

The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | CELA | COMSTOCK K-12 VIRTUAL ACADEMY



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MORE NEWS

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



From the Superintendent

Community Approves \$39.4M Bond Proposal

Dear Comstock Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff as well as our students and families, we are grateful for the support of the Comstock community regarding the approval of our District's \$39.4M bond proposal on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Our students and staff deserve to have facilities that meet modern standards, and these bond funds will ensure the proper teaching and learning environment in our District for years to come.

The Board of Education and Superintendent Team also extend their deepest appreciation to the Facilities Review Committee. This group of 40+ community members worked voluntarily for 13 months to tour, examine, and analyze the needs of the District's infrastructure which formed the basis for the bond proposal.

Moreover, the Board is indebted to the members of the bond advocacy group, CPS Yes!, for their passion, dedication, sacrifice, and vision.

Their convincing efforts and hard work successfully pushed the bond across the finish line on Election Day. There are so many others including Colt Alumni and Boosters who lent support. Thanks to all members of the Colt Nation who made the passage of the millage come true!

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 Jeff.Thoenes@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!

It was a tremendously GREAT day to be a Colt!

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

Election Watch Party at Main Street Pub

CPS Yes! Members attended an election watch party at the Main Street Pub and were delighted with the winning results. Voters approved the proposal 53 percent-47 percent (1,145 in favor versus 1,032 opposed).



(Left to right) John Arend, Co-chair Michael Moncel, Co-chair David Yarnell, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Nicole Marques, Jason Hall, and Raylinne Manni.



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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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- Karen Howes, Trustee
- Kayleen O'Donnell, Trustee

- Ashley LaVanWay, Appointed Recording Secretary
- Michelle Darnell, Appointed Treasurer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by empowering, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach their full potential, and to ensure all students learn and thrive in a safe and healthy environment.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an inclusive, high performing learning community where we foster dreams, explore possibilities, and create futures.

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



@ComstockPS

District Receives Book Donation

The District recently received 10 copies of the book *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. The books were donated to the District by the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation (GLCSF)

Gull Lake students recently read the book during the reading initiative, One District One Book. After each student received a copy of the book, there were some books left over so the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation donated the books to other districts in the area, according to a letter from Drew Bordner, Gull Lake's director of curriculum and instructional technology.

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2022

- Recognized Students of the Month:
 - Angel Chaudhari (CELA Student, GSRP Program)
 - Charlee Ballard (Elementary, Third Grade)
 - Greyson Wuis (STEM Academy, Fifth Grade)
 - Natalee Randall (Middle School, Sixth Grade)
 - Nyaira Ballinger (High School, Twelfth Grade)
 - Uqadah Copeland (Compass, Tenth Grade)
 - Marlee Cannon (Virtual Academy, Seventh Grade)
- Recognized Staff of the Month:
 - Dawn Krasts, Social Studies Teacher, Compass high School
- Approved retirement of Brian Deller, Director of Special Education.
- Approved the amendments for the January 24, 2022, Organizational Meeting.
- Approved the 2021-2022 Amendment to the General Appropriations.
- Moved into closed session to conduct the Superintendent's quarterly evaluation.

REGULAR MEETING

April 11, 2022

- Recognized Students of the Month:
 - Mitchell Camp (CELA, GSRP Program)

- AJ Middleton (Elementary, Second Grade)
- Edison Halling (STEM Academy, Kindergarten)
- Tyshawn Rials (Middle School, Seventh Grade)
- Trenton Edmonds (High School, Ninth Grade)
- Romeo Triplett (Compass, Twelfth Grade)
- Jylian "Sam" Boers (Virtual Academy, Twelfth Grade)

- Recognized Staff of the Month:
 - Colleen Grueter (High School Instructional Coach)
- Approved the security camera bid presented by AE Tech Design.
- Approved the furniture bid from GMB Architecture and Engineering for the elementary school.
- Approved the middle school renovations bid from Miller-Davis.
- Approved the the CHS (Hamet) Stadium bid from Miller-Davis.

REGULAR MEETING

April 25, 2022

- Approved hiring Abigail Mullis as music teacher at CES.
- Heard bond update from Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent.
- Heard the KRESA Annual Report from Dave Campbell, KRESA Superintendent.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

During June and July, there are many opportunities to see dance recitals, a musical "Beauty and the Beast," and a professional group performing "Almost Queen." Get your tickets so you don't miss out.

June:

- 1 - The Montessori School Concert:** 6 p.m.
- 2 - Compass High School Graduation:** 6 p.m.; Rehearsal at 5 p.m.
- 4 - Traci Phelps Dance Studios Performance:** Two shows. Call Studio for details/tickets.
- 6 - Comstock Middle School Awards Night - 6:30 p.m.**
- 7 - Comstock Spring Sports Awards - 6:30 p.m.**
- 8 - Parchment Innovation Center Graduation - 6 p.m.**
- 11 - Momentum Dance Studio Recital:** Noon and 6 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Call Studio for details/tickets.
- 13-17 - HPA Drama Camp - Sign up at hpami.org.**
- 18 - Trinity Prep Center Dance Recital - 2 p.m.**

July:

- 8-10; 15-17- "Beauty and the Beast";** Center Stage Theater - 7 p.m. Matinée also on the 10th and the 17th at 2 p.m. Tickets: at the door or go to their website for online ticketing: <https://kzoocst.com/tickets>
- 23 - "Almost Queen";** sponsored by Comstock Community Center; event held at the Comstock Community Auditorium - 8 p.m.- Go to Community Center's website for tickets: <https://comstockcc.com> and information.

2021-22 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

June 6, 7, 8

Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)

Half Day Students and Teachers K-12

June 8

Last Half Day for Students/Records Day PM

Half Day Students AM/
Staff Records Day PM

Ansel Recognized by the MIAAAA



Athletic Director Justin Ansel was recently recognized by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAAA) for serving 20 years as a school district athletic director. Mr. Ansel has served the past 15 years as Comstock's athletic director. He began his career as an athletic director at Onaway Area Schools where he served five years.

