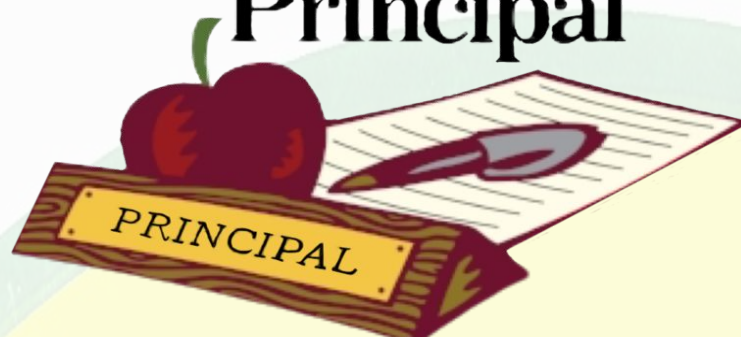


Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - February 2024



From
the
Principal



Comet Families,

Here we are at the end of February. I know I am looking forward to the weather turning and getting outside to enjoy working on my yard and having campfires. I also look forward to seeing the results of our students' hard work.

We have recently finished NWEA testing at the high school. The NWEA test measures student results in math and English over time. We look more at growth and how our students are progressing in their learning. Once the testing window closes for the district, we will begin looking at the growth of our students from September until February. Students will participate in the NWEA test one more time this year.

Besides the NWEA test, the winter sports season is beginning to come to an end. Student-Athletes will begin to transition to spring sports. Watching our student-athletes compete in any season is exciting and brings the community together.

Not only are we in full swing for this year, but we are also looking ahead to next school year. Mr. Shaffer is hard at work making sure our students have the class schedules that work best for them for next year. This time of year seems to be the beginning of a sprint until the end of the school year.

Your child will also feel the anxiety and stress that goes along with this time of the year. Some areas where students and parents can help in this area are looking a week or two ahead of time and making sure plans are made in advance. Parents can help emphasize to their child how important attendance is to their success in school. There is nothing more stressful than being out of school for a day or two and then coming back to realize how much work has been missed.

If your child is feeling overwhelmed, we do have systems in place to help. Mr. Shaffer is available to set up an appointment to talk. We also have a full time social worker that works with students 6-12th grade. We can help steer parents and students to services that can help them so they can be successful.

Our staff wants all students at Coloma High School to be successful. We are all here to help to make sure that our students have the tools they need to reach their full potential.



It's not often that a season can redefine an entire program but that's exactly what the 2023-2024 Comet Competitive Cheer team did to the cheer program at Coloma. Fielding a team with a healthy mix of underclassmen (7 freshmen and 2 sophomores) and upperclassmen (6 juniors and 2 seniors) the squad was able to get mat time for all team members. While accomplishing that the team saw incredible success on the mat as well. While breaking multiple school records multiple times, the Comets finished a program record 2nd in the conference, 2nd in the district and only missed qualifying for state finals by 2.1 points (finishing 6th at Regionals.) Ending the season ranked 12th in the state. Above all else, the girls continued to evolve the program's culture into one of fun, focus and family where everyone plays a part and everyone supports each other.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 5: Freshman Orientation, 6 pm

March 6: Late Start, School Starts at 10am

March 7: Academic Letter/Chevron, 6pm

March 19: M3 Report Cards Posted

March 20: Late Start, School starts at 10 am

March 29: ½ day of school, school ends at 11:37

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SCHEDULING

We have started scheduling for the next school year! We'd love it if you could take a moment to go over the classes your child has picked for the next school year with them. There is still some time to switch things up if needed before we finalize all the class requests.

Thanks for staying involved!

IS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FOR YOUR STUDENT???

Career and Technical Education is preparing students to meet the needs of the high-wage, high-skill jobs that are rapidly becoming available in Michigan and across this country.

