

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

Dear Comstock Community,

The leaves have fallen, the weather is turning colder...and yes, it takes a bit more planning to get your children out the door on the way to school with all their weather gear. With winter's approach and the coming holiday season, however, I find myself shifting toward a more contemplative mood.

This season I am filled with gratitude. Living in the Kalamazoo area with all that it has to offer—from parks and nature preserves, great public libraries, higher education institutions, and a vibrant and active arts scene—leaves me feeling appreciative of those institutions and the people who made them possible.

I'm grateful for my family, my friends, and my work. Equally important, I'm grateful to be part

of the Comstock community that values our children. As the saying goes, our children are the best hope for our future. Together, we can see challenges as opportunities to support our students and meet their needs.

Take a few minutes during this festive season to reflect on the goodness in life. Afterward, you can begin the search for those missing mittens and wonder why those snow boots never made it home. But, that's a story for another day, maybe one I'll remind my adult son about when we gather for the holidays!

Thank you for your continued support of Comstock Public Schools. Enjoy the holidays!

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

CHS Math and Science Academy Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

As the District continues discussions about the proposed CHS Math and Science Academy, we want to keep you updated on our progress. During September, Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel had in-depth discussions with the teachers of Comstock Middle School, Comstock STEM Academy, and Comstock High School. She gathered and summarized their professional expertise, opinions, and recommendations regarding the proposal. New ideas, constructive modifications, and positive improvements to the proposal resulted from these discussions.

First, staff overwhelmingly supported changing the name of the proposal from the "Math and Science Academy" to "The Comstock High School STEM Academy."

With the success, reputation, and countywide name recognition of the Comstock STEM Academy which serves grades K-8, the name change eliminates any confusion about what the program entails and directly connects it to our current in-

structional programming offered at the STEM Academy. Therefore, the program will be called "The Comstock High School STEM Academy."

Secondly, there was also strong consensus that interested students, regardless of grade and whether or not they had attended the K-8 STEM Academy, would be required to apply and be accepted before enrolling in the high school's STEM Academy. The enrollment process and standards for acceptance into the high school's STEM Academy are still to be determined as a part of this design process.

Next, the staff also agreed that the high school's STEM Academy should be innovative in design, and they liked the proposal to provide the curriculum through a co-taught, two-period "block" for math and science, as well as other subject areas which would allow students to receive multiple credits simultaneously. However, from the discussions, a major development occurred. Rather than starting with only a freshman cohort in the com-

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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

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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.



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CHS Math and Science Academy Update

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ing year and then growing the program one year at a time, discussions centered on possibly creating “looped” or combined sections. Under this idea, freshmen and sophomores admitted to the program would form one cohort section together while juniors and seniors could form a second cohort section.

This practice would allow more students to be initially involved in the program during the 2023-24 school year and would more likely ensure a stronger start to the high school’s STEM Academy. If students enroll in future years in sufficient numbers, it may be possible to create cohorts for each grade.

Proposed Schedule of Important Program Development Dates

December - Planning committee meeting #2

January - Planning committee meeting #3

February - Present the final proposal to the Board’s Academic Performance Committee for a full review and discussion.

February - Present the final STEM Academy proposal to the full Board for discussion, review, and approval.

March - Present approved proposal to all CMS, STEM and CHS staff to ensure knowledge of the final version of the program.

March - Host parent/family night to promote the new program and open application process.

April - Committee reviews the applications and notifies students of acceptance status.

May - Students register for STEM Academy

classes; courses added to the high school’s course guidebook.

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 students and families.

What Dr. Thoenes is reading:

Operation Vengeance: The Astonishing Aerial Ambush that Changed World War II
Dan Hampton (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 Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

October 10, 2022

- Recognized Students of the Month:
San Knapps (CELA, GSRP Pre-K)
Sophia Lawrence (Elementary, Fourth Grade)
Payton Forbes (STEM Academy, Fifth Grade)
Avery Kutsche (Middle School, Eighth Grade)
Alexus Wooten (High School, Twelfth Grade)
MaKayla DeBow (Compass, Twelfth Grade)
FreyOnnya Shaw (Virtual Academy, Third Grade)
- Recognized Staff of the Month:
Allison Weger (GSRP teacher, CELA)
- Approved resignations of:
Amy Ritter - First grade teacher, CES
Marsha Blasen - SLP, CELA
- Approved hiring:
Kaleigh Buris - Social worker, CMS

REGULAR MEETING

September 12, 2022

CANCELLED

REGULAR MEETING

September 26, 2022

- Approved amending and retracting a previous vote of approval for a Compass math teacher which was done at the August 22, 2022, meeting. The teacher will be presented again if/when she acquires certification.
- Approved the District policy for Compulsory Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy.
- Moved into closed session to conduct the Superintendent’s quarterly evaluation.

REGULAR MEETING

August 22, 2022

- Accepted the resignations of:
-Allison Laning – Third grade teacher, CES
-Char Hayes – PE teacher, STEM
-Patty Pobuda – Sixth-Eighth grade math teacher, STEM
-Chris Ristau – Science teacher, CHS
- Approved Hiring:
-Michael Grantham – Second grade teacher,

CES

- Elizabeth White – First grade teacher, CES
- Mike Campbell – Counselor, STEM
- Lisa Platte – Sixth-Eighth grade math teacher, STEM
- Ryan Trayer – PE teacher, CMS
- James Boshoven – Special education teacher, CHS
- Kim Bell – Adult Education, Compass
- Marcina Frazier – Math teacher, Compass
- Stephen Santiago – Science teacher, Compass
- Approved the ITC land swap for the Jaguar Substation project.
- Approved the second reading of the Thrun policies and District policy update.
- Approved the Board Governance Guidelines allowing the President to set time limits for all Board discussions and agenda items.
- Approved the Student Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Devices policy.
- Approved the 2022-2023 Student Handbook.

Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

A major goal of our District's 2021-25 Strategic Plan is to "Maintain and Modernize Facilities and Operations." Taking a major step in that direction, our community approved a \$39.4M bond to help ensure the District has the funds and resources to pursue this outcome.

Our staff, students, and families appreciate the community's support for not only the passage of the 2022 bond but also the 2016 bond fund and the 2019 sinking fund. In addition, the District is using a portion of the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds for renovations. Used in combination, these dynamic monetary resources are empowering the District to create a brighter future for our students, families, and staff.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Education and Superintendent Team, here is the latest news regarding the District's efforts to renovate, rebuild, and upgrade our facilities.

