations, Senior Scholars Class of 2021

Comstock High School extends congratulations to the Top Scholars, Class of 2021. The Top Scholar designation is determined by a formula which combines grade point averages and ACT scores.

This year's top scholars are (in alphabetical order):



**Name:** Shelby Alexander  
**Parents:** Allison and John Alexander  
**Achievements:** Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award; First Youth Playwright in 10th Annual TK New PlayFest; Joyce Ivy Scholar 2019; Science & Innovation Hall of Fame Award for Arts & Sciences 2020 (Air Zoo); Affiliate Winner and National Honorable Mention for the National Center for Women & Information Technology (2020).

**Future Plans:** Attend the University of Michigan for Computer Science and Theatre Arts, future career in performance technology development/innovation.



**Name:** Macy Cannon  
**Parents:** Grant and Michelle Cannon  
**Achievements:** Earned 40 college credits; High honor roll all four years; Dean's List at KVCC; Captain in basketball and volleyball; Percussion Section Leader in Band; Student Leader in Youth Group.

**Future Plans:** To continue enrollment in the Early Middle College Program at KVCC to pursue a degree in special education. After KVCC, she will attend Western Michigan University.



**Name:** Natalie DeYoung-Foster  
**Parents:** Michelle and Theresa DeYoung-Foster  
**Achievements:** Senior Scholar; High Honor roll all four years.

**Future Plans:** To major in teaching at Western Michigan University.



**Name:** Alex Kish  
**Parents:** Ann and Tim Kish  
**Achievements:** Scored a perfect 40 in the Intermediate division of the American Computer Science League; 2019 Soccer Awards: All-Conference, All-District

Team, MVP, Individual All-Academic; 2020: Honorable Mention All-State; All-Regional Team, All-Conference, All-District Team, Individual All-Academic, Offensive MVP.

**Future Plans:** Attend Kalamazoo College and eventually Michigan Tech as a part of the 3/2 major at Kalamazoo College; Obtain a mechanical engineering degree and pursue a career in automotive or surgical robotics.



**Name:** Julia Kruis  
**Parents:** James and Tresa Kruis  
**Achievements:** Citizenship Award in Algebra 2; Coaches Award for Volleyball; NHS Secretary; Lighthouse Secretary; Honorable Mention

All-Conference in Volleyball and the Dedicated Athlete Award.

**Future Plans:** Attend Valparaiso University to study nursing



**Name:** Samuel Rabick  
**Parents:** Greg and Meredith Rabick  
**Achievements:** MSU Alumni Distinguished Scholar; AP Scholar with Distinction; National Merit Scholar; First Robotics world

championship alliance captain; American Chemical Society Outstanding High School Chemistry student; Stockholm Junior Water Prize SW Michigan; KAMSC Student Medal; KAMSC Outstanding Research Project Award; MHSAA Academic All-State Soccer.

**Future Plans:** Attend Michigan State University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.



**Name:** Dalton Wilkins  
**Parents:** Todd and Whitney Wilkins  
**Achievements:** Basketball and Soccer Captains; National Honor Society; All-District Soccer; Spanish and English Department

Awards.

**Future Plans:** Attend Western Michigan University for Business.



**Name:** Carter Wintz  
**Parents:** Matt and Shay Wintz  
**Achievements:** All conference honorable mention for basketball and soccer; Most improved player golf and basketball; Co-MVP for soccer; Departmental Awards in Chemistry, Geometry and Composition.

**Future Plans:** Attend Western Michigan University and go into project managing.

## CHS Announces Incentive Program Winners

As part of the Incentive Program at the high school, the following students were selected by the high school staff for their participation, academic excellence, or academic improvement. All students received a certificate and a McDonald's gift card in the mail.

Savannah Lubrick  
 Sarah Hartness  
 Jady Kaatz  
 Jordan Wright  
 Li'Zariah Lewis  
 Vincent Branch  
 Ahmad Davis  
 Paisley Meyle  
 Victoria Foote

Compass High School

## Compass Mural to be Completed

A year ago, a Compass High School student started painting a mural on the wall with the title, *100+ Books to Read Before You Die*.

Due to the student's departure and the pandemic interruptions, the mural was never finished.

Jokingly, some thought maybe the mural should be renamed *23 Books to Read Before You Die*.

