

Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2022

Principal's NEWS

FROM THE
DESK OF:
Craig Fisher



The 2022-2023 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, Algebra, and Geometry.

Colleges, Universities, and branches of the armed forces have all visited the high school during lunches to give students general information about what opportunities each institution offers. So far we have had eleven different groups in the past month.

I know the last couple of years have been hard on us all, but we are working to make sure the students at Coloma High School experience the traditions that as adults we all look back with fondness.

Homecoming 2022 has been a huge success with the students. Students and staff participated in dress up days all week. Friday, 9/30/2022, 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 Student Council Advisors Jennifer Ickes and Wendy Goodline for all of their hard work organizing the homecoming events for our students.

Our staff is really looking forward to meeting with parents and guardians of high school students during parent/teacher conferences on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 and Thursday, October 27, 2022 from 4-7pm. 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.

I am proud of the hard work that staff and students have done so far during the 2022-2023 school year, and I am looking forward to seeing the progression throughout the rest of the school year.



OCTOBER 3 - RETAKE PICTURE DAY
OCTOBER 7 - ½ DAY
OCTOBER 10 - NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 12 - LATE START, SCHOOL STARTS AT 10AM
OCTOBER 19 - NHS INDUCTION 6:30PM
OCTOBER 20 - FALL CHOIR CONCERT
OCTOBER 21 - END OF MP1
OCTOBER 25 & 27 - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
OCTOBER 28 - ½ DAY

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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:

- Mondays during RTI, students will be shown various videos to highlight post-secondary options
- Fridays will be “Wear Your Gear Day”. This will be where students and staff are encouraged to wear their favorite shirt that represents a college, military branch, or work-related profession
- College Rep Visits! Students will be able to meet with representatives from a variety of schools and post-secondary programs during lunch hours
- DOOR DECORATING CONTEST - classes will compete with each other by decorating their classroom doors with their favorite college/university, military branch, and/or work-related profession. Winning classroom will be presented some amazing doughnuts delivered...COMET STYLE (ask your student if you do not know what this means)

Seniors - October Highlights

- October 1st - FAFSA opens! You MUST do this in order to be eligible for college funds
- Many colleges/universities will have application fees reduced or waived. Information on this will be sent in your student emails, on announcements in October, and sent to parent emails via School Messenger



Lane Alsup holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Choral/General Music Education, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish, both received from Western Michigan University and an Associate of Arts degree from Lake Michigan College. Lane is a proud Comet Alum from the class of 2015 and is honored to begin his teaching career right back at home!



Mr. Fields is excited to be back at Coloma High School! Coming back, I could not have envisioned a better welcome from both the students, and the staff. My teaching career began in 2015 when I moved here to begin teaching here at Coloma. My hope is that I will continue to have the privilege to teach at Coloma High School and I can end my career here as well. When I moved here to teach at Coloma, I didn't realize how amazing the west coast of Michigan is until I moved here, and I can't imagine living anywhere else. Teaching math is one of my biggest passions. Helping students gain confidence in their mathematical abilities and in life, are my biggest goals as a teacher. Outside of school I enjoy spending as much time as I can with my 3 year old son Bensen. He is truly my doppelganger. In addition, I enjoy basketball in all forms, watching the Chicago Bears, spending time outdoors, and being near Lake Michigan as much as possible.

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FUN FACTS ABOUT SPANISH

- Learning Spanish is fun, practical, and helpful. Fun because Señor Ford teaches with passion. It is practical because you can use Spanish in your community right away. Spanish is helpful because you can actually get better at your English skills while learning it.
- Projections state the country with the most Spanish speakers worldwide...will be the USA by the year 2050. FYI, the current population of Mexico is 128.9 million. The current US population is 329.5 million. That is approximately 40% of the US citizens.
- Also, there are currently 572 million Spanish speakers worldwide with 477 million being native speakers. Spanish is now the second most spoken language worldwide.
- Spanish has its roots in Latin and is called a Romance language. Italian, French, Portuguese, Romanian are other languages based on Latin and the influence of the Roman Empire.
- There are words from Spanish that English speakers have “stolen” and added to the English language. Breeze, mustang, stampede, tornado, canyon, vanilla, and tornado are some of these words. This “theft” also occurs in reverse. Some examples are: bistec, troca, jonron, mitin, futbol, and coctel. Check with me at parent/teacher conferences if you’d like to know more.
- There are health benefits to knowing an extra language! Studies show that knowing/using/learning another language can help prevent the onset of dementia. Use that brain!
- It is important to keep practicing. If you don’t use Spanish, your level of skills could drop. It is NOT like riding a bike. Use it or lose it!



