

The Comstock Communicator

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



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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



From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

Positivity, Part 1!

I'm a true believer in the maxim that our attitudes determine our direction, and then our actions. Our Comstock Public Schools community continues to meet many challenges with a positive attitude, striving to put forth our best effort in problem-solving so that our students and staff reap the benefits. In the words of Willie Nelson, singing legend and great thinker, "Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results."

Productive outcomes at CPS are numerous and occur on a daily basis. You can enjoy reading about our successes in our weekly *Celebrations* e-newsletter which you can find online at ComstockPS.org under the "News" heading.

In this column, I'd like to draw attention to a few of the many positive highlights occurring in the District: the Student/Staff Member of the Month, the Little Free Libraries, and our therapy dog effort.

The Student/Staff of the Month program has generated higher attendance at Board meetings as we bring awareness and public recognition to individual excellence. In this way, we focus our energy on what students and staff are doing right

and have achieved, rather than focusing on the negative.

This past summer, the Little Free Libraries were placed in front of each of our school buildings. Community and Comstock Township Library (CTL) donations put books in our students' hands. We have more kids reading and have established stronger relationships with the CTL staff.

Our two therapy dogs, Augie and Piper, are and will have a positive effect on the school culture. Research shows that having a therapy dog at schools results in higher attendance rates and contributes to students' well-being.

We'll be sharing many more of our success stories with you in the future.

The late Colin Powell, who served as Secretary of State, once said, "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

The late Stephen Covey, author of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," said, "We GET results based on what we DO, and what we DO depends on how we SEE the world around us."

Thanks for your support of Comstock Public Schools! Let the positive force be with you!

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent



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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pamela Dickinson, President

Matthew Schreiner, Vice President

Saralyn Brown, Secretary

Dori Scholly, Treasurer

Richard Hathaway, Trustee

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

What Dr. Thoenes is Reading

Sicily '43: The First Assault on Fortress Europe
James Holland (2020)

The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves
Shawn A. Ginwright, PhD (2022)

Instructional Rounds in Education: A Network Approach to Improving Teaching and Learning
Elizabeth A. City, Richard F. Elmore, Sarah E. Fiarman, and Lee Teitel (2009)



Board Receives Thank-you Gifts

During School Board Appreciation Month, the Superintendent's Team and Colt Cabinet presented the Board members with a variety of gifts and cards.

Each trustee received a long-sleeved t-shirt with

a retro-styled motif, a car flag with the current District logo, and personalized thank-you cards

“On behalf of the entire District's staff, students, and families, I would like to thank all of our trustees for their selfless and dedicated commitment to

excellence, focus on students, and positive vision for the District's future,” said Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes. “You always make it a great day to be a Colt!”

Current Board members are President Pamela Dickinson, Vice President Matt Schreiner, Secretary Saralyn Brown, Treasurer Dori Scholly, Trustee Dr. Richard Hathaway, Trustee Karen Howes, and Trustee Kayleen O'Donnell.

Board Briefs

STUDENT DISCIPLINE HEARING

January 9, 2023

- Administered the oath of office to new and re-elected Board members:
 - Saralyn Brown (re-elected)
 - Dorinda Scholly (re-elected)
 - Matthew Schreiner (re-elected)
 - Dr. Richard Hathaway (newly elected)
- Moved into closed session to discuss student discipline.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

January 9, 2023

- Elected Board officers:
 - Pamela Dickinson - President
 - Matthew Schreiner - Vice President
 - Saralyn Brown - Secretary
 - Dorinda Scholly - Treasurer
- Approved Board Governance Guidelines & Practices.
- Elected support officers:
 - Ashley LaVanWay - Recording Secretary
 - Michelle Darnell - Acting Treasurer
 - Ashley LaVanWay - Election Administrator
- Appointed Board members to various committees.
- Set the dates, times, and locations of the 2023 regular board meetings.
- Approved Board postings, designations, and financial signatories and authorizations.

REGULAR MEETING

January 23, 2023

- Recognized nine teachers who have achieved tenure (see page 4 for list).
- Recognized Students of the Month:
 - Lillian Sharp (CELA Student, GSRP Pre-K)
 - Jermaine Carson (Elementary, 5th Grade)
 - Paxton Martin (STEM Academy, 8th Grade)
 - Ethan Rodriguez (Middle School, 8th Grade)

- Michael Howes (High School, 11th Grade)
- Kayla Austin (Compass, 12th Grade)
- Todd Nelson Jr. (Virtual Academy, 12th Grade)

- Approved resignation of Maggie MacGirr, CES art teacher
- Approved hiring of Elizabeth Heimann, CES second grade teacher
- Approved the six-year KRESA Enhancement Millage Bond proposal.
- Approved the project bid for the CES outdoor classroom.

REGULAR MEETING

February 13, 2023

- Recognized Students of the Month:
 - Lincoln Wood (CELA Student, GSRP Pre-K)
 - Elaina Torres (Elementary, 1st Grade)
 - Jaden Palmore (STEM Academy, 7th Grade)
 - Rashad Clay (Middle School, 6th Grade)
 - D'Nasia Hemphill (High School, 10th Grade)
 - Bryan (Shonathon) Lawson (Compass, 12th Grade)
 - Madilyn Wiederholt (Virtual Academy, 6th Grade)
- Recognized Staff of the Month:
 - Shelly Berg (STEM Academy, Paraprofessional)
 - Tonya “Momma T” Macdonald (Compass, Kitchen Manager)
- Approved the 2023-2024 bus purchase bid for six buses from Midwest Transit.
- Approved the recommendation to amend the District's schools of choice participation to include accepting applications from both 105 and 105c students.
- Moved into closed session to discuss CEA and Paraprofessional negotiations and District real property.

Comstock Receives Major Grant

The District has received a \$218,713 Section 97 grant from the Michigan Department of Education.