Instead, Compass teacher, Michele Coash, has taken on the task of completing the mural.

Comstock Middle

## CMS Honors Two Staff Members

Comstock Middle School recently honored two staff members with their Colt of the Week Award. Recipients were Jordyn Dryden, Spanish teacher, and Beverly Brown, paraprofessional.

Ms. Dryden was nominated for her positive and supportive attitude and her willingness to help people.

"Jordyn finds any and all opportunities to reward students," according to those who nominated her. "She is constantly asking great questions

and looking for ways to improve opportunities for learning."

Ms. Brown was also honored for all the ways she finds to reward children for their good behavior, including buying treats and making them feel appreciated.

Her nominator wrote, "She always has a smile on her face and comes into the building in the morning singing a feel good song."

Comstock Elementary

## CES Girls Enjoy Girls on the Run



Thirteen girls in third through fifth grades participated in the Girls on the Run (GOTR) program this year. They met two times a week to discuss a topic, have a lesson, apply the lessons they've learned, and of course, run, hop, skip, jump or walk.

The girls did a great job of adapting to the social-distancing rules, worked well together to solve problems, and really enjoyed their time after school.

Also enjoying the program were their coaches Kate Appel, Madelyn Buhrman, McKenzie Reilly, Claudia Richards, and Tara Storteboom.

The season ended with a virtual 5K where participants could complete a physical goal of their own choosing.



Kira Mayne-Wall, Hailey Mayne-Wall, Maleah Wade, Ariel Plair demonstrate their enthusiasm and running abilities during the Girls on the Run program.

## CMS Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Gym

CMS Principal Mark Wilke hosted the district's ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new gymnasium. Attending the event were a number of dignitaries including members of the Board of Education, representatives from both GMB Architecture and Miller Davis Construction Management, staff, stakeholders, and students.

Holding the ribbon were Board President Pamela Dickinson and Treasurer Paul Lamphear. Doing the honors with the large, ceremonial scissors was Board trustee Saralyn Brown.

After the brief ceremony, attendees went on a self-guided tour. The unanimous reaction was, "It's a great day to be a Colt!"

## CES Students Honored for Habit 5

Comstock Elementary students received certificates recently for mastering Habit 5 of the Leader in Me program. Habit 5 states "Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood®." This means listening to other people's ideas and feelings and trying to see things from their viewpoints.

Students receiving the honor were: Olivia Blett, Lucas Rivera, Natalie Knight, Dhaimon Carlton, Layla Rietkerk, Nathan Montgomery, Amiyah Farmer, Micah Roberts, Kaydence Hoffman, Kimberlynn Scohy, Nathan Stanford, Claire Smith, Zander Bar, Alieria Carlton, Wesley Snyder, Elia Servin, Jermaine Carson, Averie Qualls, Ernest Butler, Taylor McDonald, Aderain Atterberry, Vicenta Rolstone, Nicole Silvas, Channing Harp, DayMon Dean, Kenny Hale, Destiny Lee, and Alexa Carlton.

Comstock Elementary

## Kindergartners Celebrate with Pizza Party

CES kindergartners in Ms. Sherria VanSparrentak's class celebrated with a pizza party after hitting their goal of 20,000 points on MobyMax.

MobyMax is an online program for math and reading that students can access at home or school for independent work. They work on lessons that are differentiated based on their skills and also work on lessons assigned by the teacher. The more lessons they complete the more points their class receives.

"Students loved watching the meter go from 0-20,000 and after a few months of hard work, they finally got their reward," said Ms. VanSparrentak. "The students have been working hard on these while at home and a little at school in order to meet this goal and earn our party."

## Students Enjoy Homemade Banana Bread

Melissa Carouthers, daytime custodian at Comstock Elementary, who is famous for her banana bread, made some to share with all of the students. Students said things like, "That was super yummy," "Can I have more?" and "That banana bread was super delicious."



Kalvin Bodley enjoys banana bread.



Sanovea McFerrin enjoys banana bread.



A thank you note was sent to Miss Melissa Carouthers by Natilie, a kindergartener.

