

The Comstock Communicator

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



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MORE NEWS

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

From the Superintendent



Dear Comstock Schools Community,

“Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” according to that old holiday favorite. But if you look at what’s been happening in the Comstock Schools, Santa has already

been here and we’re already enjoying his bountiful gifts.

Here are some of those gifts we’ve received over the past year:

*Thanks to the generosity of the voters in the recent bond vote, we’re making significant improvements to our buildings. You may have noticed entry renovations at several of our buildings along with improvements in our restrooms. You can follow the progress of the construction at <http://www.comstockps.org/District/2016bondupdate>.

*All students are now receiving free breakfast and lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision program.

*The STEM Academy was named School of the Year as part of the Catalyst University Awards, an honor which came with \$5,000 for expanding hands-on learning opportunities.

*Seventh and eighth graders from STEM traveled to Washington, D.C. in May.

*Green Meadow Elementary has been featured by United Way for their work on Early Childhood Literacy.

*North Elementary is becoming a Leader In Me building.

*Comstock High School hosts several college credit courses for our students.

*Northeast Middle School is starting the Leader In Me program.

*The Boys Soccer Team won the BCS Conference Championship and MHSAA District Title.

*The Girls Basketball Team won the BCS Conference Championship.

*The Boys Cross Country Team won the BCS Conference Championship.

*The Girls Softball Team received the District Team Sportsmanship Award.

*The Girls Tennis Team was selected as Academic All-State.

*The high school’s National Honor Society won the most awards ever by the NHS.

*We’ve hired many new teachers and staff members who come with a love for their students and for teaching. Many of them have previous teaching experience.

*We were able to purchase new school buses without borrowing money.

*We now have an electronic sign advertising all the great things going on in the district.

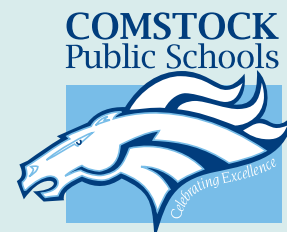
If you need more examples, just take a look at all the articles in this issue of the Communicator. Students aren’t just receiving things from the community. They are giving back as well such as with their participation in the Stair Climb honoring the heroes of September 11.

As we move into this holiday season, we are so thankful to you, the community, for your support throughout the year. We invite you to visit our schools to see all the wonderful things that are happening as we educate students and help them grow and mature into productive citizens.

Looking to 2018, we are encouraged for the future of our district and its students. Don’t hesitate to contact us at any time with questions or concerns. And if you think we’ve done something great, we’d love to hear those accolades as well.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Todd Mora
Superintendent



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

Todd Mora
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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 Todd Mora at morat@comstockps.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.



Compass High School

Work Based Learning at Compass High School

Pam Dudley, College and Career Academy director, has joined Compass High School two days a week to implement a work-based learning program. She is partnering with local businesses to place Compass students in jobs.

Austin Taylor is the first student to have been awarded a part-time position with the Comstock Public Schools Tech Department. He is very excited to work with the department and further his technology knowledge while earning a paycheck.

In addition, Mrs. Dudley and Jimmie Cotter, post-secondary dean, are working with area employer, Mann & Hummel, to place students

in their mentoring program. Several Compass students will work with representatives from the company. These mentors will work with the students to keep them on track with good grades, attendance and behavior. If students meet the requirements, they are guaranteed a job after graduation.

Mrs. Dudley will also bring representatives from Mann & Hummel and Landscape Forms to Compass High School to speak to our students about the importance of their high school education and how it prepares them for employment opportunities in the future.



Taylor Austin, (center) is congratulated by Compass High School principal, Jay Birchmeier, and College and Career Academy director, Pam Dudley.

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 2017

- Approved the following personnel:
 - Anne Swinehart, STEM third grade teacher
 - Hailey Barclay, NEMS fifth grade teacher
 - Kristin Card, CHS and NEMS art teacher
 - Brittany VanDyken, NEMS resource room teacher
- Set last day for seniors as Friday, May 25, 2018.
- Appointed Trustee VanGoye as the district's voting delegate and Vice-President Amos as the alternate voting delegate to the MASB Fall Leadership Conference.
- Assigned liaisons for buildings as follows:
 - NEMS: Vice President Amos
 - Transportation: President Brown
 - Compass HS/Administration/Special Education: Trustee VanGoye
 - North Elementary: Treasurer Dickinson
 - STEM Academy: Secretary Hathaway
 - Green Meadow Elementary - Trustee Schreiner
 - Comstock High School - Trustee Howes
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the Comstock Education Association (CEA).
- Approved tentative compensation agreement with the CEA as follows:
 - One full step or up to 1-1/2 step increases for eligible teachers
 - Approved the 2018-2019 calendar
 - Will be revisiting insurance for teachers.