The grant covers safety and security enhancements and will pay for the installation of two-way intercom microphones at all main entrances which are identical to the system that the Administration building has in place. The grant money will also pay for a security consultant.

The grant provides significant savings to our 2022 bond and General Fund.

Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel applied for the grant.

CPS Receives State Police Grant

The District has received a \$200,000 grant from the State of Michigan Department of State Police to fund a school resource officer (SRO). An SRO is a police officer who is assigned to serve within a school district. Working within the District allows the officer to build personal relationships and connections ultimately leading to a safer school environment.

Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel submitted the grant application.

Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Here is the latest news regarding the District's ongoing efforts to renovate, innovate, and modernize its educational facilities.

Comstock Elementary School - After the Board's approval of the elementary school's outdoor environmental classroom proposal in December, District officials moved quickly to put the project out to bid. That process is now complete and construction of this innovative and engaging educational space is set to begin as early as this May. Construction is expected to last through the summer at a total cost of approximately \$150,000. The District is using monies left over from the major renovations at CES completed in August 2022 to finance the project.

Comstock Middle School - District officials have finalized the plans and preparations for this summer's renovation work at Comstock Middle School. Phase 2 of the three-phase project is set to begin in May and will resume in earnest the day after the last day of school for students and staff. The Phase 2 areas targeted for modernization in June, July, and August include the stage inside the cafeteria, the library and its adjoining conference room, the staff lounge, and the art and music rooms. As with the Phase 1 rooms, these spaces will be gutted from top to bottom, and will be rebuilt with new HVAC systems, ceilings, lighting, flooring, doors, windows, and technology. The stage will be replaced with a secured mechanical room on the left and a spacious storage room on the right.

Note - Due to the age of the building and the requirements involved in the upgrades, the project has one more phase (Summer 2024). However, when this final phase is completed in August 2024 for the start of the 2024-25 school year, both the interior and exterior of the school will be fully modernized and air-conditioned.

Comstock High School

Hamet Athletic Complex - With the completion of the Hamet Athletic Complex's new gated entrance, ticket booth, patio area, and restroom facility this past fall, in May, the District will begin the second of two phases to rebuild its athletic facilities. Crews will tear out the old and dilapidated track and replace it with modern materials.

The project, funded by 2022 bond funds, also includes upgrades and improvements to the long jump, high jump, and pole vault field event areas as well as the shot put and discus rings. Crews will also convert the building housing the old bathrooms into a team meeting and athletic equipment room enhancing the overall usability of the facility. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hamet Athletic Complex is still in the works. In addition to the Hamet Athletic Complex, the District will initiate critically important renovations at Comstock High School. The work is estimated to take approximately 24 months and will result in much needed modernization of the school.

1. *Roof repair and replacement* - This spring, crews will begin repairing and replacing the school's aged roof. The estimated cost of this extensive project is \$1.5M and should be completed in about 12 months. The work is financed by 2022 bond funds.

2. *Interior Renovations* - In September 2023, the District will begin phased renovations to the interior of Comstock High School. Sections of the building under construction will be walled off and will be accessible only to construction workers and architects. Students and staff will not be able to access these areas. The renovations will include, but not be limited to new flooring, lighting, windows, and doors; new and larger lockers; renovations to the woodshop classroom; upgrades to science classrooms; and the redesigning of the band room.

STEM Academy

A STEM Academy design team recently gathered at the Comstock Elementary School multi-purpose room to review possible locations for the new school, share ideas and information about potential designs, and discuss desirable features for a modern school building. Led by architects from GMB Architecture of Holland, the members of the design team represented a cross-section of the Board and Superintendent Team, STEM Academy staff, parents and guardians, and community members. More design meetings and discussions will follow this spring and summer and will conclude by late Fall 2023. Construction is scheduled to begin in the Summer 2024 and take about two

years to complete with the new school opening in August 2026 for the 2026-27 school year.

As always, thanks go out to our community for the 2016 and 2022 bond funds that made these projects possible, our Board for their support and vision, as well as our Facilities Crew led by Facilities Director Sean Gillette, and partners GMB Architects, Miller Davis Construction Management, and AE Technology. Without the combined efforts and synergy of these groups, none of these critically important projects would be possible.

Nine Teachers Earn Tenure

Nine teachers were recently recognized at a school board meeting for having achieved tenure at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

They are:

- Michael Batsie** - Comstock Middle School
- Heather Crull** - STEM Academy
- Angela (Duits) Macias** - Comstock Elementary School
- Todd Ide** - Compass High School
- Kimberly Lamp** - Comstock Elementary School
- Steven Rand** - Comstock High School
- Rebecca Simison** - Comstock High School
- Holly Verdon** - Comstock Elementary School
- Jeannine Roys** - STEM Academy

Students Preparing for Art Show

Students in all grades are preparing artwork for the District's inaugural art show on Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m.

There will be three grade divisions (PreK-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and various categories of art including both two- and three-dimensional works. The show will be adjudicated by a panel of three local professional artists. Each category will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place pieces with an overall Best of Show award regardless of category.

Miller-Davis Foundation Donates to CPS

The District’s Board of Education recently received a surprise donation of \$3,000 from the Miller-Davis Foundation. The Board will use the funds to show their appreciation to staff and students.

Miller-Davis Construction of Kalamazoo, a long-time partner of Comstock Public Schools, has been managing the District’s construction and renovation projects for a number of years.

Art Show Set for April 27

The inaugural Comstock Public Schools District Wide Art Show will take place on Thursday, April 27, from 6-7 p.m. in the Boardroom.

The event is free and open to the public. Categories include Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12. See you there!



Comstock District Enrollment is Increasing

Based on fall enrollment data audited by the State of Michigan, the Comstock District has seen an overall upward trend in enrollment over the past five school years and now officially has more than 1880 students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. This bucks the enrollment trend the District had experienced over the previous 25 years and is welcome news for the Board of Education and Superintendent Team as well as the entire Comstock educational community.