Comstock Elementary School - The design process continues for the construction of an outdoor environmental classroom located on the north side of the school. Construction of the facility will take place in the summer of 2023 with an estimated cost of \$50-\$100,000. The District is exploring both grant funding and donations. If an individual or family in the community wishes to sponsor the project, the Board is willing to name the facility in their honor or in the memory of a loved one. If you are interested in exploring this conversation, contact me at your earliest convenience.

Comstock Middle School - At Comstock Middle School, efforts continue to finalize Phase 1 of the three-phase renovation begun this summer. The summer crews transformed six rooms along the east side of the building, but due to supply chain issues, they did not have all of the materials to complete the work before the start of school.

However, now the vertical unit ventilators (VUVs), which are units that provide heating in winter and cooling in summer, arrived in late October. Crews quickly and successfully installed the units which now provide much needed warmth given the onset of cooler fall temperatures.

Importantly, over winter break, crews will in-

stall new cabinetry and hallway doors in the six Phase 1 rooms, and finish painting sections of the hallway. The District is financing the work using a combination of federal ESSER monies and sinking funds.

Due to the age of the building and the requisites involved in the upgrades, the project has two more phases (Summer 2023 and Summer 2024). However, when 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 - By the time this Communicator goes to press, the construction work on the Hamet Athletic Complex should be completed. This is the final project being funded by the 2016 bond. The facility now boasts a beautifully-designed gated entrance featuring a ticket booth with windows on three sides and a fully modernized restroom building.

This new building is much larger and more aesthetically pleasing than the previous version and includes two sets of men's and women's bathrooms, two family bathrooms, a storage room, and a utility closet.

Four sets of drinking fountains and bottle filling stations are located on the outside of the restroom building. Connecting the ticket booth and restroom building is a spacious patio with aesthetically-pleasing, inground, blue metallic benches and picnic tables. Strategically located landscaping complements the space. The entire community will be invited to attend the Hamet Athletic Complex ribbon-cutting ceremony sometime in April on a day and time to be determined.

On a related note, with the successful passage of the Board's \$39.4M bond proposal in May, 2022, this fall a design team consisting of representatives from the Superintendent Team, GMB Architecture, Miller-Davis Construction, and AE Tech Design began discussions and planning sessions for facility improvements targeted at CHS.

Starting in the summer of 2023, the District will prioritize the following four major projects at the school:

1. Roof repair and replacement - At the October 24 Board meeting, the Board of Education approved the pre-purchase of materials that will

be used in the summer of 2023 for roof repair and replacement. By pre-purchasing in the fall, the District will save approximately 12-15 percent or \$250,000 in costs from the overall roofing project which is now estimated at a total cost of \$1,500,000 instead of \$1,750,000. This work should be completed sometime in the fall of the 2023-24 school year.

2. HVAC Renovations - Using ESSER funds, the District will begin interior renovations focusing on installing modernized heating and cooling systems. This work will take approximately one year to complete.

3. Phase 2 of the Hamet Athletic Complex Renovations - This second and final phase of the Hamet Athletic Complex renovations involves the full replacement of the track, long jump, high jump, and pole vault pits, the construction of new shot put and discus areas, and improvements to fencing. As a part of this project, the District will convert the old restroom facility into a team meeting room with some space for storage.

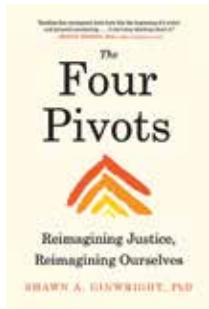
4. Interior Renovations - Finally, in September, 2023, the District will begin phased renovations to the interior of Comstock High School. In similar fashion to the process used at Comstock Elementary School, sections of the building under construction will be walled off and accessible only to construction 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; ongoing installation of HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems; renovations to the woodshop classroom; upgrades to science classrooms; and the redesigning of the band room.

STEM Academy

In the spring of 2023, a STEM Academy design team will begin visiting similar school buildings in southwest Michigan to gather ideas and information about potential designs or features for a modern school building. Design meetings and discussions will follow beginning in the summer and concluding by late fall 2023. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024 and take about two years to complete with the new school opening in August, 2026, for the 2026-27 school year.

Continued on next page

Leadership Team Studies Justice-themed Book



The District's Leadership Team (administrators and principals) is reading *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Shawn Ginwright, PhD. This is an effort to prioritize the District's strategic plan.

Dr. Ginwright breaks down the common myths of social movements – a set of deeply ingrained beliefs that the author claims actually hold people back from healing and achieving sustainable systemic change. He explains why these frames don't work, proposing instead four revolutionary pivots for better activism and collective leadership:

Awareness: From Lens to Mirror

Connections: From Transactional to Transformative

Vision: From Problem to Possibility

Presence: From Hustle to Flow

Supplemented with reflections, prompts, cutting-edge research, and the author's own insights and lived experiences as an African-American social scientist, professor, and movement builder, *The Four Pivots* helps people uncover their blind spots. It shows how to discover new lenses and boldly assert the need for connection, transformation, trust, wholeness, and healing.

It gives people permission to create a better future – to acknowledge that a broken system

has been predefining people's dreams and limiting what they are allowed to imagine, but that it doesn't have to be that way at all.

To promote a vision of equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice consistent with the Strategic Plan's Learning Environment & Culture section, team members participate each month in a rich discussion or activity relating to a pivot within the book. For example, one team activity asked all participants to:

Make the decision to practice "mirror work" every day by asking themselves a question like "what am I learning about myself and how better to serve our society?"

Solicit feedback from people they trust and feel safe with, people who are close to them and listen without being defensive. Ask them, "If there was one thing I need to work on, what would you say it should be?"

Tell someone close to them the three most important lessons they have learned about themselves last year and how they are building on these lessons.

Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel connected with this quote from the book: "When groups invest in the time for everyone to share their story, the bond serves as a type of group-dynamics insurance policy."

The Leadership Team will be discussing this book in detail throughout the 2022-23 school year.

CHS Alum to Host Songwriters Showcase

CHS graduate and country music singer/songwriter, Kyle Jennings, is hosting a live showcase featuring hit Nashville songwriters on December 9 at 8 p.m. at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo.

Joining Jennings as special co-host is Dana Perino, a former White House Press Secretary and currently a political commentator on Fox News.