WORK SESSION

September 25, 2017

- Approved the following personnel:
 - Hiring Robert Einhardt, North PE/Lab Support teacher
 - Resignation of Nathan Miller, North physical education teacher
 - Resignation of Anastasia LaRoy, NEMS eighth grade writing teacher
 - Hiring Sarah Pierman, North fourth grade teacher

- Approved furniture bid for NEMS office area in the amount of \$29,248.33.
- Approved furniture bid for high school office in the amount of \$57,026.49.
- Moved into closed session for discussing administrators' performance.
- Approved two percent salary increases for Jill Ansel, director of curriculum; Justin Ansel, athletic director; Susan Caswell, Green Meadow principal; Chris Chopp, STEM Academy director.
- Approved a \$12,000 pay adjustment for Chris Chopp and increasing his work schedule from 240 days to 260 work days; thus, becoming a 12-month employee.
- Approved a two percent pay increase for Janan Zimmerman because of increased job responsibilities in Comstock's special education services.
- Approved vision insurance for all administrators.

REGULAR MEETING

October 9, 2017

- Sara Fetke from BDO presented the preliminary audit for 2016-2017.
- Set Staff Recognition Week for March 19, 2018.
- Approved Steve Malamas, NEMS eighth grade teacher.
- Approved moving an eight-year old air handler from the high school to the middle school at a cost of \$60,000.

WORK SESSION

October 23, 2017

- Approved hiring Mary Herman, NEMS fifth grade teacher.
- Approved hiring Heather Crabtree, North second grade teacher.
- Approved resignation of Daniel Houvener, seventh grade science teacher.
- Introduced Sean Gillette, new facilities manager, replacing Scott Amsbury who is retiring after 31 years with the district.
- Reviewed current building maps and usage.
- Jeff Hoag, lead architect, presented information to generate discussion about where to go next with construction projects.
- Superintendent Mora reviewed construction plans and costs. The Board will be setting priorities and identifying existing issues.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Hailey Barclay

Hailey Barclay became a teacher because of the influence of her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Weber.

“She always supported me and helped me when I needed it,” she said.

So, when Mrs. Barclay graduated from Northville High School in Northville, Michigan, in 2010, she attended Western Michigan University, graduating in 2014 with a major in elementary education and minors in math and language arts.

Her prior teaching experience includes sixth to eighth grade summer school in Benton Harbor, third grade and sixth grade at Marshall Academy for two years, and then a year at Milwood Middle School where she taught sixth and seventh grade math for a year.

At Comstock, she’s teaching fifth grade English language arts and social studies at Northeast Middle School.

Mrs. Barclay and her husband, Eldon, have been married just over a year. They have two “furry children,” Blue and Callie. Her husband is an engineer at Eliason Corporation in Kalamazoo.

She enjoys playing and watching sports, especially soccer and football. Traveling is also a special interest including trips to visit family in Northville or Hale, Michigan. The Caribbean islands have also been a fun destination for her.



Heather Crull

With parents and grandparents as educators, Heather Crull had great role models influencing her decision to go into education.

After graduating from Kalamazoo Central High School, she attended Kalamazoo College where she received a bachelors degree in biology. Then, she earned her elementary education certificate at WMU.

She began her career as an environmental educator working at the Kalamazoo Nature Center and Nature’s Way Preschool. She has also worked with the non-profit Fair Food Matters, providing garden and food-based learning opportunities for students at Woodward Elementary in Kalamazoo. This year, she is teaching third grade at the STEM Academy.

“I enjoy sharing my passion about science and learning with children,” she said.

In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading, cooking, and rollerskating.



Kimberly Lamp

Kimberly Lamp comes to Comstock this year with 18 years of teaching experience, having taught at St. Mary’s, St. Augustine, and at Hackett Catholic

Central High School in Kalamazoo. She will be teaching computers at NEMS.

A graduate of Hackett Catholic Central High School, she majored in education with English and math/science minors at Western Michigan University.

“I wanted to make a difference by helping students be as prepared as possible for their futures,” she said of going into teaching as a career. “I enjoy the fact that every day is a different adventure.”

Her math teacher at Hackett, Brother Jerry Wunderly, was an important person in her life.

“He made difficult subjects fun and forced you to look at things from different angles to help you better understand the topic,” she said.

Mrs. Lamp and her husband, Karl, who is an instrument technician at Pfizer, have a son, Patrick, 25, and a daughter, Casey, 23.

She enjoys reading, gardening, and researching new and creative ways to use technology in the classroom.



Steven Rand

Steven Rand majored in business and sociology in college before deciding to go back to school to become a special education teacher. That decision

came because of his volunteer work with the Big Brother program.

“While working with my little brothers, I found that they needed a lot of additional support to be successful in school,” he said. “I enjoyed developing plans for these kids and the challenge of finding the right fit for each one. I finally decided to make my volunteering my career and went back to school to become a special education teacher.”

His sister, Karen Stevens, was an influence in his decision to go into education also as he noticed “her passion for kids and how excited she gets when she talks about education.”

A native of Parchment, Mr. Rand graduated from Parchment High School in 1983 before attending Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University. He taught for 13 years in Frisco, Texas. This year, he is teaching special education at the high school.

He and his wife, Coleen, have three children: Eva, 17; Olivia, 14; and Jackson, 10.

He enjoys working in the yard, going to the lake, and spending time with his family.



Katie Reiff

A graduate of Mother McAuley High School in Chicago, Illinois, Katie Reiff attended the University of Iowa where she majored in marketing,

intending to work for a nonprofit.

However, her experiences as a babysitter when she was young and her love of working with children led her to a career in education. She taught for 12 years in Chicago.