It is important to note that enrollment in a

majority of districts across the State of Michigan has also been trending downward for many years so this increase in enrollment at our local level is most encouraging.

There are many variables at play that, in combination, are believed to be fostering this enrollment reversal including positive Board, Superintendent Team, and staff relations; modernized and renovated facilities that resulted from the passage of the 2016 bond; passage of the 2019 sinking fund; passage of the 2022 bond; the improved financial

standing of the District; enhanced educational and interscholastic programming; and the success and expansion of early childhood programming to name a few.

There is still much work to be done but the clear and improving enrollment trend is promising and indicative of the good work occurring in the District. We thank our Comstock community for your continuing support!

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS FALL STUDENT COUNT

	Change in 5 Years	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
KINDERGARTEN	26.36	197.08	167.11	193.38	189.35	170.72
FIRST GRADE	1.31	135.54	144.59	123.12	139.19	134.23
SECOND GRADE	6.81	140.33	126.44	128.68	139.92	133.52
THIRD GRADE	(2.94)	131.30	116.72	125.16	126.28	134.24
FOURTH GRADE	(8.28)	127.70	123.56	120.44	135.40	135.98
FIFTH GRADE	4.95	134.95	135.65	124.79	132.00	130.00
SIXTH GRADE	7.97	144.30	142.07	134.90	137.82	136.33
SEVENTH GRADE	26.58	144.32	146.05	135.65	132.55	117.74
EIGHTH GRADE	12.47	135.79	148.10	131.38	117.65	123.32
NINTH GRADE	(1.02)	163.84	140.76	138.82	138.62	164.86
TENTH GRADE	(17.19)	148.58	131.06	133.05	169.38	165.77
ELEVENTH GRADE	(5.42)	119.47	116.14	165.81	131.16	124.8
TWELFTH GRADE	(19.81)	160.63	180.97	146.81	151.10	180.44
THIRTEENTH GRADE	(2.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	2.00
UNGRADED	(6.20)	2.80	6.00	7.60	0.00	9.0
TOTAL STUDENTS						
DISTRICT WIDE	23.59	1886.63	1825.22	1809.59	1,844.42	1,863.04
INCREASE/DECREASE						
FROM PRIOR YEAR		61.41	15.63	(34.83)	(18.62)	
PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE	1.27%	3.36%	0.86%	-1.89%	-1.00%	

Countywide Millage on May Ballot

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, voters across Kalamazoo County will be asked to decide whether to renew for six years a 1.5-mill property tax millage that supports the operations of all public and private schools — including Comstock! — operating within districts served by the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency.

Even if you don't live within the Comstock District boundaries, your vote could have an impact. Voters who live in the Kalamazoo, Portage, or other KRESA-supported districts will be voting on the same issue.

All school districts and charter schools re-

ceive the same per-student amount — approximately \$425 per student — which translates to around **\$750,000 for Comstock Public Schools**.

Since the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in current tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays around \$112.50/year, which is approximately \$9.38/month.

To read the language that will appear on your ballot on May 2, 2023, please visit Michigan's

Voter Information Center online at mVIC.sos.state.mi.us. You can also check your voter registration status, apply for an absent voter ballot, or find your polling location on Michigan's Secretary of State website: www.michigan.gov/sos

More information about this millage renewal can be found on our website: www.ComstockPS.org/vote.

Scan this QR code with your phone to visit our website:



KALAMAZOO RESA

Education Enhancement Millage Renewal

Vote
May 2
or absentee



2022-23 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

May 4, 2023	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 11, 2023	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 29, 2023	Memorial Day		No Students/No Staff
June 5, 6, 7, 2023	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students and Teachers K-12
June 7, 2023	Last Day for Students/Records Day PM		Half Day Students AM/ Staff Records Day PM

May 2 County Enhancement Millage Renewal FAQ

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on whether to renew a 1.5-mill property tax millage for six years, which supports the operations of the public school districts and charter schools in the KRESA service area.

Is this a new millage or a millage increase?

Neither. It's a renewal of the original three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage first approved by voters in May 2005 and then most recently renewed in 2020. This is a request to renew the millage for another six years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage rate they have been paying since 2005.

How do school districts currently use the money?

Each local school board decides district budget needs and priorities. Millage funds are used to support instructional services, support services, and other district priorities. This millage helps fund local districts' operating expenditures. KRESA is the fiscal agent, and revenue is distributed to local districts based on their blended pupil count.

How much do the schools get from this millage?

As the fiscal agent, Kalamazoo RESA distributes the tax revenues to school districts and charter schools on a per-student basis. Each school district and charter school receives the same per-student amount, which is approximately \$425/student.

Why are charter schools included in the millage renewal proposal when they have not been included in the past?

Changes to the applicable state law since the millage was originally approved added charter schools as beneficiaries of the millage effective May of 2018. All beneficiaries must be listed on the ballot.

How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?

Since the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays around \$112.50/year, which is approximately \$9.38/month.

When will the Enhancement Millage be voted on by voters?

The registered voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on May 2, 2023, on whether to renew the 1.5-mill property tax millage, which supports the operations of the public-school districts and charter schools in

the KRESA service area.

When is the last day to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote by mail for this election is Monday, April 17, 2023, using the form available at:

www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf.

An individual can register to vote online by visiting www.michigan.gov/voterregistration. Voters may register in person through Election Day, May 2, 2023, during any hours in which the local election clerk's office is open.

How many years is the millage good for this renewal?

This time, the millage request would be for 6 years, so that school millage requests can be spread out and therefore fewer school resources will be used for preparing for millage renewals that have been clearly supported by the community for over 17 years.

More information can be found on our website: www.ComstockPS.org/vote

What is the language on the ballot?