## CES Celebrates WMU Interns

Teacher interns from Western Michigan University recently completed their internships at Comstock Elementary School. They are Miranda Cannon who interned in Crystal Kohtala's third grade class; Emma Kinn in Cathy Buscher's kindergarten class; Izzy Longo in Kate Appel's first grade class; Jenna Lyddon in Leigh Ann Emrick's second grade class; Nicole Oman in Sherria VanSparrentak's kindergarten class; Wynn Stitt in Allison Laning's kindergarten class; Amanda Wolgast in Meggan McMurtrie's first grade class; and Kelsy Overhiser in Julia Knieling's art class.

The interns adapted to so many challenges including virtual classes, hybrid classes and in-person teaching. They brought fresh eyes, an eagerness to learn, and a willingness to embrace all the changes.



WMU interns at Comstock Elementary were Emma Kinn, Kelsy Overhiser, Izzy Longo, Miranda Cannon, Nicole Oman, Jenna Lyddon and Amanda Wolgast

## CES Honors Administrative Professionals

Comstock Elementary School honored its Administrative Professionals this spring on Administrative Professionals Day. Recognized for their hard work and dedication were Lisa Watson, Shelly Dennis, Diana Vorholt, and Whitney Wilkins.



Isabella Diaz, Layla Tutt, Kamilla Wagner, Billy Smith, Dennis Ross, Cameron Courtney, Alexa Carlton, and Havana Copeland were among those who created special cards for our front office professionals.

Comstock Elementary

## CES Library News



Carson Stone and Jaxen Thompson are Leader Helpers getting the carts from one class to the next for Miss Kimmer.



Jordan Carey and Liam Hill browse books on the cart to find the perfect one to check out.

With the Comstock Elementary School scheduled for construction this summer, Miss Elizabeth Kimmer, the library media specialist prepared for the project. She weeded out books that were no longer relevant or which had been damaged and then started packing up the books.

During the school year, things were different as all special classes were on carts. Students helped Miss Kimmer with the library cart. Students were able to check out books every week once school returned to in-person classes. Virtual students listened to stories and did library activities, too.

For School Library Month, students brainstormed ideas for the new library next year. Curved bookcases, skylights, and lots of bean bags were among some of the recommendations. Students also wrote acrostic poems using the word Library.

## Mileage Club Returns to CES



Alonte White strides by Bentley Mayne-Wall on his way around the playground track.



Isabella Diaz shows off all of her tokens!



Students choose a foot token after completing a mile.

Feelin' Good Mileage Club returned to Comstock Elementary School this spring following a year's hiatus due to the pandemic.

In the Mileage Club, students earn tokens and shoe laces for miles they either run or walk. The tokens are added to their leadership necklaces. Students were eager to get their first 2 1/2 miles in to earn their first tokens. After the completion of the program, the students took their necklaces home for the summer to show off their mileage and hard work.

## Students Celebrate Earth Day

Students at Comstock Elementary School found different ways to celebrate Earth Day this spring. Some planted seeds while students in Kate Appel's first grade class picked up garbage around the building.

"The kids put on their gloves and really enjoyed doing their part to make the Earth a cleaner place," said Miss Appel.



Faith Garrison and Delilah Thomas plant seeds for Earth Day.



Autumn Webber, Calvin Bodley, and Jacob Aitken model their Earth Day hats.



Seeds planted on Earth Day are finally sprouting.

## Comstock Elementary

## CES Celebrates Construction Projects

Three first grade classrooms and a second grade classroom moved this spring into recently renovated rooms. The school also celebrated the completion of the cafeteria with a ribbon cutting attended by the School Board.

The newly added bathrooms are great and the first graders are taking great pride in taking care of them. More construction this summer will include the library and some interior classrooms. The library has started boxing books already, as there are over 180 shelves of books to move.



First grade teacher, Kate Appel, leads her class around the new classroom for a gallery walk of projects on desks.



Jason Hall, communications specialist, takes photos of the School Board and special visitors at the ribbon cutting ceremony for CES's new cafeteria.

## CES Families Enjoy Literacy Night

Comstock Elementary students and their families enjoyed the school's Literacy Night this spring. The theme of the night was "Building Readers."

Over 200 students and their families participated in the various stations around the bus loop. The stations had various activities including "Constructing Hats," "Scoop and Spell," "Sight Word Ring Toss," "Build a Word," and many others.

Families also enjoyed a pizza picnic on the school lawn.

The event was planned by the Community Events Action Team.