“My calculus teacher, Sister Iwanski, was an amazing teacher who taught me if I work hard enough, I can accomplish anything,” she said.

Welcome, New Staff Members

Her husband, Chris, is an auditor with the Securities and Exchange Commission. They have a daughter, Casey, 5, and twin boys, Will and Charlie, 4.

She enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with her family.



Becky Simison

A recent graduate of Saginaw Valley State University with a major in secondary math education, Becky Simison is teaching geometry and algebra 2 at the high school in this her first year of teaching.

“I have wanted to be a teacher since I can remember, and I was lucky enough to have some amazing mentors and examples along the way throughout my education,” she said.

She credits her Advanced Placement government teacher at Lincoln Park High

School, Erin Orzol, as being an important influence in her life.

“She taught me effective methods of presenting information to students, as well as the importance of building meaningful relationships with your students,” she said.

Miss Simison lives in Portage and enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching movies, playing disc golf, and taking road trips.



Brittany VanDyken

A graduate of Comstock High School, Brittany VanDyken, returned to her alma mater this year to teach special education at NEMS. She earned a bachelors degree in early childhood education and a masters degree in special education from Western Michigan University.

Her prior experience includes teaching for

Head Start, Plainwell Community Schools and Endeavor Charter Academy.

“I have always wanted to be a teacher,” she said. “I loved every aspect of school growing up and wanted to continue learning as well as show others how fun learning really can be.”

When she was in elementary school at North Elementary, three of her teachers made a difference in her life, creating in her a desire to teach. Those teachers were Mrs. Roy, Mrs. Victor, and Mr. VanDis.

“They all showed me how fun, positive and successful school can be for all students and made it a place I did not want to ever leave,” she said.

Miss VanDyken is engaged to Ryan Bacheller who works in the quality assurance department of Eurofins, a pharmaceutical company.

Teaching fitness classes, hiking, biking, doing crafts, and baking are the activities she enjoys.

News from the Athletic Department

Hall of Fame Induction

The 2018 Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 28, at the WMU Fetzer Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. and the induction to follow at 7 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$25. Come support these great Comstock alumni and coaches and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 23.

Father Daughter Dance

The Father-Daughter Dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, from 6-8 p.m. at Comstock High School. Pictures can be taken at 5:30 p.m. Food will be served from 6-7 p.m. We will also show a movie in the auditorium from 7-8:30 p.m. Please return the registration form (see page 11) by February 7 to help us get an accurate count for food. Please call Justin Ansel at 269-250-8711 for more information.

Comstock Youth Basketball

The deadline for sign up for CYB basketball was November 24. This is a youth basketball program for first through fourth grade boys and girls. If you missed the registration and are interested in getting your son or daughter involved, please call Anna Meulenberg-Munn at 744-8339 to check on availability.

Boys Soccer Conference Champions

Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team for another great season finishing 19-3 again. The team won the conference in back-to-back seasons.

Multiple records were broken or tied this year including goals in a game by Evan Veenhuis with 6, points in a game by Evan Veenhuis with 8, goals in a career by Evan Veenhuis with 87, assists in a career by Seth Ansel with 38, points in a career by Evan Veenhuis with 121 and wins in a season with 19. Great job, guys!



Girls Golf State Qualifier

Congratulations to Abby House for her great play in golf to make it to the state meet. She did a wonderful job representing Comstock. Congratulations on a great season.



Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Training

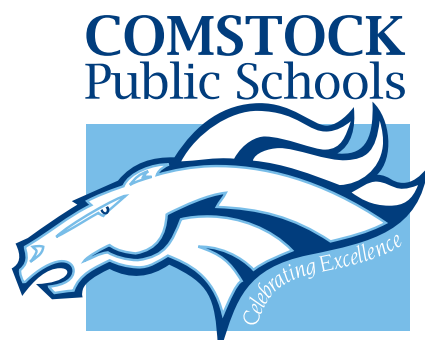
Comstock Public Schools Community Education Center, 3010 Gull Road, offers a Certified Nurse Aide Training monthly. The next class dates are January 8, March 5, and April 9.

Our intensive 80-hour course meets all of the requirements of the State of Michigan Certified Nurse Aide Training program. Course content includes long-term care facilities, physical and emotional needs of residents, resident rights, communication skills, death and dying, special needs including dementia care, vital signs, infection control techniques, observations, medical terminology, body mechanics, transfers, walkers, canes, positioning in bed, nutrition, intake and output, elimination needs, skin care, foot care, dressing, bathing, bed making, mouth care and first aid. Homework is required.

The class consists of 10 classroom days from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Also, three nursing home days from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. are required. Class size is limited to 22 students.

Tuition is \$980, due at the time of registration. You get to keep the book! A nurse aide uniform, appropriate shoes and a watch with a second hand are required. Students who desire state certification, pay an additional \$125 to the State of Michigan to take the state test.

Please call 269-250-8930 with questions.



Comstock High School

CHS Students Visit GVSU



Students prepare to bid farewell to the GVSU campus, but not before receiving high praise from the admissions staff for their engagement and informed questions.