Coloma High School and Berrien County offer many opportunities for our students with CTE programs. Below are some quick facts about students who are enrolled into a CTE program:

Berrien County CTE Facts: (Based on 2019-20 data)*

- Number of CTE programs in Berrien County - 66
- Number of Students involved - 2,345 (unduplicated) high school students were enrolled in CTE programs
- 30.9% of Berrien County 10th through 12th grade students took a CTE class
- CTE Graduation Rates - 94.5%

Michigan Statewide Facts: (Based on 2019-20 data)*

- 114,523 high school students participate in CTE classes throughout Michigan
- CTE Statewide Graduation Rate - 95.64%

National CTE Facts*

- 7.6 million students at the secondary level participated in CTE
- 77% of high school students participate in a CTE program while in school
- 1/3 of CTE students are enrolled in programs preparing them for careers in leading industries

Skilled Trades*

Skilled Trades are careers that often require less schooling and are in demand for fields like healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction, and automotive. Today’s Skilled Trades jobs offer a wide array of opportunities for high school and community college students

- 545,000 Professional Trade jobs in Michigan
- 15,000+ skilled trade jobs are available in Michigan
- 47,000 new job openings are expected annually

*Source: *Going Pro; ACTE/CTE Policy Watch; CTEIS Analytics Report; My School Data

Please contact Mr. Shaffer at gshaffer@ccs.coloma.org if you would like to have your student enroll i



GOLD HONOR ROLL

Aaron Dotson	Lillian Gast	Lucy Kitchell
Carter Crist	Rosa Mock	Shelby Thomas
Alyse Grenon	Kourtney Smith	Heavyn Swetay
Fletcher Todd	Hannah Wagner	Isabella Kiser
Liliana Contreras	MacKenzie Hosbein	Trevor Massey
Boden Genovese	James Anthony	Nikolai Sirk
Clara Kimmerly	Ava Cartwright	Christine Hampton
Miryssa Nelson	Brooklyn Nord	Caige Lofblad
Brielle Hicks	Ethan Northrup	Ethan Ott
McKinleigh Kraemer	Josephine Brookshire	Jackson Hammond
Hanna Sicurello	Evan Ott	Nicole Jimenez
Amber Cheek	Breanna Bell	Ana Segura-Galvez
Whitnee Hankins	Calista Rios	Charles Gagliardo
Mckenzie Sing	Kennedy Wheeler	Madyson Antio
Ingrid Kublick	Grace Daugherty	Eri Lopez
Kayle Hover-Saye	Cassidy Emrath	Grant Ecker
Cecilla Williams	Bristol Stewart	Blake Roll
Tucker Arend	Miquel Asensi	Royce Lute
Silvina Lopez	Zoey Boyd	Jayda Taylor
Gavin Morlock	Peyton Kettell	Crisstal Almora-Castillo
Aubrey Stevens	Lizbet Acevedo-Vega	Maverick Kraemer
Callen Hickmon	Callie Crisenbery	Abigail Fleischmann
Jamie Dotson	Madalina Gallegos	Juanita Goben
Fatima Avelino Reza	Karsyn Jacobs	Cullin Hannan
Cole Hartmann	Arayah Davis	Garrett Wolfe
Adan Olivo	Alisson Flores	Andrew DeRosa
Cole Brown	Brooklyn Burge	Kayden Prisk
Taylor Truman	Kadin Reimers	Audrey Schmid
Brandy Starling	Ryan Schroeder	Colten Megna
Eddy Granados	Joseph Clayton	Keilee Garner
Olivia DeChant	Michael Hamilton	Jack Watson
Lylah Hyska	McKenzie Harris	Kendyl Smith