Songwriters who will be performing include Chris Wallin' (*Don't Blink* – Kenny Chesney, *Everybody Talks to God* – Aaron Lewis); Detroit native JT Harding (*Smile* – Uncle Kracker, *Somewhere With You* – Kenny Chesney); and mega-hit writer Doug Johnson (*Three Wooden Crosses* – Randy Travis, *Love Like Crazy* – Lee Brice) and, of course, Kyle Jennings.

"It's a unique experience," says Jennings in a press release for the event. "It's more of a variety show really. A little bit of comedy, and little bit of music, some wild stories, and 100% entertainment! Shows like these are going on in dozens of locations every night in Nashville."

After graduating from CHS, Jennings played junior hockey for three seasons but left the sport after several concussions, according to his website, kylejenningsmusic.com. His passion then turned to country music. He wrote his own songs and entertained around southwest Michigan before relocating to Nashville in 2002.

In 2005, his song "Can I Run in the Dark (and Still Walk in the Light)" was a finalist in the country music category of the International Songwriting Competition.

Jennings later returned to hockey as a coach with the Nashville Jr. Predators travel hockey organization.

During one of his times of disappointment with the music business, he talked with his father, Gary Jennings, a longtime CHS building trades teacher, about what to do. His Dad encouraged him to stay with music and he did.

He currently tours the country with his band performing in venues large and small.

For tickets to the December show, go to the website for the State Theatre, kazoostate.com.

Finance Director Earns Certification

CPS Finance Director Michelle Darnell recently earned her "Chief Financial Officer" certification from Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO, a state-wide organization for these critically important school professionals.



Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

Continued from page 4

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

Welcome, New Staff Members



Kaleigh Buris
Social Worker, CMS,
CELA

Kaleigh Buris, a graduate of Fruitport High School and Grand Valley State University, joins the Comstock staff this year as a social worker.

She chose social work as a career because she enjoys working with people and because the degree offers many different job options. Previously, she worked at Bronson Medical Center as a medical social worker. Now, she's enjoying her career in a school setting.

"I really enjoy working with students and schools are such a fun environment where there's an opportunity to have a positive impact on students and families," she said. "And I love that I learn so much from the students and families I get to work with."

The other neat thing about working in the schools is that no two days are the same, she said.

As a student at Fruitport High School, Mrs. Buris was influenced by the assistant principal and student council coordinator, Mrs. Chesney.

"She did a great job of encouraging and pushing me and helped me step out of my comfort zone," she said.

Her husband, Justin, is a businessman. They have two children: Norah, 4, and Beckett, 3.

Trying new restaurants is among the things she enjoys along with family time, being outdoors, hiking, and reading.



Miranda Heald
Young Fives Teacher,
CES

A 2017 graduate of Comstock High School, Miranda Heald has returned to her alma mater to teach Young Fives. After high school, she graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in early childhood professional education and elementary education.

Her choice of a career was influenced by her mother who was an elementary teacher. While

at one time, she considered other options, mainly due to teacher salaries today, she came back to teaching as her career choice.

"I have a passion for people and truly loving and caring for them deeply and I couldn't think of a better job to do that," she said. "Teaching is what I was always meant to do."

And teaching younger students has some special rewards.

"They are hungry and curious for knowledge and learning," she said. "It's so fun to see 'the lightbulb' come on in their heads when they gain new knowledge."

What she's found difficult in teaching is letting go of things she can't control such as students' home environments or their underlying issues.

"But I do have the ability to change my attitude, to choose to love and care for my students and create an environment in which they feel safe, loved, and have the ability to grow," she said.

Her fourth grade teacher at Comstock, Dori Scholly, knew how to make learning fun with her humor and spunk, Mrs. Heald recalled.

"Math was a struggle for me, but she took the time to help me understand and again, brought fun to math," she said. "One of my favorite silly phrases she would say that I still remember was 'Should've had a V8.' She inspires me to not take life so seriously and to have fun with teaching."

Mrs. Heald met her husband, Carter, when they were students at WMU, bonding over their love for coffee, photography, music and their Christian faith. They married in May, 2022.

A full-time student at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, her husband is the worship arts director at Converge Community Church where she also serves as the youth director.

She enjoys going on long walks with her husband, practicing photography with him, baking and spending time with friends and family.



Lindsay Meekhof
CELA Speech-Language
Pathologist

With an interest in working with children and also how the human body works, Lindsay Meekhof found the perfect career for her - speech-language pathology. So, after graduating from South Christian High School in Byron Center, she attended Calvin College where she graduated with a degree in speech-language pathology.

Prior to coming to Comstock to work at the Early Learning Academy, she was a speech-language pathologist for the Van Buren Intermediate School District in Hartford and at Borgess Place Rehabilitation Facility.

"I find it extremely rewarding to help students communicate who have a hard time doing so, whether it be due to difficulty saying sounds or producing language," she said. "Working with families and helping them learn how to best help their children with speech and language is also a part of my job that I really enjoy."

Mrs. Meekhof enjoys her work so much that she wishes she had more time each week to work with students individually to help them not only learn but also thrive.

She and her husband, Conrad, who is an engineer, have three children: Owen, 6; Liam, 4; and Lainey, 2.

She enjoys camping and hiking with her family, reading novels, and gardening.



Aleesha Nicole Meyer

A graduate of Comstock Compass High School, Class of 2013, Aleesha Meyer is now the administrative assistant at Compass.

Before taking the job at Comstock, she ran a restaurant in the Plainwell/Otsego area for six years and has worked in the restaurant business for the last 12 years.

Of taking the job at Compass, she said, "I wanted to take what I was taught by my

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Welcome, New Staff Members

Continued from previous page

generous educators when I was in school and help guide a new generation of students.”

She hopes to encourage students to dream big ideas that can lead to innovations and changes for the future.

The hardest thing about education today is “understanding the different learning challenges within our students and being relatable and patient,” she said.

Ms. Meyer cites Darlene West, the previous administrative assistant at Compass, as a great mentor on her path to her current career.

“She took the time to get to know me in order to become more personal,” she said. “Darlene was patient and caring while stern and steady. She was a huge part in my high school success.”

Ms. Meyer’s husband, Jacob Morin, is

a maintenance supervisor at a Kalamazoo apartment complex. They have a son, Cameron, who is a first grader at Comstock Elementary.