The Comstock College and Career Academy recently took 37 students on the first campus visit of the year to Grand Valley State University. Arriving on campus, students were greeted by the admissions team, who then gave an in-depth presentation on what it takes to become a Laker.

The students took full advantage of this time by asking informed questions regarding such things as majors, high school habits, and dorms.

After this, students broke off into three groups to explore the campus. For many of them, it was their first time on a college campus, but you certainly wouldn't have known that by observing them. They were engaged and attentive throughout the visit.

They capped off the day at the all-you-can eat cafeteria before returning to Comstock.

CHS Celebrates College Month

With October designated "College Month" in Michigan, Comstock actively engaged students and their families in getting ready for college through events sponsored by the Comstock College and Career Academy (CCA). By the end of the month:

- 100 percent of graduating seniors had submitted an application to at least one institution.
- CHS seniors have saved \$3,155 in application fees as a result of no-cost lunch for all. (Note: Colleges and universities that have application fees will waive those fees for students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Because Comstock provides a no-cost lunch for all, seniors can waive their application fees during the application process.)
- 34 seniors have submitted their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Through the FAFSA, CHS seniors have already earned \$130,760 in Pell Grants for college.
- CHS seniors have already submitted 175 applications, and have received 68 acceptance letters.

During October, CCA hosted two FAFSA completion events where families filled out the FAFSA with members of the CCA and the WMU Financial Aid Department.

The CCA also hosted its third annual Scholarship Night where Scholarship Manager Nancy Timmons of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation informed families of the many sources of financial assistance in the Kalamazoo area, and beyond. Cheer on the Class of 2018 while they look to "Surpass the Last Class" by earning more than \$2.3 million in offered financial aid.

Through these events, Comstock continues to maintain an effective partnership with the Michigan College Access Network and the post-secondary education movement.

Honor Society Climbs Stairs for 9/11 Memorial

By Emily Dodson
CHS Junior/NHS Member

The National Honor Society (NHS) participated in the 9/11 Kalamazoo Memorial Stair Climb at the K-Wings Stadium this fall, climbing the equivalent of the World Trade Center's 110 floors in honor of those heroes who lost their lives on 9/11.

Many other Comstock students besides NHS members signed up for the event. On the day of the event, students were given tags of remembrance in honor of the fallen heroes, stating the names of the lost and where they served. These tags of remembrance were a symbol of appreciation for the fallen men and women.

Following a ritual and a prayer for the people who lost their lives that day, firemen talked to us about how people are still affected by this event and that the best way to help is to remember the details of what happened that day.

Then, we began the stair climb. An announcer stated what times planes launched and then crashed into the Twin Towers. Throughout the entire climb, we experienced what it was like to be one of those firemen or women.

We watched the planes crash and smoke billow from the towers. As the towers began to crumble,

we observed the frightened faces running away from the towers, and the injured bodies being carried away from the site.

We endured the inevitable pain in our calves and knees while walking up and down the stairs alongside the rest of the community. Halfway through the climb, everyone would ring a bell and then proudly read off the name of their fallen hero. All of the Comstock High School students successfully climbed all 110 floors.

This memorial event shows how our community comes together to support not only a cause to commemorate the lost, but also demonstrates how much pride we take in our communities and our country.

On that fateful day, much harm was done. Doing all we did, and all the work we put in just in remembrance of what was lost shows how proud a community is and how strong a bond we have when we work together.

Our community can grow from memorial events like this one. If our community regularly comes together, the more community events we could do and as a result, our community will flourish.

Comstock High School

High School Named Pilot Leader in Me School

Comstock High School has been selected to be a pilot Leader in Me high school. We are the only high school in Michigan and one of 25 in the country. Content from *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* is a key component of The Leader in Me. The program combines universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal, which are common to all people.

In October, we began conducting a seventh hour which will run every Friday through May. The purpose of seventh hour is to inspire students to see themselves as leaders, learn about the seven habits of highly effective teens, and begin to establish a school culture based on those habits.

All classes will meet on Fridays for a shorter period of time in order to make room for the seventh hour. We believe this is a great opportunity to build a better sense of community throughout our building.

Each new school year brings opportunities for academic growth and also growth in all areas of development. Although students must be knowledgeable when they graduate, they must also be healthy, engaged, responsible, and caring people.

The Leader in Me program provides our school with the vision and language to lead the school in a way that addresses all areas of development. As students discover and develop their unique gifts and talents, they are given opportunities to lead. As leaders, they become active, engaged partners in their own education and their self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative grow.

Students quickly understand the benefits of different gifts and talents; they learn to listen to new ideas, work together to achieve results, and motivate one another to be the best. It will be an exciting year to watch our students grow, develop, learn and lead.

If you have any questions, contact the high school at 269-250-8700. Please watch for more information about The Leader in Me and be sure to ask your student(s) about it.

Northeast Middle School

WMU Football Players Visit NEMS



WMU football players pose with NEMS students. (Left to right) Shakeda Parker, Robrianna Lawson, #36 Deshawn Foster, JayShon Outlaw, #6 Asantay Brown, Josh Allan, and #51 Jordan Asbury.

WMU football players partnered with Northeast Middle School this year to visit the school and spend time with our students. They have talked to the students in grades 5-8 about the importance of education and hard work. They answered questions, signed autographs, and played basketball. Go Broncos! Go Colts!