In March, the MIAAAA also presented him with its Dedicated Service Award recognizing the high caliber of his work to interscholastic athletics and the young people of Michigan.

Mr. Ansel currently coaches the high school varsity boys soccer and middle school girls basketball teams. During his tenure, he has also served as the high school girls varsity basketball coach.



In Memoriam: Jay Stickle

Long time teacher, coach, and athletic director, Jay Stickle, passed away in May. Mr. Stickle was employed at Comstock for 32 years, the last ten as athletic director. He also coached golf and tennis during his tenure. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame as Tennis Coach of the Year.

In 1995, he was the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Class B Coach of the Year. In

2000, he was named the Wolverine Conference Boys Tennis Coach of the Year. From 1996-2000, his tennis teams were honored for being Academic All-State teams.

After retiring from Comstock in 2000, he was inducted into the Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

Our condolences go to his wife, Judy, his children, grandchildren, and their families.



Are you interested in FREE training as a Healthcare Worker with employers who are ready to hire you?

These jobs are in demand, and the pay is great!

The training takes place at Comstock Public Schools' Gull Road Campus.

When you finish HCW training, you will receive assistance with job placement, and there is an opportunity for you to continue with **FREE** training as a Certified Nurse Aide.

If you are a Kalamazoo County resident between the ages of 18 and 24, contact Lisa Smith at:

Lisa.Smith@KRESA.org or 269-775-1664

If you are above age 24, tuition may be covered.

Please contact Lisa using the contact information above, or visit our website for more information:

<https://nurseaideclass.weebly.com>

*Please pass this information along to friends and family who might be interested.
We look forward to hearing from you!*

Robert P. Hamet Athletic Complex Construction Begins

Renovation has begun on the athletic complex, starting with a groundbreaking ceremony for the complex which will be named for Dr. Bob Hamet, Comstock superintendent from 1976-2001.

This spring, over 75 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony held at the site of the future Hamet Athletic Complex entrance. The Hamet family, including Dr. Hamet's wife, Carol, and their children and spouses attended the ceremony.

The event featured personal testimonials from retired Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Faye Goldner and current Comstock Elementary School Principal Susan Caswell who originally proposed naming the facility in Dr. Hamet's honor.

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes served as master of ceremonies. Five members of the Board of Education attended including President Pamela Dickinson, Vice President Matt Schreiner, Secretary Dori Scholly, Trustee Saralyn Brown, and Trustee Karen Howes.

When completed in November, the Complex will have a new entrance and restroom facility. There will also be a new gated entrance, featuring a booth with ticket windows on three sides.

Importantly, the project also includes a fully modernized restroom facility which will be larger and more aesthetically pleasing than the current version.

This is the final project being funded by the 2016 bond.



Artist rendering



The Hamet Family with Carol Hamet third from the right.



Faye Goldner and Susan Caswell give their personal testimonials of what Dr. Hamet meant to them.



The CPS Board and Superintendent Team (left to right): Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Karen Howes, Pamela Dickinson, Saralyn Brown, Faye Goldner, Susan Caswell, Dori Scholly, and Matt Schreiner.

Virtual Academy

VA Helps Students Plan for Future

Comstock Virtual Academy Principal Pam Dudley helps seniors with college and career planning. Seen in the picture is Compass High School student Courtney Reece meeting with Sgt. Jones to learn more about the United States Army.

For more information about careers, email Principal Dudley at: Pamela.Dudley@ComstockPS.org.



Compass High School

Staff Member Speaks at Conference

Dr. Jen Aniano, adult education coordinator at Compass High School, represented Comstock Public Schools recently at the annual Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference (MAETC) held at the Delta Hotel in Kalamazoo. This statewide assembly brought together educators from all over Michigan who promote or lead adult education programming.

The conference's theme was Moving Forward Together. Dr. Aniano's presentation was titled *Engaging Adult-Learners in a Virtual Setting*.

Athletes Honored

Twelve high school athletes were honored as Southwest 10 Scholar Athletes this year. They are Nyaira Ballinger, Kayla Berg, Keyondra Burns, Owen Drake, Amelia Hall, Laci Murdock, Gianna Nathaniel, Kyla Owens, Alex Patov, Domenic Putti, Jacob Rooney, and Madigan Webster.

Seniors Honored at KRESA

Seniors Drew Hattan and Harleigh Martin have been nominated as Outstanding Seniors in their KRESA-sponsored courses.

Dave was enrolled in the construction trades program and Harleigh in culinary arts.

Comstock High School

Band of Blue Hosts Composer



Composer Darryl Johnson II leads band students in a practice session during his recent visit.

The high school and middle school bands hosted composer Darryl Johnson II in preparation for performing one of Mr. Johnson's pieces in their spring concert.

Mr. Johnson has been an active band and orchestra clinician for 12 years, traveling all over the United States to use his expertise as band students rehearse.

For the first session, Mr. Johnson rehearsed the respective pieces of music and offered practical help and rehearsal tips. Next, students asked questions and gained unique insights into life as a composer.

To wrap up, Mr. Johnson ran students through interactive composition techniques. The seventh and eighth graders helped create the audio background for a short section of a film, and the high school students created their own short musical composition to be premiered at the concert.

Thanks to the Comstock Band Boosters for funding this experience and to the teachers who accommodated flexible scheduling to allow students to have time with Mr. Johnson.

Six Graduate from Early Middle College

Six high school students graduated from KRESA's Early Middle College (EMC) Program this spring. This program from the Michigan Department of Education allows high school students to earn an associate degree, 60 college credits, professional certification, or a technical certificate.

Comstock students who graduated are Natalie Carroll, Macy Cannon, Maya DeYoung-Foster, Colin Fletter, Masyyn Scott, and Natalie DeYoung-Foster.