PLAYWORKS

## Playworks Honors CES Teacher

Playworks, a national nonprofit which supports learning and physical health, recognized Comstock Elementary School kindergarten teacher, Cathy Buscher, during Teacher Appreciation Week, 2021.

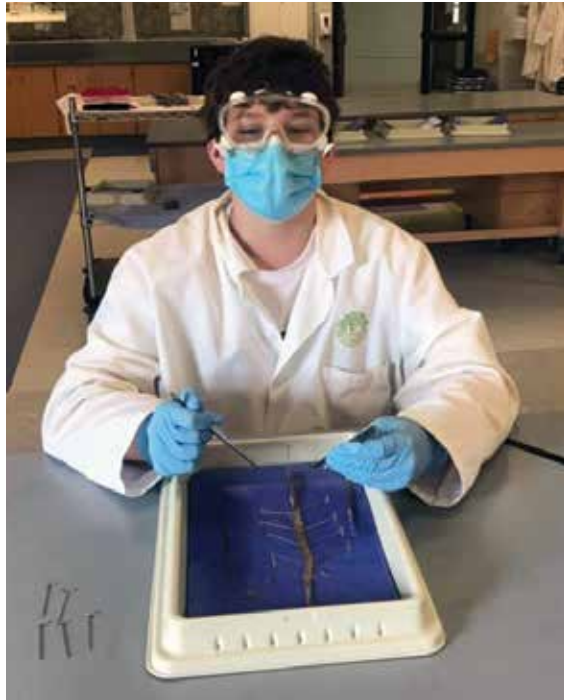
Playworks is dedicated to ensuring that elementary students have safe and healthy play opportunities at school.

For more information about Playworks, go to [playworks.org](https://playworks.org).

HELLO SUMMER!

STEM Academy

## STEM Students Dissect Various Species



Dominic Narwick dissects a worm.

With the support of Schafer's Flowers of Kalamazoo and Comstock STEM Academy's Parent Teacher Group, seventh and eighth grade students dissected flowers, worms, and frogs to compare and contrast the structures and functions of different species.

The dissections expanded their thinking and understanding of the world around them. They learned that flowers, worms, and frogs are more complicated than they could imagine, but not as complicated as humans.

Students could complete the dissections hands-on or virtually.



Sophie Moncel performs a dissection.



Ava Schreiner models dissection for virtual students.

## Iditarod Connects STEM Students to Other Schools

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, an annual event in Alaska from Anchorage to Nome, has an educational component called Iditarod EDU which encourages teachers around the world to use the Iditarod as an educational tool. This year teachers were challenged to have their students exchange postcards with other classrooms across the United States and Canada.

The postcards were to include information on the state dog, sport, and other unique information about the state.

Students in Ann Swinehart's third grade class sent out over 65 postcards. They have received postcards from 41 states and one Canadian province.

The postcards are being displayed in the hallway at the STEM Academy along with a map and hearts indicating where the post cards came from.

## STEM Academy Receives New Guitars

The STEM Academy recently received new guitars from The Guitar Center.

Music teacher, Becky Raines, applied for a grant from the The Guitar Center Foundation, and it was awarded to her.

With the guitars, Ms. Raines plans to start a rock band with the students.

"Music and the performing arts are a definite source of therapy," she said. "They can be used separately or collectively, as a hobby or a way to help people heal. After the year that we have had I hope this can help provide healing."

## Guests Read for Third Graders

To celebrate Love of Reading month, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes and Executive Assistant Ashley LaVanWay shared their love of reading with Ann Swinehart's third graders.

Dr. Thoenes read *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away*, by Newbery Medalist Meg Medina with illustrations by Sonia Sanchez, and *Art & Max*, written and illustrated by David Wiesner.

*Evelyn Del Rey* is about two best friends, Daniela and Evelyn, who do everything together and then promise to stay in touch after Evelyn moves away.

Also about friends, *Art and Max*, is the story of two lizards who love painting. Max is an experienced painter while Art is just beginning which leads to some zany antics.

Ms. LaVanWay read *Alma and How She Got Her Name*, by Alma Martinez Neal, and *Stick and Stone*, by Beth Ferry.

In the Martinez book, Alma thinks her name, Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela, is too long but her Dad explains all her names and why they are important.

