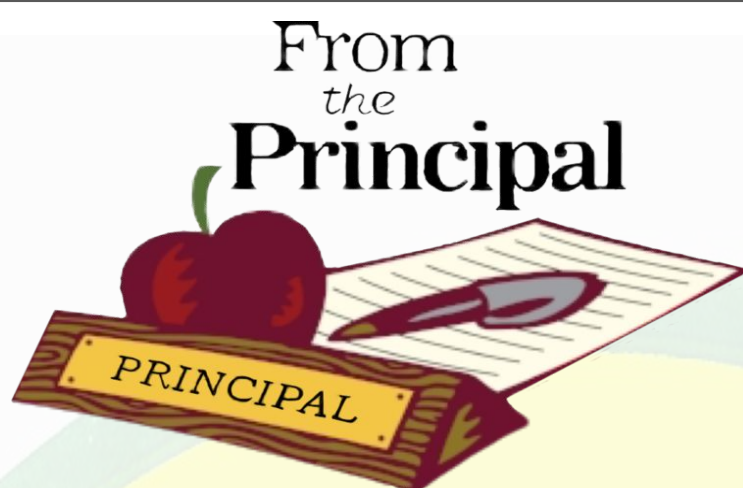


Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2023



The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start. Coloma High School students have completed the NWEA testing. The NWEA test results are used to gauge our students where they stand at the beginning of the year. High school staff collect the data and use the information to help bridge gaps. Students take the NWEA three times a year during their freshman and sophomore years in reading and math.

Colleges, Universities, and branches of the armed forces will be available during lunches at the high school to give students general information about what opportunities each institution offers. So far we have had St. Mary's College, Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University, and Southwestern Michigan College visit our students in the cafeteria.

Homecoming 2023 has been a huge success with the students. Students and staff participated in dress up days all week. Friday, 9/29/2023, was the culmination of our festivities. Students participated in volleyball, Powder Puff football, lip sync battles, spirit competitions throughout the day. Students also took part in the part parade Friday evening. The Varsity Cheer team and high school band put on a great show on the football field. The homecoming dance took place Friday night. I want to thank Jennifer Ickes, Wendy Goodline, Brianna Wright for all of their hard work planning these activities for our students. Our class advisors Sonya Vroon, Tonya Kimmerly, Denise Hauch, and Tyler Cantrell also helped plan the decorations and made sure the students had what they needed.

Our staff is really looking forward to meeting with parents and guardians of high school students during parent/teacher conferences on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 and Thursday, October 26, 2023. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to talk about where each student is thriving in class and where each student can improve. This dialogue is important for the benefit of your child to make sure the communication is in place to keep each student improving. Colleges, Universities, and branches of the service will be available in the library during the conferences as well.

I am proud of the hard work that staff and students have done so far during the 2023-2024 school year, and I am looking forward to seeing the progression throughout the rest of the school year.

Hello! My name is Jazmyne Pedde and I am the new school social worker at Coloma Junior High and High School. I am thrilled to be a part of the Coloma Schools Community and cannot wait to advocate and support these kiddos while also providing support to their families.

I was born and raised in Saint Joseph and have loved living in this beautiful town. I graduated with my Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW) from Grand Valley State University, more recently, I graduated from The University of Kentucky with my Master's of Social Work (MSW).

It has always been a dream of mine to be a school social worker and cannot believe it is coming true! My goal this school year is to quickly build rapport with these students, and offer support and guidance wherever possible.

I look forward to interacting with the students and their families to advocate, support, and lend a hand to the best of my abilities.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 2 - Picture Retake Day

October 4 - COUNT DAY

October 6 - ½ day, school ends at 11:37

October 9 - NO SCHOOL

October 11 - Late Start, School starts at 10

October 18 - CHOIR FALL SHOWCASE

October 20 - END OF 1ST MARKING PERIOD

October 24 & 26 - Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7 & College Fair

October 25 - Late Start, School starts at 10

October 27 - ½ day, school ends at 11:37

MISSION STATEMENT:

We will inspire all students to achieve at high levels and empower them for their future success.

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE –EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS



October is MI College Month!