If you and your child are interested in learning more about Early Middle College, contact Post-secondary Dean Jimmie Cotter at James.Cotter@ComstockPS.org.

CHS Science Olympiad Team Competes in Regionals

The CHS Olympiad Team competed this spring in the Region 10 Science Olympiad Regional Competition at Western Michigan University.

Overall, the team took fourth place in the competition, missing out on a state bid by a mere eight points.

Individual team members won various trophies. Anna Schreiner, Ava Schreiner, and Maddie Greenhalgh won silver medals. Ava Schreiner, Ava Dalton, Alex Ballesteros, Emily Greenhalgh, and Maddie Greenhalgh won bronze medals.

Tyler Caswell, Nyaira Ballinger, Laci Murdock, Crow Perez, and Olivia Peterson placed in the top six in a number of events. The team placed somewhere in the top six for almost every event.

The twelve members of the team were Laci Murdock, Nyaira Ballinger, Alex Ballesteros, Anna Schreiner, Tyler Caswell, Emily Greenhalgh, Crow Perez, Ava Dalton, Isabelle Jorgensen, Maddie Greenhalgh, Ava Schreiner, and Olivia Peterson.

"As a first year high school team, there was an immense amount of growth that took place," said Abigail Schreiner, Compass High School science teacher and Science Olympiad Team Coach. "We are looking forward to coming out stronger next year to earn ourselves a trip to the state competition."

Also coaching the team was Dr. Rebecca Schreiner. Providing additional guidance was Mackenzie Skalski who coaches the STEM Academy Science Olympiad team.

Woodshop Students Build "Little Libraries"

Students in the high school woodshop program recently built four "Little Libraries." A "Little Liibrary" is a small decorative wooden cabinet with glass doors mounted on a post. When planted in the ground near the front entrance of a school, the Little Library provides a visible, accessible, and popular way to give away free books to students.

Facilities director Sean Gillette and his crew will install the Little Libraries on school grounds.

The STEM Academy already has a Little Library at the front entrance of the school, and CES is just about to install theirs. This means that the remaining four schools - Comstock Early Learning Academy, Comstock Middle School, Comstock High School, and Comstock Compass High School - are each to receive one of the newly completed Little Libraries.

If you have books you'd like to donate to a school's Little Library, simply drop off the donation at the school's main office.

This project was originally started by retired woodshop teacher Dave Kramer.



High school students in woodshop built Little Libraries to be installed at District buildings.

Senior Scholars Honored at Luncheon



Senior Scholars this year are (left to right) Domenic Putti, Alexander Patov, Taylar Stratton, Madigan Webster, Amelia Hall, Kaylee Brownell, Ethan Jackson, and Jacob Rooney.

The top seniors of the Class of 2022 were honored at a luncheon this spring. The Senior Scholar designation is given to students based on a formula combining their grade point averages with their scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

This year's eight honorees were Domenic Putti, Alexander Patov, Taylar Stratton, Madigan Webster, Amelia Hall, Kaylee Brownell, Ethan Jackson, and Jacob Rooney.

Seniors Benefit from Mentorship Program

Nine seniors recently participated in a mentorship program in which they explored employment opportunities at Mann+Hummel, an international air filtration systems manufacturer with a facility on Sprinkle Road.

The students attended a series of mentoring sessions with Mann+Hummel employees to explore the different departments and careers at Mann+Hummel, to acquire professional skills, and to boost their résumés.

During their first session, students completed some onboarding paperwork because they got paid for these mentoring sessions. They also met

several members of the Mann+Hummel team, heard their stories, took a tour of the facilities, and got the game plan for the program.

Students who successfully attend the sessions and earn their high school diploma will be offered a probationary period job at Mann+Hummel upon graduating. After successful completion of the probationary period, participants will then be hired as a Mann+Hummel Cell Technician with full health, retirement/401k and paid time off/holiday benefits, as well as opportunities for upward mobility within the company.

Comstock High School

Students Attend Career Fair

Twenty-three CHS students attended the Carpenters and Millwrights Career Fair at the Union Training Center in Wayland this spring where they learned about career opportunities in these skilled trades.

Students toured the new, state-of-the-art facility to see classroom and workshop spaces, participated in hands-on activities such as virtual reality welding, nail driving, etc., and even talked with employers and contractors from across the region regarding future employment. Employers provided the students with many tips on how best to prepare for these careers after they graduate.

Anyone who goes through the training program at the Wayland Training Center completes a four-year apprenticeship track before reaching journeyman status. During this time, apprentices receive a competitive wage and full health benefits while learning on the job, with an array of employment prospects to pursue upon completion.



Students try their hand at virtual welding.



Students learn how to build footings for construction.

Board Members Visit Student Store

Board Secretary Dori Scholly and Trustee Kayleen O'Donnell visited the middle school's student store. The store is part of the school's positive behavioral intervention system (PBIS).

Whenever a staff member "catches" a student being good, demonstrating leadership, helping others, achieving academic excellence, showing scholastic growth, or exhibiting other positive behaviors, the student receives a voucher known as "Colt Cash." Students can then redeem the cash at the student store to purchase a wide variety of desirable and fun items.

"What a fun experience and fantastic idea," said Ms. O'Donnell. "The kids love this stuff!"



Middle school students shop at the student store.

