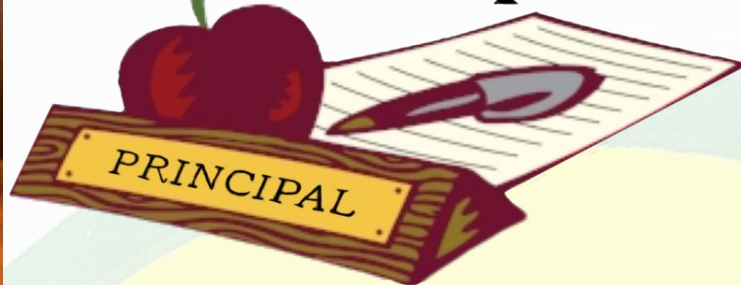


Comet Comments

BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE - AUGUST 2023



From the Principal



Welcome back to another exciting year at Coloma High School! I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we embark on this new academic journey together, I am filled with enthusiasm and a sense of great anticipation for the remarkable opportunities and achievements that lie ahead.

This summer we have had some great achievements already.

- Our students that were in credit recovery this summer worked really hard and earned 30 credits this summer.
- Brian Klee and Tyler Cantrell completed training through the College Board for our new AP classes, Calculus and World History.
- Band Students attended Band Camp from July 31st through August 4th. On August 5th, the students participated in the Glad Peach Festival Parade. The students worked really hard to get ready for the upcoming school year.
- Varsity sports began official practice August 7th. We are looking forward to competing at the varsity level in football this year as well as volleyball and soccer in the SAC conference.

Our school community has always prided itself on fostering an environment that nurtures both academic excellence and personal growth. At Coloma High School, we firmly believe that education extends far beyond the confines of textbooks and classroom walls. It is about igniting curiosity, developing critical thinking skills, and instilling a lifelong love for learning.

Throughout the years, our dedicated staff has been devoted to providing the best educational experience for your children. We encourage and support students in discovering their unique talents, strengths, and passions, preparing them to become well-rounded individuals and contributing members of society.

This year, we have an array of exciting events and programs planned to enrich the learning journey of our students. From cooperative learning activities, labs, and extension lessons to engaging extracurricular activities, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to explore their interests and broaden their horizons.

Additionally, I urge parents and guardians to actively participate in school activities and stay involved in your child's education. Together, we can create a strong support network that empowers students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

I encourage you to regularly check our school website (ccs.coloma.org) and newsletters for updates, important announcements, and glimpses into the many achievements of our students and staff. Following Coloma High School on Facebook is also an excellent way to stay connected with us and witness the vibrant life of our school.

As we step into this new academic year, let us remember that every day is a chance to learn, grow, and make a positive impact. I am truly honored to serve as the principal of Coloma High School, and I look forward to working closely with all of you to create an exceptional educational experience for our students.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, my door is always open. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the staff. Together, let us make this academic year an unforgettable and transformative one.

Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead! Go Comets!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

August 22 - Freshman Orientation, 6:00pm

August 28 - First day of School (½ day) and Picture Day!

August 31 - Last day for schedule changes and to turn in Chromebook Insurance payment

September 1 - No School

September 4 - Labor Day, No School

September 11 - Jostens Sophomore Rings

September 13 - Late Start, School starts at 10:am

September 25 - Progress Reports

September 27 - Late Start, School starts at 10:00am

September 29 - Homecoming

MISSION STATEMENT:

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and empower them for their future success.

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE –EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

!!!WELCOME BACK!!!

May I request to change my schedule?

Examples of **YES** reasons

- Need to take or repeat a class to meet graduation requirements
- Received credit for class in summer school
- Pre-requisite not met for current class
- Valid health issues with Doctor documentation

Examples of **NO** reasons

- I don't like that class or teacher
- I want a different lunch hour
- I don't like "xyz" student in my class
- My friend is "xyz class" and I want to be with them

Last day to email Mr. Shaffer with a valid request for a schedule change is:
August 31st by 3:00pm

Important information for Seniors!

FAFSA and Scholarships

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid and it is necessary to complete if your senior(s) wishes to receive any kind of funds, such as scholarships, grants, and/or loans for the college/university they wish to attend. Here is a link with more detailed information on the steps needed to complete the FAFSA:

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>

You may also want to check out the "Going Merry" website to complete the FAFSA (another way to do the FAFSA; comparable to TurboTax format) and you can also use this website to look for scholarships for free: [sign up for Going Merry](#).

