

Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - DECEMBER 2022



FROM THE
DESK OF:
Craig Fisher



By the time of this newsletter's publication, your child will have finished their first semester classes and will be looking forward to next semester's schedule. One of the great things about starting the second semester is the idea of a fresh start. Being able to begin classes fresh helps us all concentrate and learn from behaviors and choices that we may have made.

When students get back from break, Coloma High School will be gearing up for standardized testing such as the MSTEP, PSAT, and SAT. Students will also complete the second round of NWEA testing which helps the district progress monitor our school wide goals. Our underclassmen will be getting information about classes offered at Coloma to help them make decisions for the 2023-2024 school year. Our Seniors will be looking forward to graduation. Not to mention sports and other extracurricular activities like prom. The second semester is jam packed for students.

With all of that being on the schedule for the next five months, it is also important for all stakeholders to take into account that we cannot lose sight of what is most important. Our students need to make sure that they are able to keep up with their daily work. The list of items from above feeds off of how the students progress on a daily basis. Teachers and students will work together to make sure tasks are accomplished and goals are met. Teachers and parents also need to have an open line of communication so parents can help guide students through these priorities.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I am excited for the beginning of next semester and seeing what our students accomplish!

*Sixth Annual Chili Contest Winner
Congratulations to Mr. Fisher!*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 9: Back to School

January 11: Late start - school starts at 10am

January 13: Blood Drive - 10-6

January 16: MLK Day - No School

January 20: 9th grade Vision Testing

January 25: Late start - school starts att 10am

February 8: SPRING COUNT DAY!

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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Sophomores

Interested in possibly earning a college degree while in high school...for FREE? You may want to consider applying for the Early/Middle College (EMC) program. Students are ONLY able to apply for the EMC program in their sophomore year and there is an application process. Don't pass up this amazing opportunity!

December 9th - Early/Middle College (EMC) Applications OPEN!

Click [HERE](#) for more information and for the EMC application!!

Seniors

Please use the time during Christmas Break to work on completing FAFSA, scholarships, and college applications.

Importance of Completing FAFSA

Paying for college might feel overwhelming, but there are many ways to reduce the cost to your family.

1. **The first step in securing any kind of financial aid is completing the FAFSA.** To complete the FAFSA, go to www.studentaid.gov and create an account. The earlier you complete the FAFSA, the more financial aid is available.
2. Has your student received Medicaid for two consecutive years between ages 9 and now? They may be eligible for the Michigan Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), which provides significant financial assistance at various institutions. Complete your FAFSA and go to the MiSSG Student Portal to determine your eligibility at: www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid.
3. Whether or not students qualify for financial aid, everyone can apply for scholarships. Scholarships fall into three general categories:
 - a. **National/state scholarships** are often large prizes with large applicant pools and can be found through reliable websites such as Fastweb and CollegeBoard.
 - b. **Local scholarships** are available to CHS students or Berrien County students only, and applications are available at: www.berriencommunity.org.
 - c. **School/program-based scholarships** are listed on college websites and are only available to accepted students who meet certain eligibility requirements. We recommend that students focus on local and college-based scholarships.

One search engine that I have personally used and love (but cannot "officially" endorse) is GoingMerry for both FAFSA completion and scholarship search. Click [HERE](#) to create your free account or go directly to GoingMerry.com!

Questions?

Please feel free to contact Mr. Shaffer with any questions at: gshaffer@ccs.coloma.org or 269-468-2400 ext. 4004.



The Christmas Lights Went Out

The Christmas lights went out—
The ones Dad just suspended.
He took all day to hang them,
But their gleaming's promptly ended.

I wonder how he'll take it
When he steps out in the snow
To marvel at his handiwork
But find he's missed the show.

The Christmas lights went out,
And all's dark on our lawn—
One fleeting, fizzling moment
And his masterpiece is gone.

I think I'll step inside now
To avoid how he reacts
When he finds one broken bulb
In the middle of my tracks.