Comstock Middle

Students Study and Build Roller Coasters

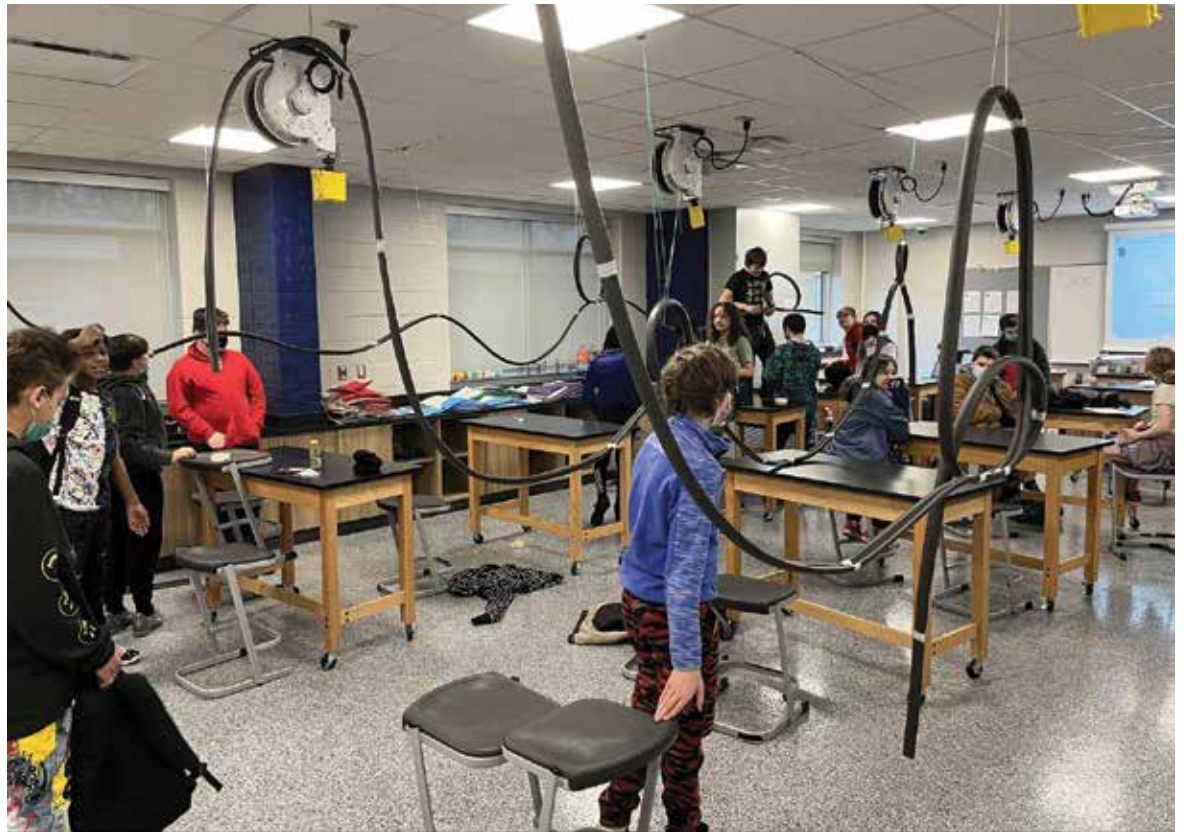
Seventh graders in Mr. Batsie's science class studied energy and then built roller coasters.

First, they learned about the "Law of Conservation of Energy" in which energy is constantly being transferred and is never created or destroyed.

They then designed roller coasters on paper and identified the various forms of energy throughout the ride. From there, they created models of their roller coasters in the classroom.

Each class worked together to create a roller coaster that used the gravitational energy present inside the classroom. The classes competed for the greatest overall distance a marble would travel through the model roller coasters. Students worked together well and bounced ideas off one another.

Mr. Batsie's room was renovated last summer and is now a fully modernized science classroom thanks to funding from the 2016 bond.



Students try out the roller coasters they built in Mr. Batsie's science class.

CMS Students Learn about Budgeting



Students practice what they've learned about budgeting.

Middle school students learned about budgeting this semester with Dawn Pincumbe, the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Career Development Consultant.

Visiting Charlee Hayes' classrooms, Ms. Pincumbe engaged students in "The Very Smart(ies) Budget." Students learned about economic decision making, opportunity costs, and managing money while having resource constraints and dealing with "life happens" moments.

"It's very powerful when students begin to see the impact a restricted budget can have on their spending habits and begin to determine their priorities and financial goals," said Ms. Pincumbe.

Panel Helps Students with Career Planning



Middle school students listen to a panel of high school students talking about future options the students have.

High school students visited the middle school this semester to help seventh graders learn more about their future options.

This was part of the students' course on college and career planning taught by Ms. Charlee Hayes.

High school Post-secondary Dean Jimmie Cotter brought high school students to CMS for the panel discussion.

"It was the most perfect and diverse group of students and my class thoroughly enjoyed the experience," said Ms. Hayes.

Comstock Middle

Winners Named in Chili Cook-off



Karen Vetter and Stanley Williams received the Gold Ladle award in this year's chili cook-off at the Middle School. They won for their white chicken chili and ground turkey chili.

Elementary Gets Mental Health Therapists

Through the collaborative funding provided by both the Michigan Legislature and the Stryker Johnston Foundation, Comstock Elementary School has teamed up with a group of local mental health therapists who directly support and focus on student mental health and wellbeing.

Earlier this year, Kari Vesey and Krissy Reilly began therapy with students through the School Mental Health and Support Services 31n6 Grant, said Assistant Principal Courtney Boyce.

With funding from the Stryker Johnston Foundation, three more therapists have been added. They are Brandan Mitchell, Deanna Omoni-yi, Shatia Steel-Pawlowski, along with two interns.

"We are so excited to be able to connect our students with five therapists and two interns every week," said Ms. Courtney. "This is a dream come true."

Comstock Elementary

State Senator Reads to CES Students

State Senator Sean McCann read to elementary school students as part of National Reading Month. To the delight of the three classes he visited, he read a book titled, *What If You Had Animal Teeth?* by Sandra Markle.

This book has children imagine what it would be like to have their front teeth replaced by the front teeth of different animals such as a beaver, great white shark, rattlesnake, and several others. The students also learn how the animals use their teeth for survival and are encouraged to take care of their own teeth.