As a family, they enjoy walking on trails, watching movies, playing games and spending time with friends. She also enjoys cleaning and organizing.



Danielle Whitaker
Special Education
Teacher, CES

A native of Hudsonville, Michigan, Danielle Whitaker graduated from Hudsonville High School and then obtained a bachelor’s degree in English language arts and psychology from Cornerstone University. She then earned a master’s degree in emotional impairment and learning disabilities.

Her decision to major in English came because she loves reading and writing. Also, her high school English teacher, Mr. Keegan, inspired her to teach English. She now teaches special education which she said she loves.

She has taught in many schools, but most recently in Delton.

“I love the ‘aha’ moment,” she said of what she enjoys about teaching.

The lack of staff is the most difficult thing in education today.

Her husband, James, is a handyman. They have two children, Tanner who is an eighth grader and Tenlee who attends Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Mrs. Whitaker enjoys riding horses, lifting weights, working out, mountain biking, and going out on her boat.

2022-23 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

December 1, 2022	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 8, 2022	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 26, 2022 to January 6, 2023	Winter Recess		
January 17-19, 2023	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students/Teachers
January 20, 2023	PD AM/K-12-Records Day PM (End of 1st Sem.)		No Students
February 21, 2023	CHS Conferences		
February 23-24, 2023	Mid-Winter Break		No Students/Teachers
March 2, 2023	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
March 14, 2023	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 16, 2023	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 17, 2023	DPPD	8:00-3:00	No Students
March 24-31, 2023	Spring Break		No Students/ No Teachers
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

Comstock High School

CHS Students Judge Hot Rods

Two CHS students, Logan Saokho and Zach Shurter, served as guest judges at the National Street Rod Association Street Rod Nationals this fall at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds.

Using the knowledge they have gained from instructor Matt Basse's Career and Technical Education (CTE) auto technology class, they assisted Jane Ghosh, president and CEO of Discover Kalamazoo, in selecting the "Kalamazoo Pick" award recipient.

Discover Kalamazoo and the National Street Rod Association gave students this opportunity and donated tickets to the annual event to all KRESA CTE auto technology students.



Logan Saokho, CHS senior auto tech student, places the winning tag on the "Kalamazoo Pick" car at the North American Street Rod Nationals show in Kalamazoo.



Logan Saokho (left), Jane Ghosh of Discover Kalamazoo, and Zac Shurter, CHS junior auto tech student, with the Kalamazoo Pick car.

Student Athlete Leaders Attend Retreat

The Southwest 10 (SW10) sponsored a league retreat this fall to foster sportsmanship, mutual respect, and goodwill. Each member school could bring eight student athlete leaders to help develop better relationships and personal connections among the various schools.

The students participated in a high ropes course, canoeing, archery, and other team-building activities. Athletic Director Justin Ansel arranged the itinerary for this experience and arranged transportation to the event for CHS student athlete leaders.



The "Great Eight" from Comstock High School are (left to right) Tyler Caswell, Jaylen Claxton, Nate White, Krisha Patel, Litzzy Ramirez, Amarion White, Ti'Anna Murphy-Ryan, and Autumn Hummel.

Teacher Earns PLTW Certification

Abigail Schreiner Osborn, CHS science teacher, recently earned her Project Lead the Way (PLTW) certification. PLTW is a program that emphasizes hands-on learning. They provide professional development for teachers to engage students in real-world learning.

"Our pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science engage students in hands-on activities, projects, and problems; empower them to solve real-world challenges; and inspire them to reimagine how they see themselves," states their website.



Homecoming Royalty



Comstock High School's Homecoming King and Queen for 2022 are Tyler Caswell and Brie Doud.

Comstock High School

Key Club Hosts Bake Sale



The high school's recently formed Key Club hosted a bake sale to raise money for breast cancer research. Key Club members who helped out are Amarion White, Brooke Schwenk, Michaela Hartselle, Kendyl Harris, and Havana Rolstone

CHS Brings Back Key Club

Comstock High School once again has a Key Club which is a student-led international service organization affiliated with Kiwanis International.

Kiwanis Club members, Darryl Raul and Jason Knight, guided students in establishing their roles. The students already have a president, vice-president, and treasurer in place and have created a plan for starting the Chapter.

Through participation in the Key Club, students will make the community a better place through their service and will grow as individuals and leaders.



NHS, CES Staff Host Trunk or Treat

National Honor Society members and the elementary school staff hosted the school's annual Trunk or Treat event this fall.

Besides handing out candy, they also provided free cider, donuts and stickers. An arts and crafts table was also part of the festivities.

Between 500 and 600 people attended the event.



CES Principal Susan Caswell and CES Administrative Assistant Lisa Watson joined the fun at the school's Trunk or Treat event.



Above: Elementary students created a poster to remind people never to judge a pumpkin by its cover. It was based on their reading of the story, "Spookley the Square Pumpkin."



Right: High School Principal Mary Spade gets in on the fun at the Trunk or Treat event at the elementary school.



WINTER WEATHER Notifications & Procedures

When wintry weather arrives in Comstock, we know that our families and staff are anxiously waiting to hear what our district has planned. If we make a change from our normal operations, we will try our best to share information by 6 a.m. If there is no mention of a delay or closure on our website or social media, Comstock Schools are running on-time, as scheduled.

Our first step will be to post notices on our website: ComstockPS.org



Next, we will alert WWMT and post a message on our Twitter feed: @ComstockPS



We will then send e-mail, phone call, and text messages using SchoolMessenger. Note that this process takes a little time; our phone system cannot call everyone at the same time.



Finally, we will share the message on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.



Opt-In for Text Messaging from CPS

Comstock Public Schools is transitioning to the SchoolMessenger system to deliver important information about events, school closings, safety alerts, and more* straight to your mobile device via text messages.

Opt-in from your mobile device now! To participate in this free service*, just send a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, 67587. You can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “Stop.”

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

If you want to receive text messages when we have school closures due to excessive snow or extreme cold, YOU NEED TO OPT IN. Regardless of whether or not you have received text messages from us in the past, YOU WILL NEED TO OPT IN to receive future text messages from us.

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message.” Most mobile devices support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.