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excerpt from "Suzie Bitner Was Afraid of the Drain"
www.suziebitner.com



**FROM OUR SCHOOL
FAMILY TO YOURS:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
SEE YOU IN 2023!**

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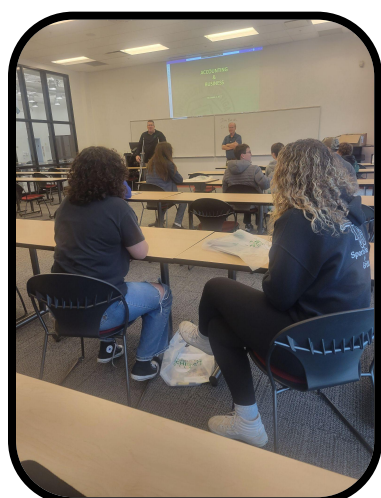
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CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Students from Mr. Mead's CTE classes were able to spend a day at SMC touring their campus learning about business, management, sports management, finance, accounting, information technology, networking and E sports. These students were given a tour of campus, student recreation center and housing. While on this visit our hosts showed off some of the classes, skills, technology and what to expect if you enroll in a Business/ IT program at SMC. Students were able to learn first hand what goes on in classes and on campus at SMC. They also were given information on what type of classes and careers go with the programs discussed, so they can help select classes for their own career pathway.



RESOURCE CLASSES

What is a resource room, who can go there, and what kind of instruction goes on behind those closed doors? The resource room is a place where two things happen. It is a room where students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) come and get that extra help in a subject they are struggling with, and a class where they get the help they need to meet their benchmark goals. They can work on assignments, homework, or special projects. The teacher must be flexible, because every student has a different need every day.

In Mr. Cripe's resource room, for the first half of the class, the students work on benchmarking goals. They grab their folders and work on their assignments. The assignments are structured for that student and what they need to learn in order to get up to grade level. The students track how they are progressing toward their goals and track their grades for all of their classes. They also list any assignments that are coming due or are late. With this information they make a plan on when they are going to work on what assignment.

The second half of the class the students work on assignments from other classes. This gives the students the opportunity to ask questions and get the extra help they may need. They can work together or work with the teacher. It can become very interesting when you have a room full of students and each of them are working on different assignments. The teacher must be well versed on multiple subjects and able to shift from student to student as needed.