GREEN HONOR ROLL

Jakobi Washington	Kole Bishop
Aaleeah Gales	Olivia Hansen
Joshua Padilla-Gamino	Amir Holiday
Michelle Quintana Santana	Kevin Picado
James Smith	Bria Starling
Ethan Edwards	Zoey Rickman
Alijah Scott	Breah Wilson
Matthew Case	Randy Allen
Benjamyn Hess	Carson Ashley
Lead Dyson	Madelynn Hamilton
Angel fernandez	Tatum Arend
Piper Selby	Cayden Chadwick
Angaleana Gales	Evan Schadowsky
Adrian Hoyt	Baylee Varvel
Kyleigh Machado	David Rigozzi
Abel Olivo	Robert Wagner
Aniyah Hill	Alora Puma
Julissa Mireles	Ava Leaman
Selene Ramirez	Joshua Hernandez-Alba
Emma Balkin	Jayden Williams
Ashley Herhold	Xavier Pompey
Lawsen Murphy	Dillon Baldwin
Bethany Rose	Joel Jimenez
Neal Wilson	Darion Lee
Chadwick Case	Kaleigh Foster
Lucas DeChant	Nathan Perkins
Ethan Schelling	Nytko
Paydon Woodall	Mykaylah Schwanke
	Ryann Axsom

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BAND

With our pre-festival concert last week, I got swept up in all the preparations for that and didn't have a chance to brag about our awesome high school band students who attended District Solo and Ensemble on Saturday, Feb. 10. These students prepared solos (or small ensembles) which they performed for a judge who is an expert on their instrument. These preparations were done largely on their own, and they represented Coloma so well! Please congratulate these students if you see them around!

Taj Brow- Baritone Solo

Liliana Contreras- Clarinet solo

Abigail Fleischmann- Tuba solo

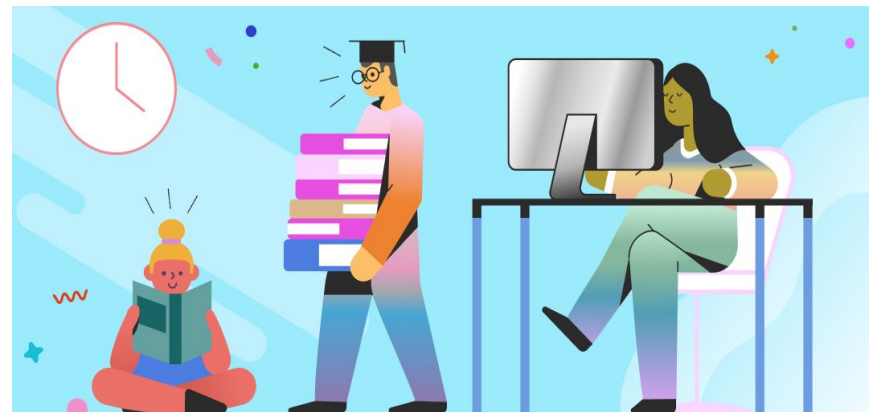
Bella Kiser- Trombone solo

Bristol Stewart- Flute solo

Evan Kirby, Brooklyn Nord, and Cullin Hannan- Trumpet trio

OH! And an extra special congratulations to the four events that earned Division I ratings (that's the best one) and have qualified for State Solo and Ensemble in March!

Taj Brow, Bella Kiser, Bristol Stewart, and the trumpet trio with Evan Kirby, Brooklyn Nord, and Cullin Hannan.



What is Mindfulness?

According to [Harvard University](https://www.harvard.edu) mindfulness is alert, open awareness of what is happening in the current moment, both in your environment and in your body. Mindfulness can apply to all aspects of life, including in the classroom. In education, it can help students manage their stress in difficult situations and stay engaged in the material that's being presented. Not only does mindfulness minimize the stress students experience, it also helps support mental, emotional, and physical health.