In Ferry's book, *Stick and Stone* become best friends, in a rhyming text that has an anti-bullying message.

## STEM Academy

## STEM Students Take AHA Challenge

STEM Academy physical education teacher, Mary Amsbury, led the Kids Heart Challenge which raised over \$6,000 for the American Heart Association. As a reward for their efforts the students “slimed” Principal Chris Chopp during a Friday recess.

Ms. Amsbury received a letter from Nancy Brown, chief executive officer of the American Heart Association which said in part:

*On behalf of the American Heart Association, thank you very much for your school's donation of \$6,210.58 from your school's recent Kids Heart Challenge (KHC)/American Heart Challenge event. Your efforts make a tremendous impact and help millions of Americans through increased awareness of cardiovascular disease, lifesaving scientific research and critically needed education efforts.*

*Families and schools are critical links in providing the foundation for cardiovascular wellness in our country. Your support and participation in the AHC/KHC goes a long way in helping others.*

## STEM Academy Library Gets New Materials

Since various library fundraisers such as Read-a-Thon and Scholastic Book Fair did not happen this year, STEM Academy Principal Chris Chopp allocated \$5,000 from internal funds to keep the library current and meeting the needs of students.

With the funds for new materials, Library Media Clerk Caroline Kerney worked with a representative from Bookbug, an independent bookstore in Kalamazoo, to make sure that there were equal amounts of new fiction and nonfiction materials for a variety of grade levels.

“This is very exciting,” said Principal Chopp. “I can’t wait to get more books from and about Black, Indigenous, People of Color into our students’ hands. Our library is more diverse, engaging, and accessible because of the work that Caroline has done this school year.”

## Comstock Early Learning Academy

## CELA Celebrates Week of the Young Child

Comstock’s Early Learning Academy celebrated the Week of the Young Child this spring. As part of the celebration, students had a sidewalk obstacle course to demonstrate their knowledge.

Students walked into the school on a red carpet as teachers and staff cheered for them. They were given crowns to wear and also bookmarks.

This week is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Comprised of about 60,000 individual members of the early childhood community, NAEYC is “committed to delivering on the promise of high-quality early learning,” according to its website, [naeyc.org](http://naeyc.org).

The Week of the Young Child uses a variety of hands-on activities featuring music, food, and art, all designed to encourage movement and healthy lifestyles. Themes during the week include Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.



During Week of the Young Child, Head Start students walk through streamers at the entrance to CELA.

## CELA is Enrolling for GSRP!

The Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA) is now accepting applications for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for students who will be four years old by September 1, 2021.

Children who will be four years old by December 1, 2021, may also be eligible. Please call Principal Meadow Nuyen at 269-250-8960 or email her at [nuyenm@comstockps.org](mailto:nuyenm@comstockps.org) for more information!

CELA staff members look forward to working with your family for all of your pre-kindergarten needs.



## CELA Receives Mask Donation

Ford Motor Company, through its philanthropic arm, the Ford Fund, has donated face masks to Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA).

Head Start teacher, Allison Weger, informed Principal Meadow Nuyen about the mask donation opportunity. Following a request for the masks made in early March, the school received three boxes for a total of 6,840 masks.

The Ford Fund worked with its nonprofit partners around the country to donate both adult and child-sized masks to schools and other organizations. In total, they donated 120 million masks,

including 27 million which went to about 450 elementary schools, high schools, colleges and universities.

According to the Ford Fund website, [fordfund.org](http://fordfund.org), “The mask donations are part of Ford’s efforts to encourage Americans to #FinishStrong—to pull together and help protect each other to help save lives as the COVID-19 vaccines become more widely available.”

A special thanks to the Ford Fund for the mask donation.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

## STEM Kindergartner Reads to CELA Students

Students in Mrs. Johnson's and Mrs. Hayes GSRP class had a CELA alumnus as a virtual guest reader during March Reading Month celebrations.

Cecelia Warr, a fluent and expressive reader, shared the story of Pete the Cat and the Treasure Map.



Cecelia Warr (left) reads to CELA students.

## CELA Associate Teachers Earn CDA Status

Candy Hayes and Megan Hiaeshutter have each earned their Child Development Associate credentials. Mrs. Hayes works in GSRP 113 with Mrs. Johnson, and Miss Hiaeshutter works in

GSRP 116 with Mrs. Francomb.