In Michigan, October is known as College Month. However, at Coloma High School our mindset is to celebrate and bring awareness to ALL post-secondary options. These options are not only college/university but also include military and work-related professions through professional training programs. So throughout the month of October, Coloma High School students will be focusing on post-secondary programs and options.

The awareness of these post-secondary programs and options will be highlighted throughout October by various events, such as:

- **Goals for the month:**
 - Raise awareness for post high school careers for Coloma High School Students.
 - 100% of seniors to access the Common App.
- **9/25/2023: Migrant Event through WMU at Coloma High School 6:30pm-8:00pm.**
- **10/2/2023 and each Monday of the Month:**
 - Teachers will take the first five minutes of class to talk to each of their classes about 4 different topics. One topic will be discussed each Monday of the month.
 - i. Why did you choose to go to college?
 - ii. What was their best experience during your college career?
 - iii. What was a pitfall that you would tell others to stay away from?
 - iv. What is your best advice for seniors for the rest of the year? For underclassmen, what would you change about your high school experience? (Join a club, take harder classes?, etc.)
- **10/6/2023: Manufacturing Day**
- **Each Friday in October: Teachers are encouraged to wear gear from either their college they graduated from or their favorite college.**
- **10/24 and 10/26: Colleges present during parent teacher conferences**



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](https://coloma.familyportal.cloud)



Please contact Shelley Mazigian for any questions.

smazigian@ccs.coloma.org

269-468-2598



IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN THE STUDENT CONTACT REPORT, PLEASE DO SO ASAP. THESE ARE REQUIRED TO BE UPDATED EACH YEAR FOR THE STUDENT FILES.



Why Physical Education is a Graduation Requirement

While some may consider gym class a second-rate period for kids to blow off steam and fill some time in the school day, the benefits are quite intriguing. From improving health on a physical and emotional level to promoting social skills, this class needs more notoriety. While it may not be considered an academic class in many curriculums, it is just as important because of the benefits of physical education. Physical activity can have a significant impact on people of all ages, but it is particularly important for school-aged children. As children grow and learn, this is one facet of their development that should not be overlooked. It is so beneficial, in fact, that schools should have mandatory physical education (P.E.) time built into their curriculum if they do not already.



Physical Benefits

It is well-documented knowledge that exercising for at least 30 minutes daily is a great way to stay physically healthy. Physical health can delay the onset of disease and statistically increase lifespans. Daily P.E. classes, particularly at the junior high and high school levels, are a great way to keep teens active who might otherwise begin an early onset to a sedentary lifestyle. With this class built into their school day, students do not have to be involved in extracurricular activities or get a gym membership to achieve this recommended daily level of exercise. It is clear that physical health contributes to living longer, but it can also be a cause for improving the quality of life. Physical activity is vital for promoting long-term health. It also contributes to health benefits beyond the physical sense.

Psychological Benefits

It is no secret that many teenagers go through phases where they struggle with self-body image issues. Weight gain can be a major issue with young people physically speaking and psychologically, which can contribute to mental health issues. Regular exercise achieved in physical education classes can combat this issue. Exercise also has other benefits to promote mental health, such as reduced stress, improved mood, better self-esteem, and increased mental alertness. In an era when students are struggling with mental health at an alarming rate, physical education classes can certainly help combat this major issue. It is more important now than ever before to find ways to curb these issues. Requiring students to have 30 minutes of daily activity through physical education class can assist students with their coping mechanisms and reduce depression and suicidal thoughts.



On September 13, the Spanish Club held their first meeting of the year. Students were nominated for officer positions and we discussed Mexico’s Independence Day. ¡El Día de Independencia is actually September 16 every year! Celebrations with parades, fireworks, and fiestas are common throughout Mexico. However, it is a common misconception by most that Mexico’s Independence Day is el cinco de mayo...and that is wrong.

Students also enjoyed some authentic tacos supplied by El Asadero! While everyone has their own preferred toppings for tacos, authentic tacos are made with corn tortillas, a meat, chopped white onion, and cilantro. Adding salsa and freshly squeezed lime juice can make them extra delicious.