Here is a list of ways to incorporate mindfulness into your day (and that of your students):

- Mindful Reading
- Mindful Meditation
- Mindful Affirmations
- Mindful Breathing
- Mindful Journaling and Coloring

<https://www.beanstack.com/blog/the-benefits-of-implementing-mindfulness-practices-in-education>

Being Mindful



Be in the Present

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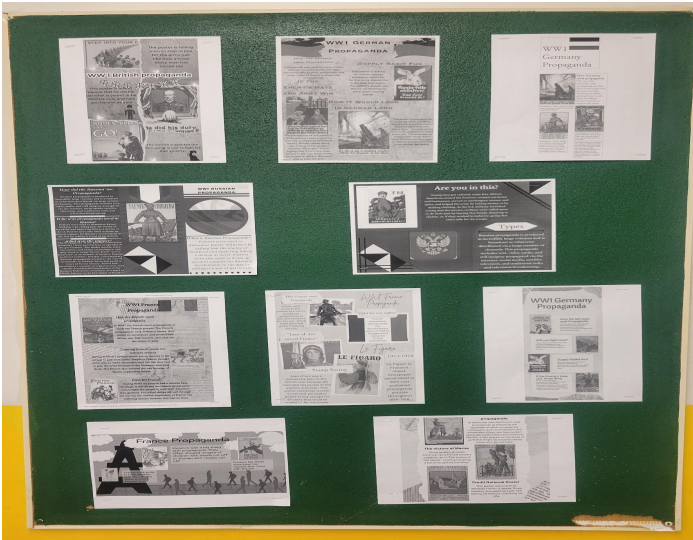


World War I Propaganda

US History students in Mr Mead’s class recently completed the unit onWorld War I. One of the assignments in the unit was to create A collage poster using at least 3 pictures from an Internet search encouraging the support of your country’s war effort. Then explain the spin on the propaganda. Such as, how does this influence the attitude about the war?

Each student was asked to describe how effective the propaganda was. “Will this be something that will make your countrymen want to run out, jump into a trench, and go over the top?”

Below are just a few of the amazing samples from the students



Students in Precalculus have had fun collecting data to better understand concepts of permutations, combinations and distributions in probability. To better understand each concept, students competed in a round robin rock-paper-scissors tournament and a paper basketball shooting competition.



Dillon Baldwin shoots the winning shot in the paper basketball competition.

Adan Olivo and Jadin Bush compete for the Rock, Paper, Scissors championship.

The round robin rock-paper-scissors tournaments illustrated the difference between permutations in which order matters and combinations in which order doesn’t matter.

An example of a permutation would be listing every person’s individual schedule:

Adan vs Jadin	Dillon vs Jadin	Eddy vs Jadin	Jadin vs Eddy
Adan vs Eddy	Dillon vs Eddy	Eddy vs Dillon	Jadin vs Dillon
Adan vs Dillon	Dillon vs Adan	Eddy vs Adan	Jadin vs Adan

Permutations list every possible match-up in every possible order of contestants making it look as if 12 games would be required to play the round robin tournament.

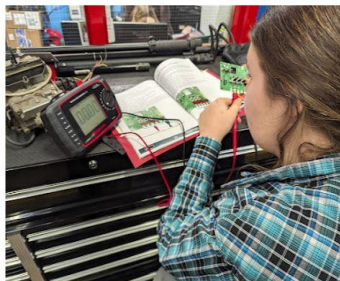
Meanwhile an example of a combination would be listing every round of games:

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Adan vs Jadin	Eddy vs Jadin	Jadin vs Dillon
Dillon vs Eddy	Adan vs Dillon	Adan vs Eddy

Combinations list each match-up only once showing that only 6 games would be required to play the round robin tournament because the order the contestants are listed doesn’t actually matter.



CERTIFICATION CENTER



Coloma HS Automotive Technology has become an Nc3 Certification Center and Snap-on Certification Center and we are now offering 4 new Training programs leading to Industry certification. In the near future we will be adding a 5th certification. Current certifications available are Multimeter Training and Certification, Battery Testing and service, Charging system diagnosis, Starting system diagnosis. This summer I will be training to provide the Wheel Balancing and Vibration/Harmonic Analysis Certification. These Certifications are taught using Snap-on Tools and Equipment and Curriculum. In order to provide these certifications and the training I the instructor have had to complete the training and certifications myself.