Northeast Middle School

Thank you, Menards, Comstock Community



Thanks to Menards on Gull Road and the Comstock community, NEMS received several boxes of awesome school supplies.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

December:

- 11 Paramount Charter Academy Christmas Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Concert (includes band, orchestra, choir) : 7 p.m. - \$3 at the door.
- 14 Comstock NEMS/High School Holiday Band Concert: 7 p.m. - FREE
- 19 Comstock STEM/ Northeast Middle/High School Choir Concert: 7 p.m. - FREE

January:

- 10 Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Play: 7 p.m. - FREE
- 22 North Elementary Music Program: 7 p.m. - FREE

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Families Attend Night of Flight



Partners for the Night of Flight include (left to right): Tom Thinnis, Eric Eplett, Ann Swinehart, Tom Souder, Dakota Neff, Chris Chopp, and Evelyn Chopp.

Forty STEM Academy families attended the Night of Flight at Western's School of Aviation. Students and families flew a flight simulator, coordinated virtual air traffic control, sat in the cockpit of a 757, and competed in a paper airplane contest in the airport hangar.

Ten students won a 3D printed trophy made at STEM Academy.

Many students left the evening with a better understanding of the myriad of careers associated with the aviation industry, and a renewed sense of awe of flight from standing in the airplane hangar and under the wing of the FedEx 757.

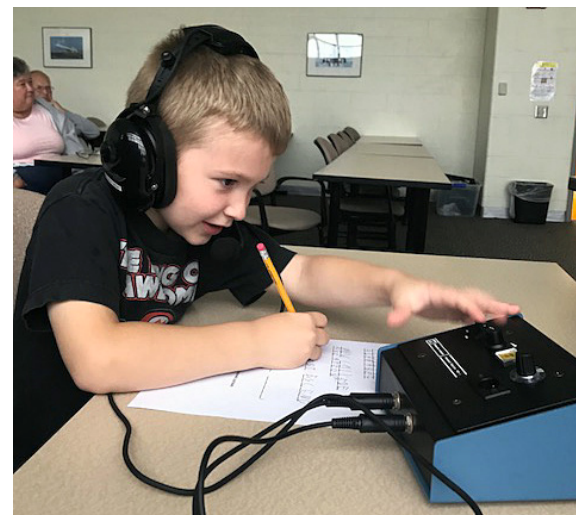
We extend thanks to the following:

*Mrs. Swinehart, STEM Academy third grade teacher for organizing the event.

*Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Pobuda, Mrs. Roys and Mrs. Boase who attended the event and helped out.

*School board president, Dr. Brandy Brown who attended with her family.

*The WMU School of Aviation for hosting us for the event, and partnering with the STEM Academy to offer this evening for our students and families.



First grader Abe Hewitt decodes a message during the Night of Flight at the WMU School of Aviation.



Students fly paper airplanes in the hangar.

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Girls Varsity Basketball

Fri, Dec 1	Brandywine High School	7:30PM
Tue, Dec 5	Hopkins High School	6:30PM
Fri, Dec 8	Berrien Springs HS	6:00PM
Tue, Dec 12	@ Gull Lake High School	7:15PM
Fri, Dec 15	Buchanan HS	6:00PM
Tue, Dec 19	@ Allegan Public Schools	6:30PM
Thu, Dec 21	@ Parchment High School	6:00PM
Wed, Jan 3	Springport Scrimmage	5:00PM
Thu, Jan 4	Centreville Scrimmage	6:30PM
Tue, Jan 9	@ Hackett Catholic Central	7:15PM
Fri, Jan 12	Bridgman Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue, Jan 16	@ Plainwell Schools	7:15PM
Fri, Jan 19	@ Brandywine High School	6:00PM
Fri, Jan 26	@ Berrien Springs HS	6:00PM
Tue, Jan 30	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	6:30PM

Girls JV Basketball

Fri, Dec 1	Brandywine High School	6:00PM
Tue, Dec 5	Hopkins High School	5:00PM
Fri, Dec 8	Berrien Springs HS	4:30PM
Tue, Dec 12	@ Gull Lake High School	5:45PM
Fri, Dec 15	Buchanan HS	4:30PM
Tue, Dec 19	@ Allegan Public Schools	5:00PM
Wed, Dec 20	@ Parchment High School	4:30PM
Thu, Jan 4	Centreville Scrimmage	5:00PM
Tue, Jan 9	@ Hackett Catholic Central	5:45PM
Fri, Jan 12	Bridgman Public Schools	4:30PM
Tue, Jan 16	@ Plainwell Schools	5:45PM
Thu, Jan 18	@ Brandywine High School	4:45PM
Fri, Jan 26	@ Berrien Springs HS (MS Gym)	4:30PM
Tue, Jan 30	Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	5:00PM

Boys Varsity Basketball

Tue, Dec 5	@ Vicksburg High School	7:15PM
Fri, Dec 8	Berrien Springs HS	7:30PM
Tue, Dec 12	Gull Lake High School	7:15PM
Fri, Dec 15	Buchanan HS	7:30PM
Tue, Dec 19	Allegan Public Schools	7:30PM