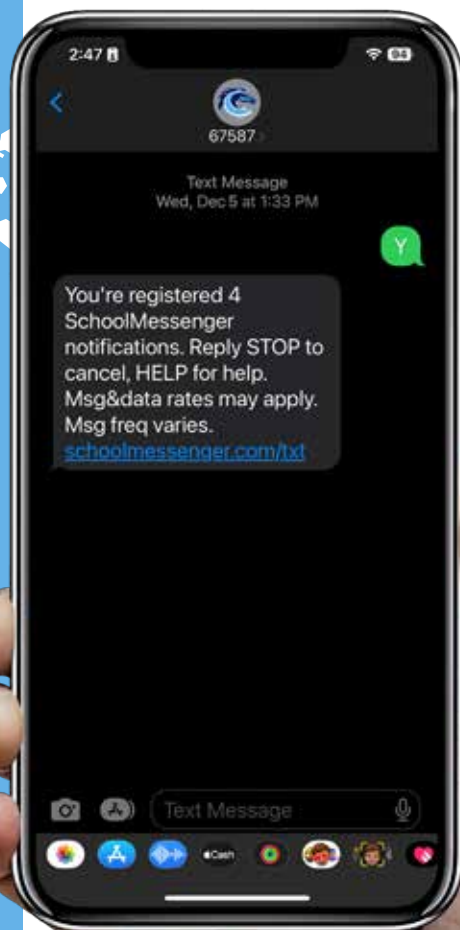
If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages.

See SchoolMessenger.com/tm for more information.

NOTE: If you opt-in by sending a message to 67587 and you ARE NOT currently signed up to receive messages about your student via Infinite Campus, you will NOT receive text messages from SchoolMessenger. If you have a student attending our schools but you do not currently have an Infinite Campus account, please reach out to the office at your child’s school building to have an account set up for you.

This text service is **NOT** for the general public. If you are a member of the general public and wish to know about school closures, please check our website, Twitter feed, or district Facebook page for the latest information.



Comstock Middle

CMS Welcomes “Augie” the Therapy Dog



“Team Augie” consists of (left to right) Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes, school social worker Amanda Clapper, Augie, math teacher Kathy Street, Paraprofessional Karen Vetter, and Principal Mark Wilke. Inset: Augie relaxes by playing with a ball.

Augie, a two-year old, male, golden retriever, is now a trained and certified therapy dog serving at the middle school.

Augie’s mission will be to serve as a comfort and calming companion for students who are feeling lonely, hurt, upset, distressed, sad, or irritated. The research behind therapy dogs and their impact on school-aged children is clear. Students have better attendance rates at schools that have therapy dogs and show a marked improvement in social and emotional learning.

Augie knows how to “stay” and “sit” on com-

mand and walk alongside his handler calmly and slowly.

Teacher Kathy Street will care for Augie both at school and her home. School social worker Amanda Clapper will act as a second handler for Augie while he is at school.

Paraprofessional Karen Vetter was instrumental in bringing a therapy dog to CMS. Principal Mark Wilke supported her work and approved the school’s therapy dog proposal.

Augie was obtained through Paws With a Cause out of Wayland, Michigan.

Compass High School

Compass Students Earn Diplomas

Clayton Armstrong and Matt Kemp recently earned their high school diplomas through Compass High School. Teacher Kim Bell bought pizza for the new graduates as they celebrated their accomplishments.



CMS Resumes Student Store



Sixth grade Intervention Specialist Margaret Head helps students distribute prizes.

The middle school store has reopened. To use the store, students earn “Colt Cash” by helping others, staying on task, being respectful, and going above and beyond. The Colt Cash they earn may be worth \$1 or \$5.

This program is part of the school’s Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model which is designed to engage students in building a positive school culture, improving academic learning, and decreasing undesirable or negative behaviors.

The school store combines with the Leader In Me program and is run by student clerks with adult support.

“This creates strong student ownership of the program and teaches many important lifelong skills and character traits,” said Amanda Clapper, school social worker.

Arriving at the Colt Cash Student Store, students are greeted by the “bankers” who count the Colt Cash. The bankers also share what items are available for purchase. Students then line up and wait to spend their Colt Cash. Students often compare stories regarding what they are going to buy.

Any community members who would like to donate prizes or purchase items for the program, please contact Amanda Clapper or Principal Mark Wilke.

Comstock Elementary

Never Judge a Pumpkin by its Cover!

The CES kindergarten classes of Kathryn Teff-Grimm and Cathy Buscher were inspired to create their own unique pumpkins and a poster after having read “Spookley the Square Pumpkin” by Joe Troiano.

The story tells of Spookley, a pumpkin, who is square instead of round. Some animals and plants on the farm begin to bully Spookley saying that only round pumpkins are real pumpkins. But, Spookley’s unique shape helps him save the day for both his friends and enemies on the farm.

CES students also created a poster about the story that they used to decorate a car for the school’s Trunk or Treat event. The poster carried the message, “Remember to never judge a pumpkin or person by its cover.”

STEM Principal Receives State Award



STEM Academy Principal Chris Chopp has received the 2022 Regional Honors Award from the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA).

He will receive the award at MEMSPA’s Leadership Awards Banquet at the group’s annual conference on December 8 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. Since he is being honored by MEMSPA, he will be able to attend expense-free.

STEM Academy

Academy Students Named to WMU Program



Thirteen STEM Academy middle school students have been nominated for participation in Western Michigan University’s Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP).

The students are Brayden Bacon, Lyla Borgert, Andrew Foster, Abraham Hewitt, Skyler Lonichen, Matilda Ludtke, Ashlen Manni, Miles

Mayes, Lukas Mielke, Sadhana Murillo, Donovan Patterson, Sydney Walker, and Sydney Woods

These students were recognized for exceptional achievement on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for English/Language Arts and/or math.

Academy Students Raise Money for Water.org

Having read *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj, STEM Academy eighth graders were inspired to raise money to provide safe water for people around the world.

Thirst is the story of a young girl in Mumbai, India, who comes to realize the differences in access to water depending on one’s wealth. So, she decides to do something about it.

After reading this book, the eighth graders organized a “penny war” and raised over \$1400 for water.org, a global nonprofit whose goal is to provide clean water and sanitation for people around the world.

Principal Chris Chopp shared the information about the students’ donation with the book’s author who tweeted, “Books and words have pow-

er. The students of STEM middle school deserve a hand of applause for their actions and philanthropy.”

A best-selling author of novels and picture books, Varsha Bajaj grew up in Mumbai, India, in the 1960s. She was an avid reader devouring books about Indian mythology, but she also read books by British authors. She enjoyed the book series featuring Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys. Later, she advanced to novels by Jane Austen and P. G. Wodehouse.