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE
AGENCY REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT
MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy regional enhancement millage that expired with the 2022 levy. Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed to local public school districts based on pupil membership count.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each

\$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2023 to 2028, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$14,044,867, which funds will be disbursed as required by statute to the following school districts:

Climax-Scotts Community Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Forest Academy, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Gull Lake Community Schools, Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Oakland Academy, Paramount Charter Academy, Parchment School District, Portage Public Schools, Schoolcraft Community Schools, Vicksburg Community Schools and Youth Advancement Academy

Comstock High School

CHS Students Earn College Credits

Through the dual enrollment program, eligible high school students may enroll in college classes at post-secondary institutions and earn both high school and college credits.

CHS students have a long tradition of dual-enrollment with KVCC.

For more information about dual enrollment opportunities at CHS, contact Principal Mary Spade at Mary.Spade@ComstockPS.org.



Health science students Amarion White (senior), Kamarea Johnson (junior), and Krisha Patel (junior) return to CHS for afternoon classes after attending dual enrollment at KVCC in the morning.

CHS Receives Kiwanis Grant

Comstock High School recently received a \$2000 grant from the Sunrise Kiwanis Club to fund emergency “Go Kits” provided through Edu-Care Services, Inc. (ECS).

This company partners with public and private schools to provide resources to enhance students’ educational experience. In addition, the Go Kits offered by ECS are designed especially for use in emergency lockdowns, school evacuations, field trips, outdoor activities, and unexpected COVID-19 protocol situations.

CHS Principal Mary Spade hopes to purchase 25 Go Kits.

“I want to ensure that the teachers have this safety equipment and materials in their classroom for easy accessibility,” she said.

The standard kits contain things such as a first aid kit, a whistle, hand sanitizer, latex-free gloves, and paper towels. In addition, the trauma pack contains tourniquets, gauze pads, antiseptic wipes, and other emergency items.

Ms. Spade and representatives from the school’s Key Club attended a Sunrise Kiwanis meeting where they received the money. Key Club is a student branch of Kiwanis which focuses on service and leadership.

“We are so thankful to be awarded the this grant,” said Ms. Spade.

The Sunrise Kiwanis has been a chartered Kiwanis group for 30 years with a focus on the needs of children. The Kiwanis’ fundraising effort made this grant possible.

High School STEM Design Committee Makes Final Recommendations

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

A planning committee focused on creating a STEM Academy at the high school has been meeting for several months. At their most recent and final meeting, the group made several key recommendations that will be presented this spring to the Board of Education.

Their recommendations are to broaden the scope of the programming design to attract and retain more students and to name the program “The Innovation Institute” at Comstock High School.

In the next step in the design process, Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel will present the committee’s ideas and recommendations to the Board of Education’s Academic Performance Committee. The Trust-

ees will review the work of the Design Committee and then make their recommendations to the full Board in April or May.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of the design team. They stepped up and contributed their expertise and passion for teaching and learning and, as a result, contributed greatly to the development of this much needed curricular project.

Anyone is welcome to contact me regarding any questions, thoughts, or ideas. We look forward to moving this process forward and ultimately enhancing the academic experiences of our high school students and their families.

17 CHS Students Have Perfect Attendance

CHS recently recognized 17 students who had perfect attendance during the second quarter. They are:

9th Grade

Ian Carlson
Rowan Hagenbach
Ella Harris
Tara Jacobs
Maxwell Keith
Kahlea LeBlanc
Owen Roush

11th Grade

Summer Beavers
Bailey Beard
Madalynn Bowers
Paisley Meyle

12th Grade

Christopher Block-Carmean
Brandon Boven
Carson Rodriguez

10th Grade

Tyler Baker
Kylie Blett
Eva Main

Snowcoming King & Queen Crowned



Autumn Hummel and Blake Lennon were named Queen and King during the high school’s Snowcoming festivities.

Compass High School

Twenty Students Graduate from Compass High School

During Compass High School's 2023 Winter Commencement Ceremony, 20 mid-year graduates received their high school diplomas. Awarding the diplomas were Board President Pamela Dickinson and Treasurer Dori Scholly. Meghan Kennedy, the school's intervention specialist, read short vignettes about each graduate.

The graduates were Holly Ankney, Clayton Armstrong, Michel'le Austin, Courtney Black, Daquary Blanks, Keivon Carouthers, Uquadah Copeland, Victoria Harring, Kylee Hose, Justise Johnson, Kemarion Johnson, Matthew Kemp, Eli Lambert, Keith Lambert, Bryan Lawson, Ryan Randall, Jayda Reed, Cathy Russell, Mia Swinton, and Antonio Williams Jr.



Comstock Middle

CMS Sponsors Behavior Referral Contest

Comstock Middle School recently started a monthly behavior referral contest. This contest pits grade level against grade level to see which class has the fewest behavior referrals. Each month the winning grade will have a party.

The contest's goal is to reduce the number of behavior referrals by creating a grade-level collective awareness and group ownership of the school's

learning environment.

In January, the sixth grade won with 30 behavior referrals with the seventh grade close behind with 35 referrals. The eighth grade came in third with 88 referrals.

The sixth graders celebrated with a pizza party.

This data collection will allow students and staff to track progress.

Comstock Elementary

KINF Donates Supplies to CES

The Kids In Need Foundation (KINF) recently donated backpacks filled with school supplies to the elementary school. The backpacks also included sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer.

Believing all children should have equal opportunity to education, the Foundation partners with under-resourced schools to support both teachers and students.

Their "Supply a Teacher Program" provides classroom supplies so that teachers don't have to

purchase supplies out of their own pockets. Each teacher receives two large boxes of supplies to fulfill needs for a full semester for 24 students.

The preassembled backpacks provided by the Foundation include folders, notebooks, pencils, markers, scissors, glue sticks, pens, crayons, rulers, erasers, and a pencil sharpener.