Thu, Dec 21	@ Parchment High School	7:30PM
Tue, Jan 9	Hackett Catholic Central	7:15PM
Fri, Jan 12	Bridgman Public Schools	7:30PM
Fri, Jan 19	@ Brandywine High School	7:30PM
Mon, Jan 22	@ Constantine High School	7:00PM
Fri, Jan 26	@ Berrien Springs HS	7:30PM
Tue, Jan 30	@ Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	7:15PM

Boys JV Basketball

Tue, Dec 5	@ Vicksburg High School	5:45PM
Thu, Dec 7	Berrien Springs HS	7:30PM
Tue, Dec 12	Gull Lake High School	5:45PM
Thu, Dec 14	Buchanan HS	7:30PM
Tue, Dec 19	Allegan Public Schools	6:00PM
Wed, Dec 20	@ Parchment High School	7:30PM
Tue, Jan 9	Hackett Catholic Central	5:45PM
Thu, Jan 11	Bridgman Public Schools	7:30PM
Thu, Jan 18	@ Brandywine High School	6:15PM
Mon, Jan 22	@ Constantine High School	5:30PM
Fri, Jan 26	@ Berrien Springs HS (MS Gym)	6:00PM
Tue, Jan 30	@ Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	5:45PM

Boys Freshman Basketball

Tue, Dec 5	@ Vicksburg High School	4:15PM
Thu, Dec 7	Berrien Springs HS	6:00PM
Tue, Dec 12	Gull Lake High School	4:15PM
Thu, Dec 14	Buchanan HS	6:00PM
Tue, Dec 19	Allegan Public Schools	4:30PM
Wed, Dec 20	@ Parchment High School	6:00PM
Tue, Jan 9	Hackett Catholic Central	4:15PM
Thu, Jan 11	Bridgman Public Schools	6:00PM
Thu, Jan 18	@ Brandywine High School	7:45PM
Fri, Jan 26	@ Berrien Springs HS	4:30PM
Tue, Jan 30	@ Kalamazoo Christian H.S.	4:15PM

Varsity Wrestling

Sat, Dec 2	@ Lakewood Scrimmage	8:30AM
Wed, Dec 6	@ Webberville Quad w/ El & Waverly	5:00PM
Fri, Dec 8	@ Olivet Invitational	5:00PM

Wed, Dec 13	@ Decatur Quad	6:00PM
Sat, Dec 16	@ Gull Lake Wrestling Invitational	9:30AM
Sat, Dec 30	Comstock V Individual Tournament	9:30AM
Wed, Jan 10	@ BCS New Buffalo Quad	6:00PM
Sat, Jan 13	@ Parchment Invitational	9:00AM
Wed, Jan 17	@ BCS Parchment Quad	6:00PM
Sat, Jan 20	Comstock V Team Tournament	9:30AM
Wed, Jan 24	BCS Comstock Quad	6:00PM
Fri, Jan 26	Comstock V Individual Tournament	4:00PM
Wed, Jan 31	@ BCS Parchment Quad	6:00PM

Varsity Competitive Cheer

Sat, Jan 13	@ Gull Lake Invitational	9:00AM
Wed, Jan 17	@ BCS Bridgman Jamboree	6:00PM
Fri, Jan 19	Comstock Stampede Showdown	6:00PM
Wed, Jan 24	@ BCS Buchanan Jamboree	6:00PM
Sat, Jan 27	@ Otsego Invitational	9:00AM
Wed, Jan 31	BCS Comstock Jamboree	6:00PM

Boys & Girls Varsity Bowling

Mon, Dec 4	@ Constantine High School (South Lanes in TR)	4:00PM
Wed, Dec 6	Coloma High School (Eastland)	4:00PM
Mon, Dec 11	Bronson Jr/Sr HS (Eastland)	4:00PM
Wed, Dec 13	@ Galesburg-Augusta HS (Eastland)	4:00PM
Mon, Dec 18	@ Kalamazoo Christian H.S. (Airway)	3:30PM
Wed, Dec 20	Martin Public School (Eastland)	4:00PM
Mon, Jan 8	Hackett Catholic Central (Eastland)	4:00PM
Wed, Jan 10	@ Parchment High School (Eastland)	4:00PM
Mon, Jan 15	Schoolcraft High School (Eastland)	4:00PM
Wed, Jan 17	Constantine High School (Eastland)	4:00PM
Mon, Jan 22	@ Coloma High School (St. Joe Kellys Bowl)	4:00PM
Wed, Jan 24	@ Bronson Jr/Sr HS (Bronson Strike Zone)	4:00PM
Mon, Jan 29	Galesburg-Augusta HS (Eastland)	4:00PM
Wed, Jan 31	Kalamazoo Christian H.S. (Eastland)	4:00PM

North Elementary

Volunteers Help North Stars Shine

North Elementary has two faithful community members who have worked with our students for many years. In the fall, students are excited to see that they have returned for another year.

Bruce Martin, a retired accountant, began volunteering at North 12 years ago. He started in the Library Media Center at the circulation desk where he interacted with all staff and students.

Later, he decided to venture into the second grade classroom where he found his niche.