She came to the United States in 1986 as a graduate student, earning both a master’s degree and a doctorate. She eventually became an American citizen. In 1999, she started writing.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Hosts First Trunk or Treat

Fifth graders put together a plan to host the school's first ever Trunk or Treat event this fall.

Students in Jessica Rabine's fifth grade class first wrote a letter to Principal Chris Chopp requesting permission to organize the event. Then, they drafted a message for Mr. Chopp to send out as a mass email.

Students also wrote and sent an email to the specials teachers to see if they would shift their schedules on the day of the event. Another email went to all the teachers inviting their classes to Trunk or Treat.

Middle school teachers received an email from the fifth graders inviting them to participate with their classes by bringing trunks. The fifth graders also created a sign up for parents to volunteer to bring a trunk.

The fifth graders also created a flier to send home with the students. They wrote a script and presented it to the Parent Teacher Group to get approval to serve donut holes and cider.

Everything came to fruition the day of the event where it was held on the playground. By all accounts, this first-ever Trunk or Treat was a hit with all those who attended.

The project was part of the school's Project-Based Learning program.



Jimmy Welty, Ann Swinehart, and Principal Chopp dressed as skeletons for STEM Academy's first ever Trunk or Treat event.

Academy Student's Poem Published



Finley Lins's poem, "Soccer," has been selected for publication in a book published by the America Library of Poetry.

Last April, students in Ann Swinehart's third grade class entered the poetry contest sponsored by the America Library of Poetry. The contest was open to students from third grade through twelfth grade who could submit one poem of 20 lines or less on any subject and in most any style. The poem had to be the student's original work.

Finley's poem made it to the second round and was released in the 2022 collection of poems from the contest.

"It was a great experience for him to be successful with something he had to do in class which was a bit out of his comfort zone," said Finley's mother, Nadine Lins.

Soccer

By Finley Lins

Soccer

A wonderful treat
Summer, winter, whatever season
It doesn't matter, it still is awesome!

Soccer

A game with a ball so round
22 people with 11 on the each
So beautifully great with the crowd that has
some sound!

Soccer

The Champions League...the Bundesliga
The awesome...La Liga
The Serie A + MLS
Even though that may not be world widely known
The World Cup is a pleasure to see!
France, Germany, Italy, and Espanol All have
some leagues
With some good glee!

Soccer

It makes you tired
But it is still a wonderful treat!

Students Create Hispanic Heritage Live Museum



Sydney Walker portrayed painter Frida Kahlo for the live museum project.

STEM Academy middle school students created a live museum in honor of Hispanic Heritage this fall.

To do this, students took on the role of a famous Hispanic person and then presented information to each other, elementary students, staff and parents. They told about the person's life and his/her contributions to the world.

"Everyone had a great time learning and presenting their information," said Danielle Tennant, English/language arts teacher.

All middle school students and their core class teachers worked hard to present this program.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA Principal Joins Great Start Board



Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA) Principal Meadow Nuyen was invited to join the Executive Board for Great Start Collaborative in Kalamazoo County.

The invitation came from Laura Ynclan, an early childhood specialist with the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA).

A focus of the board is the alignment of care and services for children between birth and school age, said Ynclan. They want childcare directors and administrators connected with school districts to serve on the board.

The Great Start Collaborative Executive Board is composed of leaders from various sectors of early childhood including medical, mental health, family/home visitors, early care and education, special education, birth-3, and literacy consultants.

The board also serves as the School Readiness Advisory Board, a group mandated by the Michigan Department of Education to look at a variety of early childhood topics.

The board's work has a strong family focus, centered in the Protective Factors from the Strengthening Families Program. Those factors are parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children.

The board will be emphasizing two areas this year: mental health/social emotional support, especially to families, and alignment across early care and education settings.

Dolly Parton Program Donates Books

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will soon be sending free books to children in Comstock. The Imagination Library, funded by Dolly Parton and local community partners, sends free books to children from birth to age five.

Comstock Early Learning Academy Principal Meadow Nuyen and her team along with Comstock Township Library Youth Librarian Liz Castleberry have been engaged in an ongoing collaborative effort to finalize the process which was recently approved by the library board.

Children in the community will be able to enroll in the program and select and receive new, age-appropriate books mailed directly to their homes each month at no cost to the family. More details will be coming soon from the library.

Started in 1995, the Imagination Library program now spans five countries and gives over one million free books each month to children around the world. Dolly was inspired to create this program by her father's inability to read and write.

"When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dreams would come true," said Dolly. "I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world."

District Receives Additional USDA Funds to Purchase Healthy Food

The District has received a second allocation from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Supply Chain Assistance Funds.

These funds, valued at \$37,692, may only be used to purchase domestic unprocessed or min-

imally processed foods. Examples include fluid milk, cheese, yogurt, fruits and vegetables, pasta and rice, and meats. Foods may be whole, cut, pureed, fresh, frozen, canned, and dried.

Foods that are not permitted to be purchased

CELA Students "Sense" Pumpkins



Kenna Asiala explores the inside of a pumpkin.

CELA students in the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) used their five senses to learn all about pumpkins.

For sight, they looked at the pumpkin and described its appearance. Then, they felt the pumpkin inside and out and described what they touched.

After smelling the pumpkin, they voted on whether they liked the smell or not. Next, they thumped the pumpkin to hear what it sounded like.

Finally, they tasted pumpkin puree and voted on whether they liked the flavor.

"We had so much fun expanding our scientific inquiry skills and building our vocabulary as we engaged in this activity," said GSRP teacher Chelsea Davidson.

with these funds include pre-made pizza, bread, muffins, crackers, pre-packaged sandwiches, and chicken nuggets.

Virtual Academy

Virtual Academy Students Adopt a Cow

Virtual Academy students started a new adventure this fall by joining the virtual Adopt-a-Cow program. The program includes adopting a calf and having extra lessons with fun activities that go along with all subjects, including nutrition.

Students also join live video chats with farmers around the Midwest to see their cows, farms, barns, and the production of milk and feed for the cows.

When the calf is born, students will learn her name, birth date, weight, and what farm she lives on. And, best of all, they will get a picture of her.

Brenda James, K-5 instructor, is heading up the project.