MISCONCEPTIONS

Gym class has carried the same inaccurate stigma for generations: It’s only for the athletes. This couldn’t be further from the truth! The name of the class alone (Physical Education) means to educate oneself of the benefits of physical activity.

The Misconceptions	The Truth
Gym class is for the athletes	It’s for everyone, especially those who have little experience with organized sports.
You’re graded based on how good of an athlete you are.	You’re graded on how well you participate and your understanding of the structure of various activities.
You have to change your clothes every day of class.	You don’t have to “change” everyday. You just have to avoid certain shoes like boots/heels as well as pants like jeans. If you wear basketball shorts and a t-shirt to school, you can walk into a gym and be considered dressed appropriately without changing.
The only sports played in gym are bigger team sports like football and basketball	Big team sports are likely not available in an organized fashion after high school. High school PE classes try to focus on lifelong activities that can be continued after one finishes high school.

The reason our physical education program offers activities such as badminton, pickleball and tennis is because individuals would be able to continue those activities without the assistance of a high school athletic program. Our physical education department aims to educate students on activities they can participate in within their community at a low cost to continue being physically active. The sad truth is: that when the availability of organized sports offered by a high school disappears, so does one’s physical activity, which results in health risks.





READING PHILOSOPHY

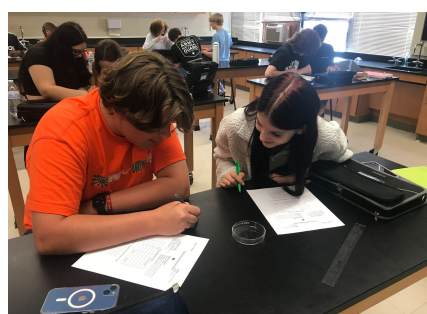


Reading is a language process which from the earliest stages involves reader interaction with the ideas of the author. Combining personal knowledge of language and the world, the reader uses information from three cueing systems: semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic, to make sense of print. Thus reading 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".

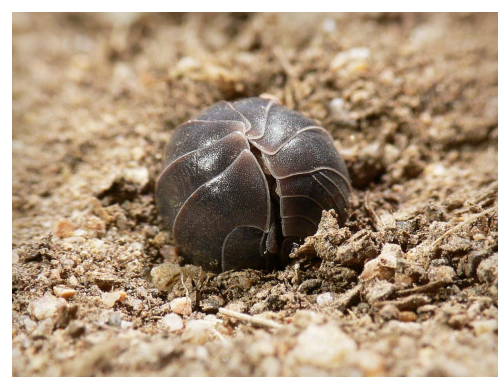
The works selected at Coloma High School represent a broad spectrum of literature. We are committed to reflecting our dedication to racial and gender equity in the works of literature in the classroom. We will do everything that we can do to reflect the values of the community in our choices. We respect 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.

Observing Pill Bugs to Collect Biological Data



Seeing different forms of life and interacting with them on a daily basis is something we all do without giving it much thought. Things like walking your dog,

talking with your friends or even mowing the grass are all interactions with living things. You may ask yourself, "What do these things have in common?" Students in Ms. VanNiel's biology class explored that very question when they conducted the Collecting Biological Data activity. In this activity, students observed the characteristics of pill bugs (sometimes called roly polies) to determine if they demonstrated the characteristics of life. Before beginning the procedure, they noted characteristics such as color, length, number of legs and body segments. For the procedure, they gently touched the underside of the pill bug with their pencils. This caused the pill bug to roll up into a ball. The students then timed how long it took for the pill bug to return to normal. They repeated this process five times and then found the average time. The next step was to create a graph to display the data collected. Finally they drew conclusions, based on these observations, about whether or not the pill bugs the characteristics of life. The students did a great job with this activity.



PICTURE RETAKES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

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★STUDENTS OF THE ★MONTH



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."

****This award is presented to educators who go above and beyond to meet the needs of all of their students through Universal Design for Learning and the implementation of accessible educational materials and assistive technology.****



This month's winner is Brande VanNiel. Brande has taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics for 23 years. Her favorite part of teaching is working with the students and staff. With any spare time that Brande's has, she likes to read, run and Kayak.

"Work hard at developing good time management.. It's one of the skills you will use your entire life!"



**9TH GRADE -
EVAN SCHADOWSKY**



**10TH GRADE -
RYAN SCHROEDER**



**11TH GRADE -
BODEN GENOVESE**



**12TH GRADE -
KAMYA WHITFIELD**

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