"I don't have any children of my own and working in the school is like having a bunch of grandkids," he said. "Accounting can be very tedious, but working with the kids is exciting! I've found that second graders appreciate my goofy sense of humor. It's also rewarding to see how their academic skills grow as the year goes on."

Mr. Martin and the students both get excited when they see each other out in the community. At times, he

feels he hasn't connected with the students, but when they see him, and yell "Mr. Martin! Mr. Martin!" he knows there is a connection and he's made a difference in their lives.

Rhonda Louallen, a retired Comstock paraprofessional, returned to North to continue impacting students' lives. Seven years ago when she retired, she felt something was missing and that something was working with children.

She promptly contacted one of her friends at North and got back into the groove. Monday and Wednesday mornings she spent helping second graders working on reading skills. After several years assisting in second grade, she was ready for a change and this year is working with kindergarten.

Mrs. Louallen loves to do it all - working one-on-one, with small groups, and helping staff with copying, cutting, and sorting.

Both of these dedicated volunteers love to see the



Mr. Martin supervises a station at Camping Day.

academic growth in North students. They also enjoy participating in school celebrations.

Mr. Martin and Mrs. Louallen have volunteered at our Santa Breakfast, Literacy Month, Camping Day, End of the Year Mega Party and many classroom celebrations. We are honored to have them as part of our team and hope to see them for many more years to come.

Comstock Township Library Events

***Please call to confirm our hours before venturing out in inclement weather.**

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Lap Robes will be on display from December 1-16. Donations of yarn are appreciated.

Can't get Internet at your home? The library now has hotspots available for circulation to Comstock Township Library patrons. Ask one of our staff members for more information! There is a \$10 fee and a \$10 deposit upon check-out.

We now have a **notary service** at the library during business hours. The cost is \$5 per notarial transaction. Call 345-0136 for more information.

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

Join the Comstock Township Library on **Saturday, December 9 from 1 - 3 p.m.** for our annual **Holiday Open House**. Enjoy holiday cookies, cider, a performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Jazz Trio, meet Mrs. Claus, make a children's craft, play children's games, and see live reindeer. The reindeer will be outside, so, please dress warmly. (Reindeer may not be petted). Please bring your camera, as pictures with Mrs. Claus and the reindeer will be allowed.

Adult Craft: Wednesday, December 13 at 6 p.m.: Happy Our Art Canvas Painting! Happy Our Art will be here for a guided canvas painting. Required registration began on November 27 for this free event. Space is limited. Call 345-0136 for more information.

Introduction to Calligraphy: Wednesday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m. Join artist, Nancy Alexander, for an introduction to the art of calligraphy. Sign-ups are required for this free event and begin on Monday, January 2, at the adult reference desk. Space is limited.

Ask-A-Lawyer: Wednesday, January 24, 6-8 p.m. Join Robert Reilman to get your legal questions answered. This program is free and signups begin on Monday, January 8, at the adult reference desk. Your legal questions will be answered in the order you arrive, but you must register. Call 345-0136 for more information.

Adult Craft: Wednesday, February 7 at 5:30 p.m. Heart Pallet Hanger. Decorate a wooden-heart pallet to adorn your walls or doors! Registration is required and begins on January 22 at the adult reference desk. Space is limited. Call 345-0136 for more information.

EVENTS IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

We now have Launchpads available for circulation in the Young People's department. Launchpads are pre-loaded tablets with educational games. Limited quantity.

STORYTIME: Ages 1-5. Registration for winter storytimes begins Monday, January 8. Register your child for a 45-minute session, which includes 30 minutes of stories, songs, and other activities followed by a 15-minute craft. Storytimes begin Monday, January 16, and run through Thursday, April 26. (No storytimes the week of April 2.) Storytime sessions are as follows:

Mondays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., 1-3 year olds

Tuesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., 1-3 year olds

Wednesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., 3-5 year olds

Thursdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m., 3-5 year olds

EVENING STORYTIME: Ages 1-5. Every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Evening storytimes are from 6:-6:30 p.m. Please call the library to register for this free activity. Upcoming dates-December 12, January 9, January 23.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: Pre-Kindergarten. Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents to read 1000 books to their young children before they begin kindergarten. Along the way they can earn prizes. Reading to your child beginning at a young age is the single most important thing a parent 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 Young People's Desk today!

WINTER READING PROGRAM: Begins Monday, December 11, and runs through Saturday, February 24, for all ages. Reading this winter can earn you small prizes at the library and a chance for a larger prize at the end of the winter reading program! You may pick up your log and begin reading on Monday, December 11.

CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26. The library will also be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: Every month on the first Friday, Sixth through Twelfth Graders. Earn community service hours helping us plan programs for teens and other youth! Must be in sixth through twelfth grades to register for this free event! Meeting dates are:

Friday, December 1, 4-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, November 27.)

Friday, February 2, 4-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, January 29.)

LEGO CLUB: Every month on the third Friday, 4-5:30 p.m., all ages. Use your imagination and build a Lego creation for us to display in the Young People's Department! Children under the age of 5 should have an adult helper with them. Registration is required for this free event. Lego Club dates are as follows:

Friday, December 15, 4-5:30 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, December 4.)

Friday, January 19, 4-5:30 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, January 8.)

Friday, February 16, 4-5:30 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, February 5.)