CPS Alum Hunter Vorva Plays with K-Wings



Comstock alumnus Hunter Vorva, Class of 2013, is one of two goalies on the 25-man K-Wings roster this year.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

DECEMBER:

- 3-4 - Ballet Kalamazoo: *The Nutcracker*:** 6 p.m. on 3rd and 2 p.m. on the 4th. Go to the website for tickets: <https://www.balletkalamazoo.com> or email Amy at: info@balletkalamazoo.com.
- 10 - BSD Dance Studios - Winter Performances,** go to website for tickets and details: www.bsodance.com.
- 6 - West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Concert:** 7 p.m. (includes band, orchestra, choir) Tickets at the door.
- 11 - Kalamazoo Children's Chorus Concert:** 3 p.m. Tickets: www.kalamazoochildrenschorus.org/buy-tickets-2 and at the door.
- 13 - Comstock MS/HS Choir Concert,** 7 p.m., Free.
- 14 - STEM Academy MS Music Performance,** 6:30 p.m., Free.
- 19 - Comstock STEM/MS/HS Band Concert,** 7 p.m., Free.

JANUARY:

- 12 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Play:** 12:30 & 7 p.m., Free.
- 14 - Kazoo Fools-Seminar** 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



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CUSTODIANS, BUS DRIVERS, AND PARAPROFESSIONALS!

COMPETITIVE WAGES - FULL TIME - PART TIME - FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

Apply online at ComstockPS.org/hr

Sports News

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

The 2023 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 7 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$30. Come support these great Comstock alumni and coaches and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 17.

Girls Cross Country State Qualifier

Congratulations to senior Lydia Kruis for her effort in making it to the state cross country meet for the fourth season in a row. She ran a good race despite the intense rain and wind. She finished in 117th place with a time of 21:29 for her last race of her senior year.



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

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Girls Junior Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/2	Parchment High School	6:00PM
Tue 12/6	Mendon HS	6:00PM
Fri 12/9	@ Decatur High School	5:30PM
Tue 12/13	@ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Thu 12/15	@ Bloomingdale High School	5:30PM
Tue 12/20	Marcellus High School	6:00PM
Thu 12/22	@ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/10	@ Mendon HS	6:00PM
Thu 1/12	Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 1/17	@ Cassopolis High School	6:00PM
Thu 1/19	Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 1/24	@ Colon High School	6:00PM
Thu 1/26	Decatur High School	5:30PM
Tue 1/31	Bloomingdale High School	5:30PM
Fri 2/3	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School	6:00PM
Tue 2/7	Centreville	6:00PM
Thu 2/9	@ Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Mon 2/13	Fennville High School	5:30PM
Tue 2/14	@ Allegan Public Schools	5:30PM
Fri 2/17	@ Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 2/21	Maple Valley High School	5:30PM
Thu 2/23	SW10 Crossover at North	6:00PM

Girls Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/2	Parchment High School	7:30PM
Tue 12/6	Mendon HS	7:30PM
Fri 12/9	@ Decatur High School	7:00PM
Tue 12/13	@ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Thu 12/15	@ Bloomingdale High School	7:00PM
Tue 12/20	Marcellus High School	7:30PM
Thu 12/22	@ Lawrence Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Tue 1/10	@ Mendon HS	7:30PM
Thu 1/12	Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 1/17	@ Cassopolis High School	7:30PM
Thu 1/19	Bangor Public Schools	7:00PM
Tue 1/24	@ Colon High School	7:30PM
Thu 1/26	Decatur High School	7:00PM
Tue 1/31	Bloomingdale High School	7:00PM
Fri 2/3	Lawrence Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Tue 2/7	Centreville	7:30PM
Thu 2/9	@ Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Mon 2/13	Fennville High School	7:00PM
Tue 2/14	@ Allegan Public Schools	7:00PM
Fri 2/17	@ Bangor Public Schools	7:00PM
Tue 2/21	Maple Valley High School	7:00PM
Thu 2/23	SW10 Crossover at North	7:30PM

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/6	@ Parchment High School	5:30PM
Thu 12/8	Dowagiac High School	5:30PM
Tue 12/13	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Fri 12/16	Bloomingdale High School	5:30PM
Tue 12/20	@ Marcellus High School	6:00PM
Thu 12/22	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/10	Mendon HS	6:00PM
Fri 1/13	@ Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 1/17	Cassopolis High School	6:00PM
Fri 1/20	@ Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Fri 1/27	@ Decatur High School	5:30PM
Mon 1/30	Pennfield High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/31	@ Bloomingdale High School	5:30PM
Thu 2/2	@ Lawrence Jr.-Sr. High School	6:00PM
Tue 2/7	@ Centreville	6:00PM
Fri 2/10	Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 2/14	Allegan Public Schools	5:30PM
Thu 2/16	Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 2/21	@ Maple Valley High School	5:30PM
Fri 2/24	@ Mendon HS	6:00PM
Tue 2/28	Decatur High School	5:30PM
Thu 3/2	@ SW10 Crossover at South	6:00 PM

Boys Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/6	@ Parchment High School	7:30PM
Thu 12/8	Dowagiac High School	7:00PM
Tue 12/13	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Fri 12/16	Bloomingdale High School	7:00PM
Tue 12/20	@ Marcellus High School	7:30PM
Thu 12/22	Lawrence Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Tue 1/10	Mendon HS	7:30PM
Fri 1/13	@ Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 1/17	Cassopolis High School	7:30PM
Fri 1/20	@ Bangor Public Schools	7:00PM
Fri 1/27	@ Decatur High School	7:00PM
Mon 1/30	Pennfield High School	7:30PM
Tue 1/31	@ Bloomingdale High School	7:00PM
Thu 2/2	@ Lawrence Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Tue 2/7	@ Centreville	7:30PM
Fri 2/10	Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 2/14	Allegan Public Schools	7:00PM
Thu 2/16	Bangor Public Schools	7:00PM
Tue 2/21	@ Maple Valley High School	7:00PM
Fri 2/24	@ Mendon HS	7:30PM
Tue 2/28	Decatur High School	7:00PM
Thu 3/2	@ SW10 Crossover at South	7:30PM