Furthermore, you may want to sign up for the notifications of many various scholarships that are regularly updated at: <https://studentscholarships.org/newsletters>

Official Transcripts

Seniors will need to request official high school transcripts as they apply to colleges/universities and may also need to request them for certain jobs. To order your official high school transcripts for free, create an account (if you do not already have one) at: Parchment.com

Simplify the application process to colleges/universities

Seniors may be applying to more than one post-secondary institution and using CommonApp is an efficient way to do this in one location. This website allows for students to apply to multiple colleges/universities and to track the status of their applications. Create your free account at: Commonapp.org

SAT scores

Seniors may want to obtain their SAT scores. These scores may be obtained by accessing their accounts at: Collegeboard.org. Official scores are released typically mid June.

Remember to never use your school email; use a personal email.

action required



Coloma Families

Meals are FREE again this year for all students.

To ensure we are allocated the correct amount in funding could you please fill out the household survey's by using the website or scan the barcode.

Coloma.familyportal.cloud



Please contact Shelley Mazigian for any questions.

smazigian@ccs.coloma.org

269-468-2598

chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

"THE CAPACITY TO
LEARN IS A GIFT;
THE ABILITY TO
LEARN IS A SKILL;
THE WILLINGNESS TO
LEARN IS A CHOICE."
— BRIAN HERBERT

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

On the first day of school (Monday, August 28, 2023), all high school students will report to the High School Auditorium for a quick information meeting. From there, students will be organized by class and released to follow a four period bell schedule. On the first day, students will receive their schedule, receive a rules/procedures briefing, receive their lockers, sign up for parking passes, and have their school pictures taken. 9 - 12 graders will be issued their Chromebook on the first full day of School, Monday, August 28th, 2023

DEADLINE FOR THE OPTION TO PURCHASE CHROMEBOOK INSURANCE IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 31.

**Parents of 9 -12 grade students should look for a mailing next week. The mailing will contain a forms that will need to be signed and brought back to school on the first day. Deadline to turn in all forms is Thursday, September 1st.*

STUDENT PARKING

Students who drive to school are required to park in the east lot, have a completed Application to Drive on School Property form (5514F1), and a valid parking permit displayed on the front windshield of the vehicle. In addition this year, the number on the parking permit will identify the spot that coincides with the number in the parking lot in which the student is to park. The cost for the permit is \$10 (yearly fee). Students will have the opportunity to register their vehicle after the **first week** of school. Students who fail to register their vehicle run the risk of being towed (at the owner's expense). Students will be called to the office to buy their parking passes during the second week of school. Students will be given 3 warning notices before their vehicle will be towed. We appreciate your compliance as this is one piece to helping us provide a secure environment for your student.

Students arriving late for school must park in the east lot and follow the sidewalk from the parking lot to the main entrance. **The main entrance is the only authorized access point for the high school during school hours.**

NOTICE OF DISCRIMINATION

Coloma High School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, or race in its education programs and activities required by Title IX. Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the Title IX/Compliance Officer or the Office of Civil Rights. Our Title IX/Compliance Officers are **Principal, Craig Fisher**, (269-468-2400- cfisher@ccs.coloma.org) and **Wendy Tremblay** (269-468-2405-wtremblay@ccs.coloma.org).

**BREAKFAST
WILL BE SERVED
7:30 - 7:55
THE FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL**

Parent Resources



Pre-Order Online at:
geskusphoto.com/fallorders

<https://store.geskusphoto.com/search/4035DIWUYBZCHN>

SCHOOL HOURS

Students are not permitted inside the school building more than 30 minutes before the start of their first class (7:30 am) without prior approval or supervision of a teacher. Students are not permitted to remain in the school building beyond 30 minutes after the completion of their last class (3:30 pm). The main vestibule area will be the designated waiting area for students waiting for a ride after 3:30 pm. Referral to an administrator for disciplinary action may result if students do not comply with school hour exceptions.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Coloma Community Schools provides information through the web site. It provides a great deal of information including calendars, announcements, teacher web pages, athletic information, fine arts information, and much more. We invite you to take a look at the high school's site at www.ccs.coloma.org/colhs. This newsletter (and future editions) will be posted online. Future information will be provided to parents via e-mail or by going to the web site. Please ensure your email address is current and listed in PowerSchool so we may contact you at your convenience as well as reduce costs by saving paper. During the year, we will also use the PowerSchool email service to send out report cards and progress reports.

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Parent Information



TARDY POLICY

Parents will no longer be able to excuse students who are tardy to school 1st hour. Special considerations will be given by the principal when there is bad weather.