For more information about the Foundation or to donate to their causes, go to kinf.org.

CES Celebrates Early Grades Music Program

Abby Mullis, music teacher, recently led a concert featuring students in Young 5s, and first and second graders. The program, *I Can Read, I Can Sing, I Can Do Anything!*, was held in the Comstock Community Auditorium before a large and appreciative audience. The children sang a few popular children's songs that were customized to

Comstock by Ms. Mullis.

"This was an amazing night and was perhaps the best school concert I've ever attended!" said CES Principal Susan Caswell.

The CES upper grades music program is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Cake Wall Monitors Progress



Compass High School seniors can monitor their progress toward graduation on the school's "Cake Wall."

As the students earn credits and need fewer classes to graduate, they move their name up the cake's tiers. Once they graduate, the students move their names to the area where the cake is "bursting."

Comstock Elementary

Students and Pals Enjoy Pastries



Comstock Elementary School recently celebrated Pastries with Pals. Students invited a Grownup Pal to come to school early to enjoy Sweetwater donuts and conversation.

There were many happy faces as students and their “pals” ate donuts and talked. Afterwards, families went to the gym to play until the school bell rang to start the school day.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Teacher Earns Master’s Degree

STEM Academy kindergarten teacher Danielle Perez recently earned a Master of Arts in Reading Instruction degree from Grand Canyon University (GCU).

Congratulations!

CES Now Has Books in Spanish

Comstock Elementary School is starting a collection of library books in Spanish, says Emmy Kimmer, school librarian. This came at the request of Stacy Nieto, English as a Second Language Coordinator.

The books will be available to anyone; however, they are aimed at English as a Second Language students. Some books are bilingual, having En-

glish and Spanish together, and some are just in Spanish.

The collection is currently very small, as Scholastic, the company where books are purchased, doesn’t have a lot in hardcover.

The books will be located in the second free-standing bookcase from the double doors and have a sign “Libros en Español.”

Kalamazoo Symphony Performs at CES

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra’s Percussion Duo performed recently in two assemblies in the elementary school’s new multi-purpose room.

The musicians demonstrated the sounds from a variety of instruments including drums and tambourines. They also taught students about the history of the design and shape of the instruments,

and performed a number of pieces using their percussion instruments.

The students were fascinated by the various sounds the musicians could create on the different instruments from hitting, shaking, or rubbing on them. They applauded enthusiastically at the end of each piece.

CES Students Celebrate National LEGO Day

Young-Five students in Mrs. Johnson’s and Mrs. Heald’s classes celebrated National LEGO Day recently by creating their own Minifig (a LEGO miniature figure) portraits and putting Legos together to make letters.

Students visited stations where they learned about patterning with LEGO bricks and following directions to create an end product. They also had time to explore and create using their imaginations.

They had a wonderful afternoon of playing to

learn.

National LEGO Day is celebrated every year on January 28 which is the day in 1958 that a Danish carpenter, Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, submitted his patent for the original LEGO brick. The name, “LEGO,” comes from the Danish words “leg godt” which mean “play well” in English.

However, the LEGO Company actually dates back to 1932 when Godtfred founded a company to build wooden toys.

STEM Academy Students Perform in Talent Show at Comstock Auditorium



STEM Academy students in third through eighth grades performed for a packed audience at Comstock Community Auditorium. The show featured a variety of performances that included singers, dancers, gymnasts, a drum soloist, and various instrumentalists. There was even a stop motion animation video.

The students who performed were selected through an audition process based on their preparedness, entertainment level, and overall quality of performance.

The show was directed by Becky Raines, STEM Academy music teacher, who was assisted by Jimmy Welty, STEM Academy parent liaison.

STEM Future City Team Wins Award

The STEM Academy Future City Team recently won the “Best Use of Energy” award from DTE Energy at a statewide Future City competition in Novi.

In this competition, teams design cities of the future based on specific criteria and then have their models reviewed by a panel of judges. The Colt team presented for two hours in front of judges from all different professional backgrounds including engineers, architects, scientists, chemists, professors, lawyers, and doctors.

The STEM Academy team was praised for their integration of geothermal energy combined with wind turbines, solar power and the ambient temperature of the earth to maintain a consistent temperature within underground structures.

The STEM Academy team members were Presenters Paxton Martin, Ema Cobb, and Matilda Ludtke. They were supported by Michael Meerovich, Yogi Patel, Sydney Woods, Heli Patel, Donovan Patterson, and Stella Tillman.

Middle school teacher Drew Perkowski was the team’s coach.

Future City, a middle school STEM program, is a global initiative involving more than 45,000 students in sixth through eighth grades. For this year’s competition, students’ projects had to address climate change in their own towns.

STEM Academy Raises Funds for AHA

STEM Academy students raised \$10,609.16 in the American Heart Association’s Kids Heart Challenge. This is the largest amount ever raised by STEM students, beating the previous year’s total by \$3,000, reports Jason Kane, American Heart Association representative.

The top student fundraiser was James Mulder who raised \$1,090.96. He will receive a nameplate so the gym can be named after him.

The school will receive \$800 in US Games as a giveback along with a \$350 check for the school. The school earned an additional \$300 on top of

the \$500 because students surpassed their most recent year by more than \$3000.

The school also received two \$25 Amazon Gift Cards for reaching 18 Finn’s Mission Completions and surpassing their Best Year Ever.

The fundraiser was coordinated by Mary Amsbury, physical education teacher.

The Kids Heart Challenge not only raises funds for the American Heart Association, it also helps students improve their own health. Through a variety of fun activities, the program provides students with heart healthy information

GMB Hosts STEM Academy Design Workshop

A team of architects from GMB Architecture based in Holland, Michigan, recently hosted an all-day design workshop for the District. This meeting was the first step in a series of workshops that will ultimately advise and recommend to the Board of Education proposed plans for the new STEM Academy building, a project which was made possible by the successful passage of the \$39.4M bond in May 2022.