Senator McCann serves in the Michigan State Legislature and represents the greater Kalamazoo area.



State Senator Sean McCann reads to students at the elementary school.

CES Adopts Therapy Dog

The elementary school has adopted a therapy dog named Piper, a female Labradoodle puppy. Third grade teacher Crystal Kohtala and her family will be the hosts for Piper.

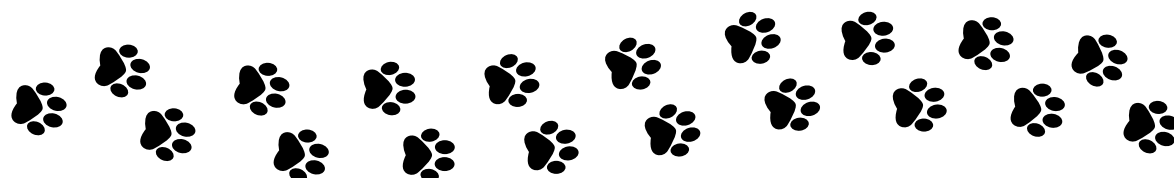
Before she can become a therapy dog, Piper must undergo a year of training at Wing and Shot, LLC, a specialized kennel in Ortonville, MI. If Piper passes all of her training courses, she'll earn a certificate and begin serving the staff and students in late spring, 2023.

Participation in Piper's program at CES will be voluntary for both staff and students and no one will be required to interact with her. Participating students will take turns reading to Piper in small groups with adult supervision and using her as a comfort animal during times of distress.

Therapy dogs in schools are becoming more common and two other local districts in Kalamazoo County already have multiple dogs. The practice is research based and has a number of positive academic, social, psychological, and therapeutic outcomes.



With her host mother, third grade teacher Crystal Kohtala, Piper visited the elementary school.



CES Girls Run for GOTR

Twice a week this spring, 28 girls in third through fifth grades participated in Girls on the Run (GOTR). They started running in March and ran through May 21 when they participated in the Greater Kalamazoo 5K at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC).

During the practices, coaches worked with the girls on social-emotional lessons and then connected what they talked about to the running piece of the program. For example, after each lap they might be asked to tell how they can show a friend or family member empathy. It is a lot more than just a running program. The girls are making connections from running to their actions in real life situations.

The Greater Kalamazoo 5K was held at KVCC for the first year this year. And for the first time it was held on a Saturday, too. The change of day and venue is due partly to the fact that there are roughly 1,000 girls from the Kalamazoo area participating in Girls on the Run this year. To find out how the participants did in the 5K, check out Comstock Elementary School on Facebook. There, you'll see pictures of the event.

The coaches this year were Tara Storteboom (tenth year), Madelyn Buhrman (second year), Brittany Cook, Jenna Lyddon, Sawyer Ruffolo and Hannah Green (all first year). Kate Appel is the site liaison for the first year, after being a coach for six years.



Here the girls are doing an energy award circle at the end of the class.



Elizabeth Lewis and J'Maya Singleton work on team building.



Maliah Labon, Promyse Ballard-Jones, and Nhadia Gilmore run in preparation for the Greater Kalamazoo 5K.

Elementary School Cleaned Up for Spring

This spring, staff, parents, and students came together for a Spring Cleanup Day at Comstock Elementary. Despite the rainy weather, they cleaned up around the building and playground and pulled weeds. They enjoyed music and laughter, but a lot of work was completed, too.

Thanks to all who braved the elements and came to help make the school look pretty.



Ms. Baldwin, third grade teacher, and Mrs. Moore, behavior interventionist and Parent Lighthouse Leader.



Cooper Boardman brought his parents along to work on the playground.



Elijah Moody and his mom came bundled up and ready to work.



Carter Jackson and his family came to help clean up, too.



Ms. Baldwin, third grade teacher, and Indigo Bradley-Ballard teamed up.

Superheroes Read at CES Literacy Night

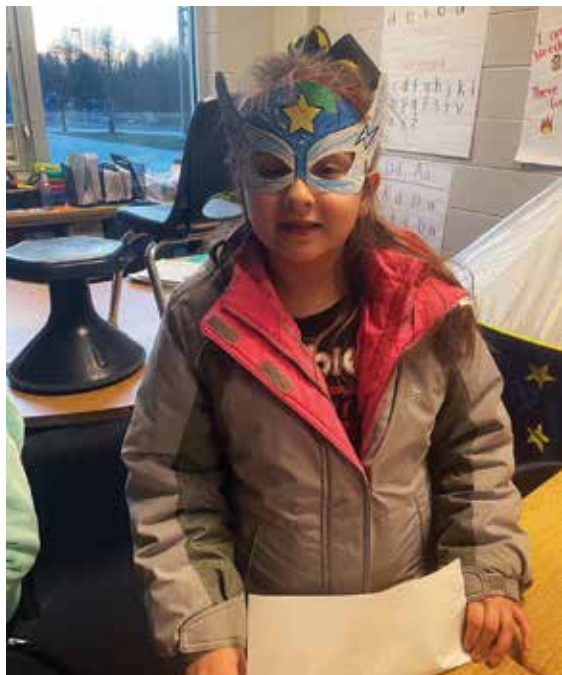
Comstock Elementary hosted a SUPER Literacy Night filled with guest readers and fun activities. Over 80 families came to enjoy Domino's pizza and books.

Superhero readers included Mr. Cornell, Mr. Tenant, Dr. Thoenes, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Caswell, and Mrs. Ansel.

At the end of the night, everyone went home with books and prizes.



Caleb Burnett and his family enjoy crafts during Literacy Night.



Charlotte Darnell's dressed as her alter ego superhero.



Nova Channells and her Super Family pose in the photo booth.



Eve Lippincott and her super-mom take their picture in the photo booth.



These staff members and volunteers made Literacy Night happen.