Tardy per semester per class:

- 1st warning
- 2nd 15 minute detention
- 3rd: 30 minute detention
- 4th: 2-30 minute detention - Parent meeting with Principal
- 5th: 1 hour detention
- 6th: 2 hour detention (behavior Intervention Plan)
- 7th: unexcused absence for the class

Students are to be in the assigned seat ready to learn when the bell rings to avoid being marked tardy.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Any student in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade may enroll in a post-secondary (dual) enrollment program providing he/she meets the requirements established by law and by the district. Any interested student should contact the guidance counselor to obtain more information.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is tracked at the high school by semester. Students are allowed to accumulate 8 absences (*excused or unexcused*) per class before credit is withheld pending time being made up on an hour per hour basis. There are some instances of “**exempt**” absences which do not count towards the 8 absences such as a stay in the hospital, college visit, or a death in the immediate family. Students will be briefed on the attendance policy on the first day of school. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the full policy located in the student handbook.

HOW TO SIGN UP ON POWERSCHOOL

You will need create your PowerSchool account to be able to check your child’s grades and attendance. Go to www.ccs.coloma.org, click on “Parents” and “Resources”. There are Online Grade Book Instructions to help you .

REPORTING YOUR CHILD’S ABSENCE

If your student will be absent from school, we ask that you call the school before 9:00 am to report the absence. The office is staffed beginning at 7:30 am to take your call, but you may call earlier and leave a voicemail. If we don’t hear from you, we must assume you do not know your student is not here, and either something happened to them on the way to school, or they are skipping. We will try to inform you via automated alerts when your student is absent unexcused. For their safety, please keep your phone and email information current so we can reach you. Remember that you can check attendance online any time through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

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STUDENT DRESS CODE

Please refer to the dress code section located in the student handbook which can be found on the high school’s web page. All students will be issued a handbook contained in the student planner. When issued, students will sign a form acknowledging receipt and responsibility for adhering to the rules contained within.

Here are a few of the rules to be aware of before issuing the handbook.

1. Shorts or skirts worn must extend to the mid-thigh in length.
2. No tank tops are allowed as all shirts worn must have sleeves.
3. No hats, beanies, or other headgear may be worn in the building at any time.

Violations of the dress code will be addressed on a case by case basis and will not be tolerated. Questions regarding the dress code may be addressed to Mr. Churchill.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Parents who transport their students to school are encouraged to use the west parking lot in order to avoid the student parking lot. The main entrance and circle drive is **“OFF LIMITS”** for student drop off and pick up immediately before or after school and is only to be used to drop off students who are late or pick up students who leave early for appointment. **The circle drive needs to be accessible to emergency vehicles immediately before and after school since the east and west lots are quite busy.**

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Welcome To Our School

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE



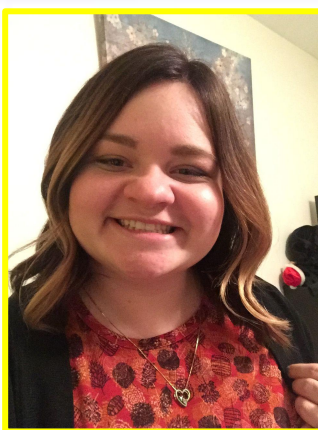
MCAN Advisor:
Chris Coburn

Hello everyone, my name is Chris Coburn. I'm excited to be joining Coloma and Watervliet High Schools this year as a College and Career Advisor. I'll be available to help students and parents determine "what's next?" after high school and navigate all kinds of college application processes. I'm originally from the Metro Detroit area, and I graduated from Kalamazoo College with a degree in English in 2019. During that time, I was fortunate enough to study abroad for a semester in Varanasi, India. In my spare time, I enjoy playing guitar, hockey, mountain biking, and binging new shows on Netflix.



My name is Brianna Wright and I am going to be the new special education teacher at the high school. I

graduated from the University of Michigan with my BA and am currently pursuing an MA through Western Governors University. This will be my second year working at Coloma, as last year I was a long term substitute for K-5 in the Fall and began as the special education teacher for 4-5 grades in January. When I have free time, I like to spend it with my dog or reading. I'm very excited for the coming school year and look forward to meeting a new group of students!



Amanda Ferris
Spanish (JH/HS)

A familiar face to the JH, Amanda joins the HS staff to teach a class period for Spanish.



Dianne Feddema
Special Education

I'm Diandra Feddema (Dianne). I'm a graduate of Hope College and GVSU. I have 4 kids who are all out of the house. Gabe just finished her Masters of Economics and is working in California. Tori is almost finished with her Masters in Counseling at Aquinas. Michael is married and working in construction, they have a son Rayden *which makes me a grandma. Nic is our youngest at 22 he's still figuring out the whole adulting thing. I live in Hudsonville with my husband Jeff, and we live on a Christmas tree farm. This is year 25 of my career in Special Education and I still believe this is what I was called to do.

Before you speak:

THINK

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?



SACK LUNCHES ARE PROVIDED BY THE CAFETERIA STAFF ON ½ DAYS.

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