The workshop’s agenda included a discussion of the possible location of the school, open dialogue regarding the desirable features the new school

should have, and possible layouts and locations for the various facets and programs within the future building

Construction is set to begin in the Summer 2024 and will last approximately two school years. If all goes as planned, the first new school for the District since 1972 will open in the Fall 2026.

About 30 people representing a cross-section of the district and community partners participated in the workshop which was held in the Comstock Elementary School multi-purpose room.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA Now Enrolling for Great Start Readiness Program

The Comstock Early Learning Academy is accepting applications for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for students who will be four years old by December 1, 2023.

Please call the CELA office at 269-250-8960 or email the principal at Meadow.Nuyen@ComstockPS.org for more information!

CELA staff look forward to working with your family for all of your Pre-K needs.



Sports News

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Congratulations to Joe Hnilo – Class of 1964; Mike Stripp – Comstock Teacher 1967-2007; Al Kimball – Class of 1971; Teri Loher – Class of 1995; and Kaylin Taylor – Class of 2010 for being voted into Comstock’s Athletic Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 22, 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 6:45 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$30. Come support these great Comstock alumni and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 17.

High School/Middle School Physicals

A reminder that your son/daughter has to have a physical on file with the Athletic Office in order to participate in sports. Physicals for the 2023-24 school year must be dated after April 15, 2023, to be valid so anything done before April 15, 2023, is only valid for the 2022-23 school year.

Spring Sports Awards Banquet

The spring sports awards banquet will be held on Monday, June 5, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. All spring high school and middle school sports will be invited to attend the banquet.

Comstock Youth Sports Director

Comstock will continue to provide their youth sports offerings going into the 2023-24 school year. The winter season went very well and we thank all the parents and volunteer coaches for their efforts.



Chyna McMillian will be Comstock’s new Youth Sports Director moving into the spring season.

Fall youth sports opportunities will include first-sixth football, first-sixth sideline cheer, fourth-sixth volleyball and K-fifth boys soccer. Registration opportunities will be provided by mid-May.



SW10 North Division Champions

Congratulations to the Varsity Boys Basketball team and their SW10 North Division Championship. They finished 8-2 in the very competitive North division.



Cheer Team Takes Second Place

The Comstock Middle School Competitive Cheer Team, comprised of members from both Comstock Middle School and Comstock STEM Academy, recently took second place at the Paw Paw Invitational. The team scored a season-high tally of 254.14 points.

Congratulations to the coaching staff, team members, and their families!

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

Girls Varsity Softball

Tue 4/04	@ Bridgman Public Schools	4:15PM
Fri 4/7	Galesburg-Augusta HS	4:00PM
Thu 4/13	@ Bloomingdale High School	4:00PM
Fri 4/14	@ Allegan Public Schools	4:30PM
Mon 4/17	@ Bangor Public Schools	4:00PM
Thu 4/20	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	4:00PM
Fri 4/21	@ Athens High School	4:00PM
Thu 4/27	Centreville	4:30PM
Mon 5/1	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School	4:30PM
Thu 5/4	Cassopolis High School	4:30PM
Sat 5/6	Comstock JV Tourney at Eastwood Little League	10:00AM
Mon 5/8	Hartford Public Schools	4:30PM
Thu 5/11	@ Mendon HS	4:30PM
Mon 5/15	@ Marcellus High School	4:30PM
Thu 5/18	@ Decatur High School	4:30PM
Fri 5/19	Union City High School	4:00PM
Mon 5/22	@ SW10 Rain Date	TBA
Thu 5/25	Allegan Public Schools	4:30PM

Girls Varsity Soccer

Tue 4/4	@ Parchment High School	6:00PM
Thu 4/6	@ Olivet High School	5:30PM
Mon 4/10	@ Quincy High School	5:30PM
Wed 4/12	Bloomingdale High School	5:30PM
Fri 4/14	Michigan Lutheran HS	5:00PM
Mon 4/17	@ Bangor Public Schools	5:30PM
Wed 4/19	Marcellus High School	5:30PM
Fri 4/21	@ Fennville High School	6:00PM
Mon 4/24	@ Hartford Public Schools	5:30PM
Thu 4/27	@ Constantine High School	5:00PM

Mon 5/1	@ Bloomingdale High School	5:30PM
Wed 5/3	Bangor Public Schools	5:30PM
Sat 5/6	@ Quincy Invitational Away	TBA
Mon 5/8	@ Marcellus High School	5:30PM
Wed 5/10	Hartford Public Schools	6:30PM
Fri 5/12	Schoolcraft High School	5:30PM
Wed 5/17	Buchanan HS	5:00PM
Mon 5/22	@ Maple Valley High School	5:30PM

Girls & Boys Varsity Track

Fri 4/7	@ Lakeview Invitational	4:00PM
Wed 4/12	@ Marcellus Co-ed Invitational	4:30PM
Fri 4/14	@ Gull Lake Invitational	2:00PM
Sat 4/15	@ Hartford 9th/10 Grade Meet	10:00AM
Wed 4/19	@ SW10 Bloomingdale Meet	4:30PM
Fri 4/21	Comstock Invitational	4:00PM
Wed 4/26	@ SW10 Marcellus Meet	4:30PM
Wed 5/3	SW10 Comstock Meet	4:30PM
Fri 5/5	@ Quincy Invitational	4:00PM
Wed 5/10	@ SW10 Bangor Meet	4:30PM
Mon 5/15	Comstock Varsity Invitational	4:00PM
Thu 5/18	@ MHSAA Regional at Bangor	12:00PM
Tue 5/23	@ SW10 Conference Meet at Mendon	TBA