STEM Academy

Academy Science Olympiad Team Has Successful Year

The STEM Academy Science Olympiad Team, consisting of 12 students, won several awards in various competitions this school year.

At the Allendale Science Olympiad Invitational, the team of seventh graders Paxton Martin and Michael Meerovich earned a fifth place ribbon out of the 24 other teams. Aedan Speedy placed seventh overall in Crave the Wave, and Rose DeLeeuw placed tenth overall in Rocks and Minerals.

In the Science Olympiad Regional Competition hosted by Western Michigan University, the team placed third overall, having competed in 19 of the possible 23 events. Competitors earned first place medals in four events: Anatomy & Physiology, Mission Possible, Rocks & Minerals, and Storm the Castle.

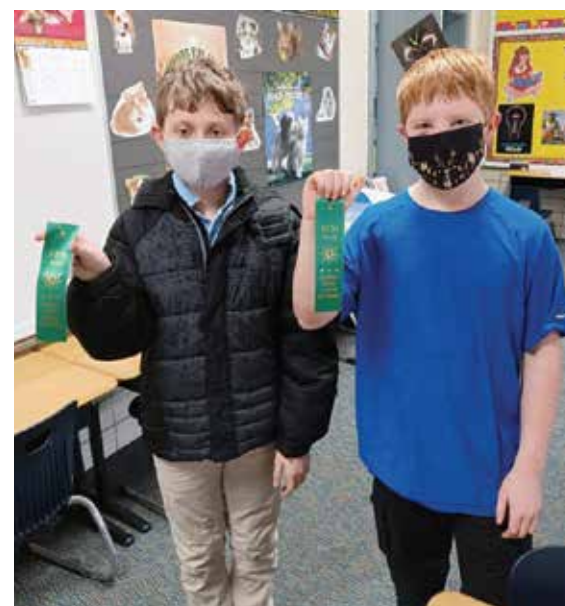
Competitors earned second place medals in six events: Bio Process Lab, Crime Busters, Crave the Wave, Disease Detectives, Ornithology, and Ping Pong Parachute. They also earned six third place

medals in Electric Wright Stuff, Experimental Design, Road Scholar, Solar System, Sounds of Music, and Write It, Do It.

The Olympiad team is comprised of four fifth graders: Sydney Walker, Abe Hewitt, Luke Mielke, and Abbie Peters; three seventh graders: Paxton Martin, Michael Meerovich, and Rose DeLeeuw; four eighth graders: Aiden Woods, Elizabeth Dersch, Aedan Speedy and Landon Hofacre; and one freshman: Trey Kohler.

“I am extremely proud of the student competitors for spending most of their extracurricular time on studying, practicing, building, testing, re-designing and spending their Saturdays competing at rigorous, but really fun, science competitions,” said their coach MacKenzie Skalski.

Volunteer coaches and parents also spent countless hours helping students with their events throughout the season. Principal Chris Chopp has been a strong supporter throughout each and every season, added Coach Skalski.



Michael Meerovich and Paxton Martin finished in fifth place in Experimental Design at the Allendale Invitational.

STEM Academy Teacher Receives National Recognition

Fourth grade teacher Kim Sandefur has received the “Remarkable Volunteer Award” from Girls on the Run (GOTR).

Ms. Sandefur was nominated for the award through Girls on the Run International by the local staff of GOTR including Emma McLaren, one of the program coordinators for GOTR. She was nominated for the award due to more than 15 years of volunteering and having served in several roles including site liaison, coach, 5K committee, and substitute coach.

The GOTR staff surprised Ms. Sandefur with the award at a staff meeting.

Ms. Sandefur also helps coordinate Let Me Run a running club for boys at STEM Academy.

STEM Fourth Graders Study Roller Coasters

STEM fourth graders studied energy this spring and how it is created and used in roller coasters. They learned why roller coasters go so fast and why the first hill is always the highest.

They then built their own roller coaster tracks and used marbles as cars.



Group Two had just finished testing their coaster to see if they could get two marbles into the goal if they were running at the same time, but had started from different points. Students pictured are Elon Cloud, Micah Sligh, Edward Elliott, Sage McKinley, Mar’Ciana Anderson, Chloe Webster, and Kali Mulder.



Group One tests their coaster to see if they could get the marble/car to make it to the goal at the end of the track. Students pictured are Carter Morrison, Payton Camburn, Madison Bargo, Ashlee Comai, Elsie Moravek, Carson Brown, Cory Buell Jr., and Oliver Grodi.

STEM Academy Hosts Science Night

The STEM Academy staff hosted its annual Science and Engineering Night this spring, showcasing various local groups, organizations, and individuals engaged in activities or careers connected to science and engineering.

Families and students received a “Directory of Activities” and a “Passport,” and were encouraged to visit each display to experience firsthand the applications of science and technology in the greater Kalamazoo area.

Thanks to the following organizations for participating in the event: The Kalamazoo Electric Vehicle Club, the Kalamazoo Curling Club, Carleton Equipment, the Kalamazoo Bee Club, the Kellogg Biological Station, the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo, the Comstock Township Library, the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, and the STEM Academy Parent/Teacher Group.



STEM Academy students learn about the Olympic sport of curling from members of the Kalamazoo Curling Club represented by STEM Academy teachers, Maren Tillman and MacKenzie Skalski.

Sixth Graders Host Drag Races



With an adult helper, a student builds a birdhouse during the STEM Science Night.



Jazlyne David and Ava Kirsch with their finished dragster.



Emma Cobb works on her dragster.



STEM Academy sixth graders built robotic dragsters and then held drag races. They built the cars from scratch using VEX equipment so no two cars were the same.

After designing and building their dragsters, the students wrote the code that would allow all the cars to travel 20 feet.

According to science and robotics teacher Patty Pobuda, the students had a blast with the assignment.