Boys Varsity Wrestling

Wed 12/7	Comstock Quad	6:00PM
Sat 12/10	@ Bangor Team Tourney	10:00AM
Wed 12/14	@ Buchanan Quad	6:00PM
Sat 12/17	@ Gull Lake Invitational	TBA
Wed 12/21	@ SW10 Bangor Quad	
	vs Bangor & Bloomingdale	6:00PM
Wed 12/28	Comstock V Individual Tournament	9:30AM
Sat 1/7	Comstock V Team Tournament	9:00AM
Wed 1/11	SW10 Comstock Quad	
	vs Marcellus & Mendon	6:00PM
Wed 1/18	@ SW10 Hartford Tri	
	vs Hartford & Lawrence	6:00PM
Fri 1/20	Comstock V Individual Tournament	4:00PM
Wed 1/25	SW10 Comstock Quad	
	vs Decatur & Cassopolis	6:00PM
Sat 1/28	@ Buchanan Super Dual	9:00AM
Wed 2/1	@ SW10 White Pigeon Quad	
	vs White Pigeon & Centreville	6:00PM
Sat 2/4	SW10 Conference Meet @ Bangor	9:00AM
Wed 2/8	MHSAA Team District @ Mendon	TBA
Sat 2/11	MHSAA Individual District @ Bronson	TBA

Boys/Girls Varsity Bowling

Mon 12/5	Martin Public Schools (Continental)	4:00PM
Wed 12/7	@ Allegan Public Schools (Sunset)	4:00PM
Mon 12/12	Coloma HS (St. Joe Kelly's Bowl)	4:00PM
Wed 12/14	Parchment HS (Continental)	3:00PM
Mon 12/19	Gobles MS/HS School (Continental)	4:00PM
Wed 1/11	@ Saugatuck High School (Alleys)	4:00PM
Mon 1/16	South Haven HS (Continental)	4:00PM
Wed 1/18	Coloma HS (Continental)	3:00PM
Mon 1/23	Martin Public Schools (Rock N Bowl)	3:15PM
Wed 1/25	Parchment HS (Eastland Bowl)	4:00PM
Mon 1/30	Allegan Public Schools (Continental)	4:00PM
Wed 2/1	@ Gobles MS/HS (Revel & Roll)	4:00PM
Tue 2/7	@ South Haven HS (Lakeside Bowl)	4:00PM
Wed 2/8	Saugatuck HS (Continental)	3:00PM
Mon 2/13	@ Bronson JR/SR HS	
	(Bronson Strike Zone)	4:00PM
Wed 2/15	Brandywine Senior HS (Continental)	3:00PM
Fri 2/17	SAC Tournament	TBA
Fri 2/24	MHSAA Bowling Regional - Individual	TBA
Sat 2/25	MHSAA Bowling Regional - Team	TBA

Comstock Township Library News

Library Event Highlights

Holiday Open House

December 3, 2022, 1-3 p.m.

Visit the library and enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer! Children will be able to meet with Santa Claus, enjoy crafts, and decorate sugar cookies. There will be a live music performance and refreshments will be served upstairs. We do ask that you help support the library by checking out materials so we can continue to offer programs like these.

In-Person Adult Craft: Polymer Clay Jewelry

Registration began in November

Program will be held December 7, at 6 p.m.

Local artist Holly Bryant will be teaching us how to use polymer clay to create beautiful jewelry. Registration is required 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 is required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Wooden Gingerbread Houses

Registration began in November.

Program to be held December 9, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., or 4 p.m., and December 10, at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m.

Join the youth department to make wooden gingerbread houses. We provide paint and all other decorative items. Registration is required and each child must register individually. Please register for only one program time. 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.

December Adult Book Club

Registration began in November. Book Club meets on December 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of the horror novel *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley.

January Adult Book Club

Registration begins December 27. Book Club meets on January 30, at 11 a.m.

Please join us for a discussion of *Steeped to Death* by Gretchen Rue. Copies of each book are available for participants to check out while supplies last. Light refreshments will be served. 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.

Candy Sushi

Registration begins December 6. Registration is required for this free program and each child must

register individually. Space is limited.

Children's program meets December 27, at 2 p.m.

Children in grades K-7 are invited to join Ms. Sue to make candy sushi. All materials will be provided.

Teen program meets December 27, at 4 p.m.

Children in grades 8-12 are invited to join Ms. Traci to make candy sushi. All materials will be provided.

Tween After-Hours Nerf War and Snowball fight (Grades 4-7)

Registration begins December 11.

Program meets December 30, at 6 p.m.

After the library closes, battle between the stacks in this epic Nerf battle and snowball fight. Our battle will include pizza and sugary snacks. Please leave your own Nerf guns and ammo at home because the Library will supply you with one. You must register for this free program and a parent or guardian must sign a waiver prior to drop-off. This event is open to fourth through seventh graders only. Please be at the library by 6 p.m.

Winter Reading Challenge

January 1, 2023 – March 1, 2023

Take our Winter Reading Bingo challenge! One lucky family or individual will win \$500! Print off your bingo sheet from our website or pick one up at the library. You must have a valid Comstock Township Library card to check out materials in order to participate in the challenge. Don't forget. We are a fine free library! Only one sheet per person if doing individually or one sheet per family.

Awful Movie Afternoon for Teens

January 3, 2023, at 1 p.m.

Bored teens at home? Bring your sense of humor, sarcastic comments and your friends for an afternoon of watching awful movies. Movies will be rated PG-13 or PG. The library will provide snacks, and drinks. This program is for students in grades eight through twelve.

Teen After-Hours Nerf War and Snowball fight (Grades 8-12)

Registration begins December 18.

Program meets January 6, 2023 at 6 p.m.

After the library closes, battle between the stacks in this epic Nerf battle and snowball fight. Our battle will include pizza and sugary snacks. Please leave your own Nerf guns and ammo at home because the Library will supply you with one. You must register for this free program and a parent or guardian must sign a waiver prior to drop-off. This event is open to students in grades eight through twelve only. Please be at the library by 6 p.m.

In-Person Adult Craft: Plaid Pots

Registration begins December 18, 2022.

Contact us: 269-345-0136

info@comstocklibrary.org

www.comstocklibrary.org

Program is held January 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Join Lissa and learn how to paint a plaid design. The pattern is cozy and just right for winter. Registration is required 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 is required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Valentine's Mail for Kids

Registration begins January 23, 2023.

Does your children like receiving mail? Sign them up to receive a special Valentine from the Youth Department! We'll include stickers, a personal letter and some supplies so they can make Valentines of their own. Valentines will be mailed out the week before February 14. Sign up each child individually as spots are limited.

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.

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:

December 24, 26, and 31 – closed all day

January 2, 2023 – closed all day