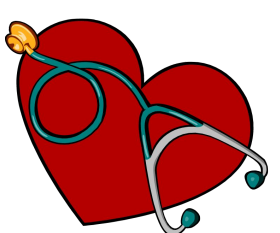
As of this article three 3rd year students have completed the Multimeter certification and five more are in process. in the next few months 2nd year students will have their opportunity to complete the multimeter certification and the battery starting and charging.



Coloma High School HOSA members, Liliana Contreras, Olivia Craft, Whitnee Hankins and Cecilla Williams made tie blankets and donated them to the Rehabilitation Department at Corewell Health, South in Watervliet on February 16, 2024.

Liliana, Olivia, Whitnee and Cecilla are students in the health science classes at Coloma High School. The CTE (Career Technical Education) programs offered are; PHCA (Professional Health Careers Academy) and CNA (Certified Nurse Aide).

Michigan HOSA is an organization for students interested in pursuing a healthcare career. They offer a wide range of opportunities for students including growing leadership skills and community service.



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STARFISH AWARD



“Never be afraid to try something and fail. Some of the best learning comes from failing then learning from it reversing and trying a different way!”



Ryan Ransom has worked for 18 years at Coloma High School in Automotive Technology. Ryan's favorite moments of teaching are the moments when you see the light of understanding in a students eyes and they start to grow in ability and confidence.

When he was 10 years old they had an old Rototiller that smoked enough to kill mosquitos. This was a problem as they had a big garden so Ryan told his dad if he got him a repair manual he would fix it. Of course, he didn't know what he was getting into. Ryan's dad got him the manual a Chiltons Guide to Small Engine Repair with that plus a friend of the family who had a shop that offered advice and we had a Rototiller that no longer smoked and even repainted it. A Briggs and Stratton engine.

This success was what ignited his passion for fixing things and led to the Automotive Repair Industry as a career. By the time he was 14, he had found the Foley Belsaw Institute mail order small engine training course and passed both the Basic and Advanced courses in Small Engine Repair and had certifications. At this point, Ryan started buying and flipping lawn mowers and repairing small engines and other lawn equipment for folks in the South Haven area.

When he reached the age of 15 and was looking for his first vehicle, his dad talked to their local Mechanic Harold Cullum who owned Cullum's Auto Repair and he took Ryan on as an unpaid intern a couple days a week. He and his employee Butch taught Ryan how to do brake jobs, machine brake discs, tuneups, changed oil and helped with engine and transmission R&R. Harold did pay him in a way as he gave him parts for his 1986 Chevy C20 he was fixing up at the time.

At this point, Ryan was sure he wanted to work on cars and trucks for a living so he enrolled in the Van Buren Vo-Tech Center (Now Van Buren Tech) and took 2 years of Automotive Technology. His instructors were Dennis Godlew, Dan Buzalski and Tom Ruisink. They instilled many lessons of doing things properly and helped Ryan fill out his knowledge of automotive fundamentals. As a Junior, he heard about the GM Youth Education System an apprenticeship for Automotive Trainees sponsored by General Motors and local Dealers. Ron Morton at Morton Chevrolet in Decatur, MI took a chance on him and signed a contract with Ryan during the fall of his Senior year. He went to school at the Vocational Center mornings and worked at the dealer in the afternoon. His Mentor Fred Leffler at the Dealer was a great help and taught him many tricks of the trade and shortcuts to add speed to his technique. Fred was the Shop Forman and senior Technician.

Many people had an influence on who Ryan Ransom became in this Industry. Always look for those influences whether they are Parents, Grandparents, Instructors, Coworkers or Employers. There are many people that want to help you succeed but you have to be willing for their help. Ryan says, “You **MUST** put in the effort and show you are worthy of people's time. When you do you will find those that will put massive effort into your success.”



Bristol Stewart -
9th grade



Grace Daugherty -
10th grade



Tucker Arend -
11th grade



Alyse Grenon -
12th grade

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