Boys Varsity Golf

Thu 4/6	Comstock Dual vs ???	TBA
Tue 4/11	Hopkins High School (at Eastern Hills)	4:00PM
Wed 4/12	@ GK Golf at TBD	TBA
Fri 4/14	Comstock JV Golf Invite Hickory Ridge	9:00AM
Fri 4/21	@ SW10 Centreville Jamboree -	

Mon 4/24	@ SW10 Marcellus Jamboree - Pineview	4:30PM
Tue 5/2	@ SW10 Cassopolis Jamboree - Diamond Lake	4:00PM
Tue 5/9	@ SW10 White Pigeon Jamboree - Klinger Lake CC	4:00PM
Wed 5/17	@ Colon Match at ???	TBA
Fri 5/19	SW10 Comstock Jamboree - Eastern Hills	4:00PM
Mon 5/22	@ SW10 Conference Meet - St. Joe Valley	9:00AM

Boys Varsity Baseball

Tue 4/4	@ Bridgman Public Schools	4:15PM
Fri 4/7	Galesburg-Augusta HS	4:00PM
Tue 4/11	South Haven High School	4:30PM
Thu 4/13	@ Bloomingdale High School	4:00PM
Mon 4/17	@ Bangor Public Schools	4:00PM
Thu 4/20	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	4:00PM
Fri 4/21	@ Athens High School	4:00PM
Thu 4/27	Centreville	4:30PM
Mon 5/1	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School	4:30PM
Thu 5/4	Cassopolis High School	4:30PM
Mon 5/8	Hartford Public Schools	4:30PM
Thu 5/11	@ Mendon HS	4:30PM
Mon 5/15	@ Marcellus High School	4:30PM
Thu 5/18	@ Decatur High School	4:30PM
Fri 5/19	Union City High School	4:00PM
Mon 5/22	@ SW10 Rain Date	TBA
Thu 5/25	Allegan Public Schools	4:30 PM



Chili Cook Off Winners Announced



Winners in the chili cookoff were Dr. Jeff Thoenes, third place; Erin Hampshire, first place, and Yvonne McAllister, second place.

Eight different chilis were entered in a chili cookoff recently, an event organized by Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Ashley LaVanWay.

Grand Champion winner and recipient of the Golden Ladle was Erin Hampshire representing the Business Office.

The Silver Ladle went to Yvonne McAllister from the Special Education Office.

Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes accepted the Bronze Ladle on behalf of his wife, Isabel.

Chilis entered in the event included traditional tomato-based chilis, chicken chilis, and even a pheasant chili. Each participant received numbered cups with a ballot and voted for the top three regardless of the type of chili.

Ansel Receives Regional Honor



Comstock Athletic Director Justin Ansel has been named the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) Region 5 Athletic Director of the Year.

Mr. Ansel received his award and was recognized at the MIAAA State Awards Banquet in March in Traverse City.

He received notification of this award from Aaron Crouse, who serves as the Awards Chair for the MIAAA and who was in charge of the nomination and selection process for the award.

Mr. Ansel joins STEM Academy Principal Chris Chopp as the second member of the District's Colt Cabinet to receive an honorary recognition from their respective professional associations this year.

CHS Alum Speaks to Students about their Futures

Joe Cortes, Class of 1977, recently spoke to current junior and senior classes about the Robert Z. Cortes Memorial Scholarship & Foundation. He talked to the students about their different transition plans after school. He also stressed the importance of reading. "It doesn't matter what you read... just read," he said.

After graduating from CHS, Mr. Cortes went on to earn two degrees from Harvard University and is the CEO of his own company. He now lives in Boston.

Robert Cortes was a student at CHS who died in an accident just before his senior year. At Comstock, he was a straight-A student, varsity tennis player, singer in the choir, and president elect of the student council.

Shortly after his death, family and friends founded the Memorial Foundation to encourage and motivate students through scholarships and educational programs. The Cortes family has maintained and awarded the Robert Z. Cortes Memorial Scholarship for more than 40 years.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

APRIL:

4-6 - Education for the Arts: ZOOM; Kalamazoo County area schools will attend. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shows. Not open to the public.

11 - West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Spring Band/Choir Concert: 7 p.m. (includes band, orchestra, choir) \$3 at the door.

12 - STEM Music program (K-2nd grades): 6:30 p.m.

18-21 - Education for the Arts: *Gravity and Other Myths*; Kalamazoo County area schools will attend. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shows. Not open to the public.

30 - FOP #98 Country Music Concert: 7 p.m. Tickets at the door or call 381-3587.

MAY:

5-6; 12-13 - HPA Musical: *Phantom Shows*: 7 p.m. Matinees also on the 6th and the 13th at 1 p.m. Tickets online: Go to hpami.org for details or call: 1-855-472-1472.

8 - Kalamazoo Christian High School Choir Concert: 7 p.m.

9 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir Concert (5th-8th grades): 7 p.m.

10 - Comstock MS/HS Choir Concert 7 p.m. Free.

15 - Comstock CMS/STEM/CHS Band Concert: 7 p.m.

16 - Kalamazoo Christian MS/HS Band Concert: 7 p.m.

17 - STEM Music program (3-5th grades): 6:30 p.m.

20-21 - Ballet Kalamazoo: Season Show: 6 p.m. on 20th and 2 p.m. on the 21st. Go to the website for tickets: www.balletkalamazoo.com or email Amy at: info@balletkalamazoo.com.

24 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Musical: Performance: 12:45; 7 p.m. For ticket info: 544-2332.

25 - Comstock Elementary School Music Program 3-5 grades, Doors open at 6 p.m.; Performance: 6:30 p.m.

30 - The Montessori School Concert: Doors open at 6 p.m. Performance: 6:30 p.m.