Both of these valuable staff members have worked diligently to complete the course work and have been awarded certificates.

## TCF Donates Supplies

TCF Bank recently donated office supplies to the Comstock Early Learning Academy. The Portage branch of the bank is merging with another branch so the bank, led by Shannon Merrill, donated surplus office supplies to the school.

Thanks to Shannon and TCF Bank!



## Sports News

### 2020-21 High School & Middle School

#### Physicals

A new physical for the 2021-22 school year is required to play high school or middle school sports at Comstock. A physical must be dated on or after April 15, 2021, to be acceptable. Bronson has provided doctors for a physical day in the past but they will not be doing it this year so please make sure you set up an appointment with your own doctor ASAP or walk into Hometown Urgent Care on Gull Road. Hometown charges \$25.

#### Season Pass Workers Needed

We will be charging spectators for home athletic events and have begun coordinating workers for the next school year. If you would like to work at athletic events for a free family pass, please contact the athletic office. Some of the job duties include ticket taking, running the clock, scorebook, announcing and timing for track meets. We have a lifetime pass for all our senior citizens for free. If senior citizens would still like to help out at our athletic events, we would love to have you here but it is not required. Please give us a call at 269-250-8711 to let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

#### Hall of Fame Nominations

The 2021 Comstock Hall of Fame Banquet is being postponed to next year on Saturday, April 30,

2022. The Comstock Hall of Fame committee is still accepting nominations but those nominations will most likely be considered for the 2023 banquet. Nominations must be received by the athletic director by November 1 to be included in the process for the 2023 induction. A nomination form can be found online at [www.comstockps.org/halloffame](http://www.comstockps.org/halloffame). Please email Justin Ansel at [anselj@comstockps.org](mailto:anselj@comstockps.org) with any questions.

#### High School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for the fall high school sports season will begin on August 9 for high school football and August 11 for volleyball, girls golf, boys soccer, sideline cheer and cross country. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at [comstockcolts.org](http://comstockcolts.org). Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15, 2021, to participate.

#### Middle School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for middle school volleyball, soccer, cross country, football and sideline cheer will begin in August and we will provide more information in July. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at [comstockcolts.org](http://comstockcolts.org). Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15, 2021, to participate.

#### Comstock Middle School Football

We are excited to announce that Comstock Public Schools added middle school (seventh and

eighth grade) football as a school-sponsored sport in the fall this year. We are in the midst of hiring a coaching staff. We will be playing our games against current Southwest 10 League Schools. School equipment will be issued for the sport and there will not be an activity fee to participate. Please use the QR code to sign up for Comstock middle school football.



#### Comstock Youth Football

Youth football is now being run by Varsity Coach Jason Hayes. We thank Derek Drake, Mike Small and the rest of the board for their efforts in running the program in the past. Coach Hayes needs coaches so if any parents are interested, please contact Coach Hayes at [hayesj@comstockps.org](mailto:hayesj@comstockps.org). Please use the QR code to find more information on the 2021 season and to sign up for Comstock Youth Football.



#### Comstock Youth Football CAMP

Coach Jason Hayes is putting on a Comstock youth football skills camp for kindergarten through sixth grade Comstock students on Tuesday, July 13,





from 6-8 p.m. at the Comstock Football Stadium. Campers will participate in various football related drills and activities and it is FREE of charge. Please sign up using the QR code here.

### Middle School Sideline & Competitive Cheer

We are excited to also announce that Comstock Public Schools added middle school (seventh and eighth grade) sideline cheer in the fall and middle school (sixth, seventh and eighth grade) competitive cheer in the winter as school-sponsored sports. We are in the midst of hiring a coach for these teams

and a schedule will be determined at a later time.

### Youth Sideline Cheer

Varsity Sideline and Competitive Cheer Coach Amber DeLoof will be taking over the youth program and her plan for the summer will be out shortly if it isn't out already by the time you get this issue. We thank Amber Brown for her efforts in running the program in the past. Please visit [www.comstockcolts.org](http://www.comstockcolts.org) under athletics and youth sports to find information about summer and fall sideline cheer opportunities.

### Comstock Seniors Playing College Sports

Congratulations to the seniors below for earning the opportunity to continue to play sports at the next level.