Students Enter Essay Contest

Fifth graders in Maren Tillman's class recently wrote essays after reading the book *We Are Water Protectors*. Written by Carol Lindstrom, the book tells the story of an Ojibwe girl who fights to protect her community's water supply from an oil pipeline.

Teacher intern, Katie Kukulka, who is also president of WMU's chapter of Aspiring Educators of Michigan (AEM), told students about an essay opportunity. They could write to the prompt: "Think about issues affecting your community. If you had \$100 to make a difference for a cause you care about, how would you spend it?"

Students wrote essays about many local issues including recycling in schools, helping the homeless, volunteering for local animal shelters, and cleaning up the Kalamazoo river.

Ten students decided to enter their essays in AEM's essay contest. Five winners from across the state will receive \$100.

Students Raise funds for Heart Association

STEM Academy students raised \$6631.75 for the American Heart Association during this year's Kids Heart Challenge, exceeding their goal of \$6500, reports physical education teacher Mary Amsbury. The money will be used by the Heart Association to fight heart disease and strokes.

An incentive for the students to raise funds for this cause was that the top fundraiser would get to dump an ice bucket on Principal Chris Chopp. Any student who raised over \$250 would get to water balloon Principal Chopp. The top fundraiser was fourth grader Carson Brown (\$610.83) with the following students close behind him: Cecilia Warr (\$486.05); Matthew Cooper (\$351.56); Bailey Thornburg (\$328.58); Matthew Knapp (\$302.82) and Aydren Jackson (\$290.00).

For one year, the gym will be named after the top fundraiser. So, for the next year, the gym will be named the Carson Brown Gym.

Last year's top fundraiser Andylyn Cook was honored also by having her name on the banner in the gym since the banner was not put up last year.

Mrs. Amsbury thanks all the students and families for taking the time to get involved in this annual event.

STEM Academy

Academy Students Make Rube Goldberg Machines

After learning about energy, where it comes from, and how it can be transferred, STEM Academy fourth graders built Rube Goldberg machines. These machines, named after cartoonist Rube Goldberg, are chain reaction machines intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overly complicated way.

"Students created concept maps to plan out their designs, collaborated with each other and their families to troubleshoot problems, and then built the actual machines," said fourth grade teacher Kim Sandefur.

Their challenge was to turn on a light source without using their hands and they had to use a minimum of six unique steps. They also had to explain how their machines worked, including examples of where various energy forms and transfers occurred in their Rube Goldberg Machines.

"We applaud the students and families for all of their hard-work and perseverance that went into making these projects so successful," said Ms. Sandefur. "Some students succeeded in just a few trials, whereas others took upwards of 40 attempts to get a successful chain reaction."



STEM students demonstrate their Rube Goldberg machines.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

Early Learning Academy is Enrolling for GSRP

CELA is now accepting applications for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for students who will be four years old by September 1, 2022. Children who will be four years old by December 1, 2022, may also be eligible.

Please call Principal Meadow Nuyen at 269-250-8960 or email her at meadow.nuyen@comstockps.org for more information.

You can apply at dreambigstartsmall.org as well. CELA staff look forward to working with your family for all of your Pre-K needs.

Now enrolling for the 2022-23 School Year!

COMSTOCK EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA Teacher Nominated for Award



Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) teacher Dawn Thomas of the Comstock Early Learning Academy has been nominated for the Third Annual Sandy Standish Excellent Educator Award. Current parents, former parents, and fellow staff members nominated Ms. Thomas for this prestigious recognition.

The award is named for Dr. Sandy Standish, who before becoming Executive Director of KC Ready 4s, served as superintendent of Comstock Public Schools. In fact, Dr. Standish began her career in education as a student teacher and then teacher in the business department at Comstock High School.



CELA Receives Pool Noodle Donation



CELA staff member Ciara Smith shows the pool noodles that her grandma, Janet Stonerock, donated to Miss Smith's Great Start Readiness Program class. Students and staff do cardio drumming music and movement activities every day using the pool noodles.



Sports News

2022-23 High School and Middle School Physicals

A new physical for the 2022-23 school year is required to play high school or middle school sports at Comstock. A physical must be dated on or after April 15, 2022, 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 as soon as possible or walk into Bronson Fastcare on Gull Road.

Season Pass Workers Needed

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, keeping the scorebook, announcing and timing for track meets. We have a lifetime pass for all our senior citizens for free. If the 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 Comstock Hall of Fame committee is accepting nominations for the 2023 induction 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 and on page 18 of this newsletter. Please email Justin Ansel at Justin.Ansel@ComstockPS.org with any questions.

High School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for the fall high school sports season will begin on August 8 for high school football, volleyball, boys soccer, girls golf, cross country and sideline cheer. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at comstockcolts.org. Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15, 2022, to participate.

Middle School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for middle school football, volleyball, soccer, cross country 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. Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15, 2022, to participate.

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL Nomination

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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

High School Attended _____ Year of Graduation _____

College Attended (If Applicable) _____ Year of Graduation _____

of Varsity Letters - Boys Sports

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

of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

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



PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

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

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

Year _____ Sport _____ Coach _____

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

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

INDIVIDUAL or TEAM Nominated By:

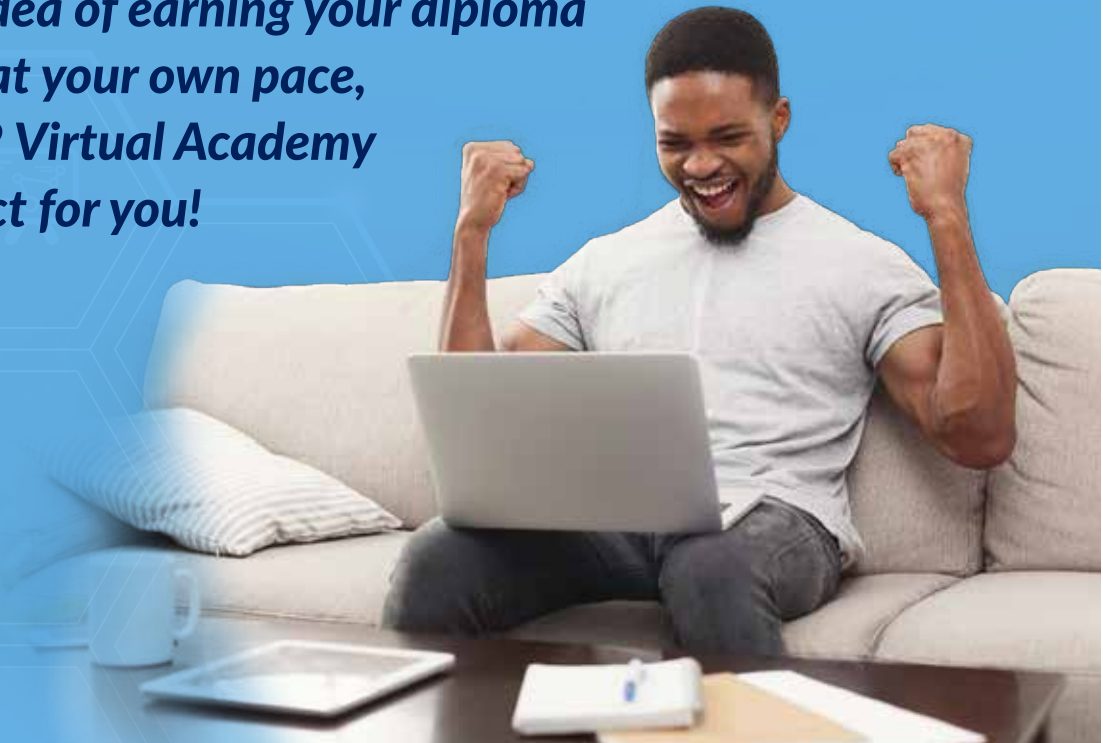
Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

*Please mail this form to: Justin Ansel, Director of Athletics,
Comstock High School, 2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048*

If you like the idea of earning your diploma while working at your own pace, Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy might be perfect for you!



Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy (CVA) offers classes for Pre-K through 12th grade students

Fall enrollment starts Monday, August 1st

Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy offers three diploma options:

- 24 credit Honors Diploma
- 21 credit High School Diploma
- 18 credit Michigan Merit Diploma

We offer an opportunity for motivated students to obtain their high school diploma, often in a shorter time frame, while preparing for the workforce or higher education.

We provide academic advising for course selection, free SAT preparation, and can even provide a Chromebook and internet access. Through weekly communication, and with access to lab hours, we will help keep your student on track to succeed.

CVA is open to any student, but non-Comstock residents will have to obtain a release from their home district to enroll in CVA.

Contact Principal Pam Dudley for details:
269-250-8949
Pamela.Dudley@ComstockPS.org



ComstockPS.org/virtual
269-250-8949

Comstock Township Library News

Contact us: 269-345-0136 info@comstocklibrary.org www.comstocklibrary.org

Library Event Highlights

Summer Reading Program June 1 – August 31, 2022. Read and complete library challenges to win prizes. We offer programs for all ages, from infants to seniors. Starting June 1, visit our website or drop by the library to register and see a full list of summer events and programs.

Meet a Mermaid! June 18, 2022, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meet a magical mermaid and receive a mermaid goodie bag when you register for our summer reading program! Mermaid bags available while supplies last. Open to all ages, no registration required.

Adult Book Club Registration begins June 27. Book Club meets on July 29 at 4 p.m. Join our new book discussion group! We will be reading *By the Sea* by Nobel prize winning author Abdulrazak Gurnah. Free copies of the book will be given to participants while supplies last. Registration is required for this program and begins on June 27. Please visit the library's website or call us at 269-345-0136 to reserve your spot.

Library Services

Sign up for our eNewsletter and stay current on all the latest library news and events.

Download free audiobooks, eBooks, music, and videos at home through our digital services, Hoopla and Libby. Visit the *Digital Materials* page on our website for a full list of available electronic services.

We have photocopy and mobile print services available for a small fee. Fax and scanning services are always available for free.

Need a Library Card?

A Comstock Township Library card gives you access to books, movies, music, digital materials, and much more. If you're a resident, property owner, or work in Comstock Township, you're eligible to get a card of your own. Residents of surrounding communities may also qualify for a free card; please contact the library with any questions you may have about library card eligibility.

Comstock Library is Fine Free

The Library does not charge fines for overdue materials, with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads. If you have long-overdue library items, you can now bring them back without penalty.

CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. • Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

UPCOMING CLOSURES:

July 4, 2022

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

In an effort to ensure that all our families receive communications about their students, we are asking everyone to make sure we have up-to-date contact information.

Please log on to the Infinite Campus Portal and fill out the Online Registration to verify that we have all of the correct information for your students. This year this is also available from the Parent Portal App.

Please go to the Portal and log in. Select "MORE" from the menu, and then Online Registration on the left. Please follow the prompts. It will look like a new registration, but it is just to make sure everything is correct in our system. You just need one per family.

If you need a portal account, please contact us.

Infinite Campus has two apps to help you and your students stay up-to-date with grades and missing assignments.

Go to the App Store and search for "Campus Portal." There are two apps: one for students and one for parents. Make sure you select the correct one. When you launch the app, it will ask you to pick your state and school district.

Once you're signed in, you will see announcements as they are posted. If you enable push notifications, you can see assignments as soon as they are graded, and any that are missed. You can also see if your student was marked absent or tardy.

It's easy to schedule conferences and contact teachers quickly, or to see your student's EDP.

When making choices about how you wish to be contacted, go to the website, log in to Infinite Campus and indicate your preferences.

If you don't have a portal account, we're happy to get you connected. Please contact us.