31 - STEM Middle School Awards Night. 5-6 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Comstock Township Library News

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

A Note from the Director

This spring, Comstock Township Library will begin a strategic planning process. As part of this, the Library staff would like to hear from our community members. We are looking to engage with community members through focus groups and one-on-one interviews. The knowledge gathered through these will help inform Comstock Township Library's future priorities as we plan how to serve the public more fully over the next several years.

If you are interested in participating in this process or would like to know more about it, please call Library Director Emily Kubash at 269-345-0136 or send an email to emilyk@comstocklibrary.org. You don't need any special qualifications to participate, just a willingness to come and share your perspective!

Library Event Highlights

Youth Winter Storytimes and Play Groups

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from April 4 through May 10, at 10:30 a.m. – Family Storytime

Family storytimes provide an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children ages 0-5. Build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs, and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every storytime is followed by a sensory toy play time.

Thursdays, from April 6 through May 11, at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – Musical Mayhem

Get ready to wiggle and rock with our music and movement programs. Have fun with action songs, musical instruments, parachute time, and a short story. Both sessions are now drop in; no registration required!

Mondays and Fridays, from April 3 through May 26, all day – Storytime Room Play

Stop by our storytime room and play with our special toys that are usually reserved only for after storytime sessions. This is a drop-in program for all ages.

In-Person Adult Craft: Pointillism Earrings

Registration has begun.

Program is April 5 at 6 p.m.

Let's harness the power of the mighty dot with these pointillism inspired earrings. Registration is required for this free event on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events" or you may register by calling the Library. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Pizza and Pages Book Club

Registration has begun.

Program is April 6 at 6 p.m.

Join our theme-based book club. Participants in third through sixth grades will eat pizza, discuss what they have read, and participate in an auction to end the hour. April theme: Read any graphic novel. Registration is required, and each child must register individually. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Fancy Nancy Tea Party

Registration has begun.

Program is April 15 at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Dress up in your most splendid outfits and enjoy fancy treats, games, and crafts. This program is intended for ages 3 and up. Registration is required for either session and each child must register individually. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Take-Home Adult Craft: Felt Daisy Bouquet

Registration and pick-up begin April 17.

Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the Library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins April 17, on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events". You may also register by calling the Library. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

In-Person Teen Craft and TAG Meeting:

Bookend Painting

Program has two sessions – April 18 at 6 p.m. or April 19 at 2 p.m.

Get creative painting bookends to be used in the young adult section during our T.A.G. meeting this month. This Program is for grades 8th-12th only.

April Adult Book Club

Registration has begun.

Book Club meets on April 26 at 6 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of *Parable of the Sower* by the award-winning author Octavia Butler. Written in 1993, this science fiction book takes place in 2025 and begins the Earthseed series. Library copies or free copies of the book will be provided depending on availability. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required for this free event. To register on our website, go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events". You may also register by calling the library. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Buck-a-Bag-Book Sale

May 1 through May 13

Our Buck-a-Bag-Book Sale is back! Come fill a bag of books for the best deal in town. You can bring your own bag or use one of ours. Standard size grocery tote bags and smaller will cost \$1. Bags larger than a standard size grocery tote bag size will cost \$5. This sale includes adult, teen, and kids' books as well as audiobooks. The sale will take place during the Library's open hours from Monday, May 1, through Saturday, May 13. Find sale items on the carts on the main floor and in the book sale room. Purchasing with a credit or debit card is subject to a \$2 service fee.

Teen Volunteer Orientation

Program has two sessions – May 9 at 6 p.m. or May 13 at 11 a.m.

Teens, are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Our teen volunteers assist with programs, events, and help develop and plan teen activities. Interested teens must have a completed volunteer application and work permit returned to the Library prior to orientation. All volunteers must attend one of the orientation sessions. The teen volunteer program is open to teens ages 13-18. Please call 269-345-0136 with any questions.

In-Person Kids Craft: Mother's Day Bracelets

Registration begins April 24.

Program is May 13 at 11 a.m. or Noon.

Register your child for a lovely Mother's Day craft. Ms. Chanda will help you create a beautiful bracelet as a surprise for your mom. Registration is required, and each child must register individually. Please register for only one program time. Spots are limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Take-Home Adult Craft: Pinwheel Wreath

Registration and pick-up begin May 15.

Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the Library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event. Register on our website by going to Programs and it will be under *Upcoming Events*. You may also register by calling the Library. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

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Kids' Yoga

May 18 and May 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Kids + Family Yoga at the Library! Work on mindfulness, body awareness and strength. This class is designed for 5 - 10-year olds. If the weather is nice, we will hold yoga on the side lawn of the Township building. Yoga mats will be provided.

In-Person Kids' Craft: Fairy Gardens

Registration begins May 1.

Program is May 20 at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Register your child for a fairy garden craft! Registration is required, and each child must register individually. Please register for only one program time. Spots are limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

In-Person Adult Craft: Fused Glass Magnets

Registration begins May 3

Program is held May 24 at 6 p.m.

This will be an evening spent creating a fused glass magnet and then leaving them at the library to be put into a kiln. Participants will need to return to the Library to pick up their finished, kiln-fired magnet. Registration is required for this free event and begins May 3, on our website. Go to Programs and it

will be under Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

May Adult Book Club

Registration begins April 24. Book Club meets on May 31 at 6 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of the historical fiction novel *Moth* by Melody Razak. The book centers on a family's experiences during the partition of India and the birth of Pakistan in 1947. Library copies or free copies of the book will be provided depending on availability. Light refreshments will be served. Registration and book pickup begin Monday, April 24. Please visit the Library's website or call us at 269-345-0136 to reserve your spot. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

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

Do you need help with homework? ACT or SAT? GED testing? Grad school testing? Interviews? Please visit our new service from the Princeton Review, "Tutor.com." This service is free for Comstock Township Library patrons.

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:

May 27 and 29, 2023 – Closed all day

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.



**Your Schools
are on the Ballot**

Vote
May 2
or absentee

KALAMAZOO RESA