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Join the Comstock Township Library on **Saturday, December 9, from 1 - 3 p.m.** for our annual Holiday Open House. Enjoy holiday treats, a performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Jazz Trio, meet Mrs. Claus, make a children's craft, play children's games, and see live reindeer. The reindeer will be outside, so, please dress warmly. (Reindeer may not be petted). Please bring your camera, as pictures with Mrs. Claus and the reindeer will be allowed.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT: Saturday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., for children ages 0-18. Decorate a milk carton gingerbread house with candies and frosting. We will provide all the supplies! Children under the age of 5 must have an adult to help them. Registration is required for this free craft and begins Monday, December 4.

SNOWMAN CRAFT: Saturday, January 20, 11 a.m.-Noon, ages 0-18. Join us for a snowman craft! We will provide all materials. Children under

Comstock Township Library Events

(continued)

the age of five should have an adult helper with them. Registration is required for this free craft and begins Monday, January 8. Space is limited.

VALENTINE CRAFT: Saturday, February 10, 11 a.m. to Noon, ages 0-18. Join us for a Valentine craft! We will provide all materials. Children under the age of five should have an adult helper with them. Registration is required for this free craft and begins Monday, January 29. Space is limited.

Father/Daughter Winter Dance

Girls of any age with their Fathers!
A grand night of Dancing, Games, Movie and Food!

Saturday, February 10, 2018
at Comstock High School

Dancing and games from 6-8 p.m.
Pizza and refreshments served from 6-7 p.m.
Movie to be shown in the auditorium from 7-9 p.m.
Includes popcorn and water

\$25/couple and \$5/extra daughter
Professional photographs available at an extra charge
beginning at 5:30 p.m.

More information – Call Shirley Doorlag at 250-8712

Advance registration highly recommended
to help us get an accurate count for food.


Father / Daughter Dance Registration Form

Return by mail to:
Comstock High School
Attn: Justin Ansel
2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Father _____
Daughter _____
Phone _____ Daughter's Current Grade _____
School _____

Please make checks payable to: Comstock High School
Pre-registered names will be at the registration table.
No tickets will be sent!


****In the case of inclement weather, cancellations will be on TV.*


 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.

Comstock Public Schools 2017-2018 School Calendar

December 7	High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
Dec. 25 – Jan. 5	WINTER RECESS		No Students / No Teachers
January 23	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
January 24	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
January 25	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
January 26	Professional Development A.M. END OF 1ST SEMESTER Records Day P.M.	8:00am-3:00pm	No Students K-12

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

CHS Ski Club 2017-2018

How the ski & snowboard club works...

First, members buy a Bittersweet Membership Card for \$16. They show this card at Bittersweet every time they go. The discount card provides a large reduction off lift tickets and equipment rentals, if needed. So the membership card helps a lot with cost!

For students who want to ride the Ski Club bus, there is a one time fee (amount to be determined) for transportation. This pays for seven trips on Thursdays after school beginning in January. The bus leaves the high school at 2:45 p.m., goes to NEMS and picks up the middle school club members and then heads out to Bittersweet. The bus departs Bittersweet at 7:45 p.m. and returns to the high school for parent pick up at 8:20 p.m. The first ski club trip is scheduled for Thursday, January 11.

COSTS FOR SEASON:

- *Membership card = \$16 (pay one time) (Bittersweet waiver & money due on 12/15)
- *Lift ticket = 7 trips x \$16 = \$112 (Pay \$16 at window each time you go; no pre-pay)
- *Equipment rental (skis/snb 7 trips x \$16 = \$112) (Pay \$16 at window each time you go; no pre-pay)
- *Bus = TBD (Pays for 7 trips) (Due on 12/15)
(Spaghetti dinner fundraiser on 12/8)

TOTALS FOR SEASON:

- \$224 for season (if renting skis & riding bus) (\$112+\$112=\$224) plus bus fee TBD
- \$224 for season (if renting snowboard & riding bus) (same as above)
- \$112 for season (if already have equipment & riding bus) (\$112) plus bus fee TBD
- \$128 for season (if have equipment & driving on own) (\$112+\$16=\$128)

What to get in to Coach Daniel at Comstock High School:

Please place the following in an envelope with your name on it:

- 1) Bittersweet Waiver with \$16 (check to "BITTERSWEET SKI RESORT")
*Bittersweet Waivers must be picked up at the Comstock High School office.
- 2) Bus Money TBD—depends on fundraiser (Students expected to sell tickets.)

OPEN TO ANYONE

The Comstock Ski & Snowboard Club is open to anyone, ages 7 years to adults. You don't have to go to Comstock or live in Comstock. Anyone can buy the \$16 membership card and get the discounts.

For more information, email Coach Daniel at danielt@comstockps.org or go to www.skiBittersweet.com and click on the "classes and snow sports clubs" link. Then, scroll down to the ski club information for students or adults.

The Bittersweet Ski Club application and waiver can also be found on this site, so you would not have to pick it up from the high school office. Just print them at your leisure. These forms must be filled out. They cannot be turned in at Bittersweet. They must be given to Ski Club chaperone, Coach Daniel, at CHS to be turned in.

**WAIVERS &
Money DUE
ON Friday,
December 15**