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MEASURING THE DIAMETER OF THE SUN IN PHYSICS



Back thousands of years, before the invention of sophisticated telescopes, astronomers were able to use mathematical techniques to measure large distances. Erathosthenes (276-195 BC) was able to measure the radius of the Earth and Ptolemy (100-170 AD)

approximated the distance between the Earth and Moon using trigonometric methods. In the Measuring the Diameter of the Sun activity, physics students used similar mathematical techniques to estimate the diameter of the sun. To begin the process, students created a pinhole projector to create a measurable image of the sun. They then took the projector outside on a sunny day and held the projector approximately 1 meter above the ground. A small image of the sun was projected onto a piece of graph paper. Students then measured the diameter of the image. Upon returning to class, the students used the following equation and the known distance from the sun to the Earth to estimate the Sun's diameter.

diameter of Sun (D)

distance from Sun to Earth (L)

=

image size (d)

distance from image to pinhole (l)

$\frac{D}{L}$

$=$

$\frac{d}{l}$

$D = L \times \frac{d}{l}$

How close was your diameter to the actual diameter?

The actual diameter of the sun is 1,392,700 kilometers. Most students had answers with a couple of million kilometers. Deviations from the actual diameter were due to measuring errors and the angle of the sun at the time of day students gathered their data. Regardless of errors, students were able to get a sense of how ancient astronomers were able to measure such tremendous distances.

READING PHILOSOPHY



Reading is a language process which from the earliest stages involves reader interaction with the ideas of the author. Combining personal knowledge of language and the world, the reader uses information from three cueing systems: semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic, to make sense of print. Thus reading goes beyond simple decoding to become a search for patterns in meaning, problem-solving, judgment, evaluation and synthesis. An integrated approach to language programming which provides the reader with extensive oral language and practical experience with the subject area seems the most appropriate vehicle for reading instruction. In this approach reading skills are taught when the need is apparent.

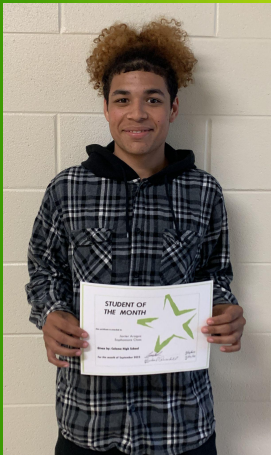
There are, however, certain elements of the reading process which should receive emphasis if students are to become high-progress learners. These elements are not specifically isolated skills but rather are certain reader behaviors which emerge at various stages of development when appropriate learning conditions are provided. Underlying all reading instruction and provision of appropriate learning conditions must be a concern for the affective development of the child. A child's attitude toward reading is of such importance that more often than not it determines his/her scholastic fate. Therefore, the aim of the reading instruction must go beyond the achievement of simple competency, to the development of readers who come to the activity willingly with the feeling that "I can read because I am a reader".

The works selected at Coloma High School represent a broad spectrum of literature. We are committed to reflecting our dedication to racial and gender equity in the works of literature in the classroom. We will do everything that we can do to reflect the values of the community in our choices. We respect the rights of each person to learn in a comfortable environment. If a student finds any book unacceptable, an alternate work will be provided without any negative inference of any kind. We welcome parental involvement in selecting or suggesting suitable books for study.

★STUDENTS OF THE ★MONTH



9TH GRADE -
Zoey Rickman



10TH GRADE -
Jaview Araguz



11TH GRADE -
Brandy Starling



12TH GRADE -
Cecilia Williams

STARFISH AWARD

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "It made a difference for that one."

Starfish Award: Chuck Luchies and has been teaching Machine Tool, Welding, and Jr. High Shop for the past 12 years here at Coloma High School. His favorite part of teaching is building things. Hobbies and interest is just living the lake life.



"FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT.
HAVING A BAD DAY, PUT A SMILE
ON AND TRY TO MAKE PEOPLE
AROUND YOU FEEL BETTER AND
YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND YOU'LL
MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER IN
DOING SO."

Chuck Luchies was picked for the starfish award because he consistently demonstrates kindness and compassion towards his students! His positive attitude and actions have a ripple effect on those around him, inspiring others to also make a positive impact in their own ways.

~ Sonya Vroon

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