Evan Caswell, Football, Adrian College  
 Skylar George, Football, Adrian College  
 Ella McAllister, Bowling, Kellogg Comm. College  
 Kareem Owens, Football, Undecided  
 Cornelius Shaver, Football, Papago Puma Junior College

# Comstock Township Library Events

When you visit, freely browse the shelves to choose and check out materials or pick up held items, and then enjoy those items outside the library. When you visit please:

- Wear your face covering.
- Limit your visit, including computer time, to 1 hour.
- Practice social distancing.

Comstock Library is FINE FREE! The library does not charge fines for overdue materials, with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads. Also, all outstanding overdue fines have been cleared. If you have long overdue library items, you can bring them back without penalty.

Curbside service is available! Call us at 269-345-0136 to place an order or place holds through the online catalog and call us after you receive notice that your holds have arrived. Ring the library's doorbell when you come to get your items or call us from the parking lot and we'll bring them out to you checked out and ready to go.

Did you know you can check out magazines, including the most current issues? Stop by the front desk for available issues to check out and enjoy at home.

If you do not have a library card, and do not want to come into the library to get one, sign up for a temporary card that will allow you to access our digital materials. Visit <https://www.comstock-library.org> to fill out an application form.

Visit our website for information on services and virtual events. Sign up for our eNewsletter so you

can stay current with all the latest library news and events.

### Adult Events

**Summer Reading Program for Adults:** Early Bird Registration starts on Tuesday, June 1. You can begin reporting the books you read on Saturday, June 12, on our website. Enter a form for every book you read or listen to from June 1 until August 31 for weekly drawings. The grand prize will be a gift basket full of out-of-this-world surprises! Registration is required for the summer reading program and can be done on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136.

**Postcard and Photograph Embroidery:** June 7 at 6 p.m. Join the Comstock Township Library and local artist Jessica Sundstrom for a lesson in embroidery on postcards and/or on photographs. Registration is required for this free craft. You may register on our website, [comstocklibrary.org](http://comstocklibrary.org), "Events." Please provide your email address so we can send you the Zoom information. You may also register by calling 345-0136. The number of participants is limited.

**Postcard and Photograph Embroidery Troubleshoot:** June 11 at 6 p.m. Join the Comstock Township Library and local artist Jessica Sundstrom for a troubleshooting session following our lesson in embroidery on postcards and/or on photographs. Registration is required for this session. Register on our website, [comstocklibrary.org](http://comstocklibrary.org), "Events." Please provide your email address so we can send you the Zoom information. You may also register by calling 345-0136. The number of

participants is limited.

**Painting in the Park:** June 17 at 6 p.m.. Join the Comstock Township Library and Comstock Township Parks & Rec Department for an evening of painting in the newly renovated Merrill Park. Our teacher will be artist Lauren Lasater of Colors & Cocktails who will teach you fabulous techniques to create your own one-of-a-kind drinkable glassware. Registration is required for this free craft and begins June 7 on our website, [comstocklibrary.org](http://comstocklibrary.org), "Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. The number of participants is limited to 15. No alcohol will be served at the event. All Kalamazoo Health Department COVID-19 guidelines will be in place and required.

**Meditation and Mindfulness:** July 16 at 6:30 p.m. The Comstock Township Library is holding a relaxing night of meditation and mindfulness with Stress Less Kazoo's Eric Nelson, MA. Stress Less Kazoo provides training for individuals to increase health and well-being. He has practiced mindfulness for 40 years and began teaching in 1986. Eric worked at the Fetzer Institute for 20 years and developed and managed programs around the world in Mind-Body Medicine, Contemplative Practice, Conflict Resolution and Transformational Leadership. Eric has an MA in Organizational Communication from WMU. He completed Mindfulness Teacher Training through the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Registration is required for this session and begins July 6 on our website, [comstocklibrary.org](http://comstocklibrary.org), "Events." Please provide your email address so we can send you the Zoom information. You may also register by calling 345-0136. The number of

### CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

participants is limited.

**Adult Pick-Up Crafts: Marble Dangle Suncatcher.** Twist wire to secure a marble for a whimsical suncatcher. This adult take-home craft kit includes instructions and all materials. There will also be an instructional video posted on YouTube. Go to youtube.com and search for "Comstock Township Library." Registration is required for this free craft and begins June 21 on our website, comstocklibrary.org, "Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. The number of participants is limited. Participants can pick-up their craft the week of June 28.

**Adult Pick-Up Crafts: Star on Pallet.** Attach a weathered star to a painted pallet for a star-studded July. This adult take-home craft kit includes instructions and all materials. There will also be an instructional video posted on YouTube. Go to youtube.com and search for "Comstock Township Library." Registration is required for this free craft and begins July 6 on our website, comstocklibrary.org, "Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. The number of participants is limited. Participants can pick-up their craft the week of July 12.

**Adult Pop-up Craft: What is our pop-up craft?** We provide the supplies, written instructions, and you bring your creativity. Pick-ups and sign-ups begin the same week. Week of July 26: Butterfly Paper Lantern.

### Youth Events

**Summer Reading Program for Children and Teens:** Early Bird Registration starts on Tuesday, June 1. Children and teens can register online using Wandoo Reader or by visiting the Youth Department.

**Summer Reading Program for Children and Teens:** Programs begin the week of June 14. We will have weekly programs and storytimes for all different ages. Almost all of our in-person programs require registration. So please call, check our website events calendar, or our Facebook Events before attending any in-person event. For events that do require registration, every child participating should be registered individually, and due to limitations, only those registered will be allowed to participate. ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION DUE TO WEATHER OR COVID-19.

• **Storytimes:** Ms. Sue will be hosting two storytimes every week: Baby Storytime for children 2 and under (siblings welcome) on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. on the library's side lawn, and a larger Family Storytime at Merrill Park on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Masks will be required for all participants aged 4 and older (even if outdoors), and social-distancing will be required. Blankets and/or chairs are recommended, as storytimes will take place on the grass. \*Storytimes are subject to change or cancellation\*.

• **Teen Events:** Ms. Traci has planned some great teen events for the Summer Reading Program. These in-person programs will occur every other Wednesday. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR TEEN EVENTS, AS SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED. Masks will be required for all participants during in-person events, even if the events are held outdoors.

• **STEAM Events:** STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. On the first of each month Ms. Traci will have limited STEAM take-home kits available. Also, every other week, Ms. Traci will have a super-fun in-person STEAM activity for kids to enjoy. These in-person events will take place every other Monday outside of the library. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON STEAM, AS SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED. Masks will be required for all participants (aged 4 and older) during in-person events, even if the events are held outdoors.

• **Arts & Crafts:** Ms. Brenna has planned a variety of cool arts and crafts for this summer. All arts and crafts programs will be scheduled for alternating weeks. One week is a take-home craft; the next week is in-person, etc). REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL IN-PERSON CRAFTS, and very limited spots will be available. Take-home crafts will be available the Monday of their scheduled week, while supplies last. In-person events will fall on Fridays, with two sessions offered. Teens will have a monthly take-home craft on the first of each month, while supplies last. Masks will be required for all participants (aged 4 and older) during in-person events, even if the events are held outdoors.

**Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary:** July 24. Ever wanted to see an alligator or other cool reptiles up close? Here's your chance! The Critchlow Alligator

Sanctuary will be bringing a variety of their reptile friends for us to learn about. There will be two shows at 10:30 and noon. Registration is required, and spots are limited. The Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary is requiring that all participants be 2 or older, NO exceptions. Masks will be required for all participants (aged 4 and older) during in-person events, even if the events are held outdoors.

**The Animal Guy:** August 7. Nelson "The Animal Guy" from the Wildlife Safari in Canton, Michigan, will be bringing a variety of really awesome animals for kids to see and enjoy. There will be two shows, at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Registration is required, and spots are limited. There are no age restrictions for this show. Masks will be required for all participants (aged 4 and older) during in-person events, even if the events are held outdoors.

**The Last Week of Summer Reading Program for Children and Teens:** The week of August 9. This will be our last week for the Summer Reading Program. You will have until the end of the month to complete and turn in your reading logs for prizes and grand prize entries. Grand Prize drawings will take place the first week of September.

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Follow us on Instagram at comstocktownship-library or visit our online calendar for more information regarding programs: comstock-library.evanced.info/signup



We have Homebound Library Services! Please call the library for information.



Wi-Fi is available in the library. You may also ask about checking out one of our mobile hotspots.



We have fax, photocopy, and scanning services available.



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