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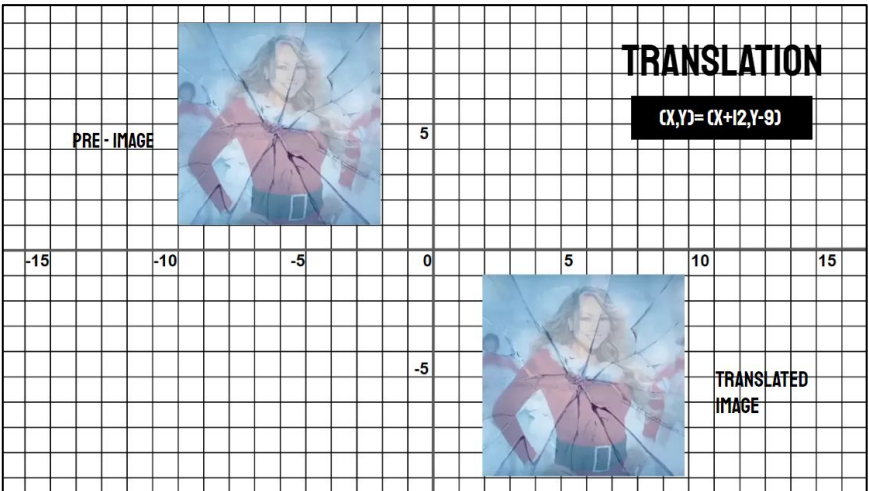
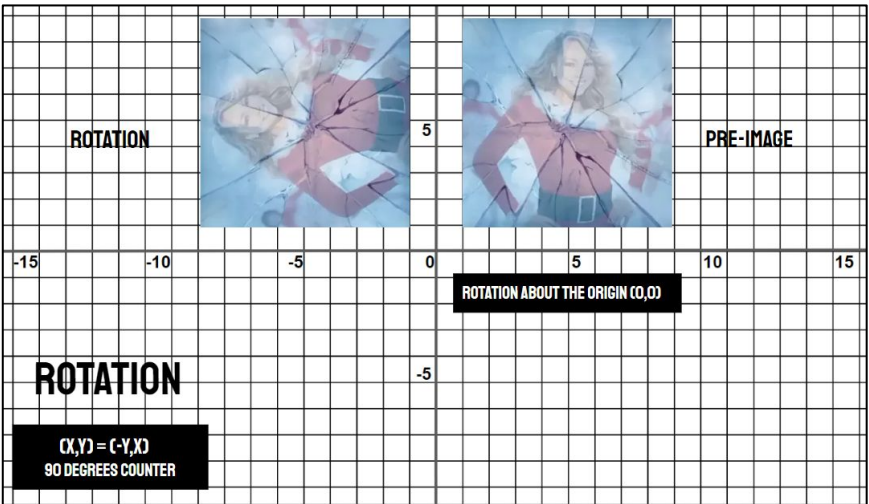
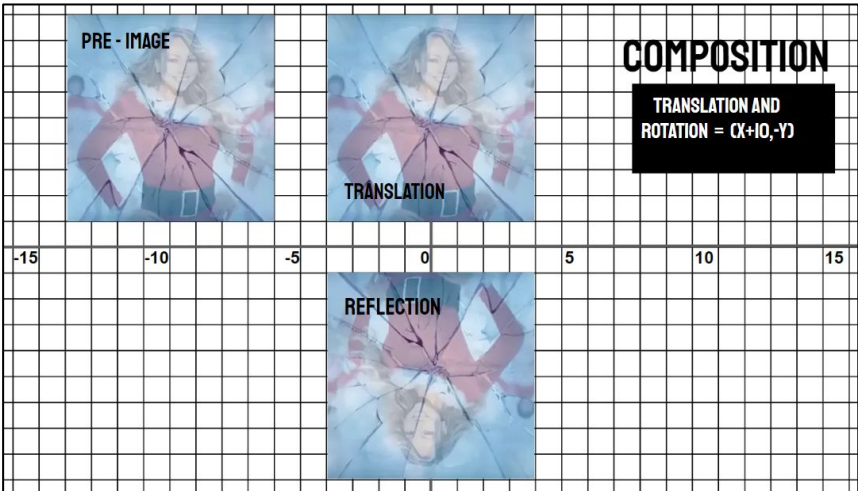
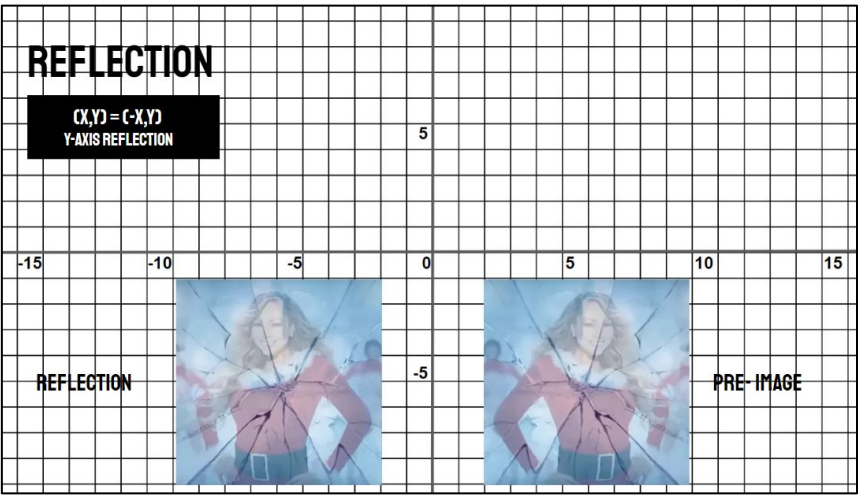
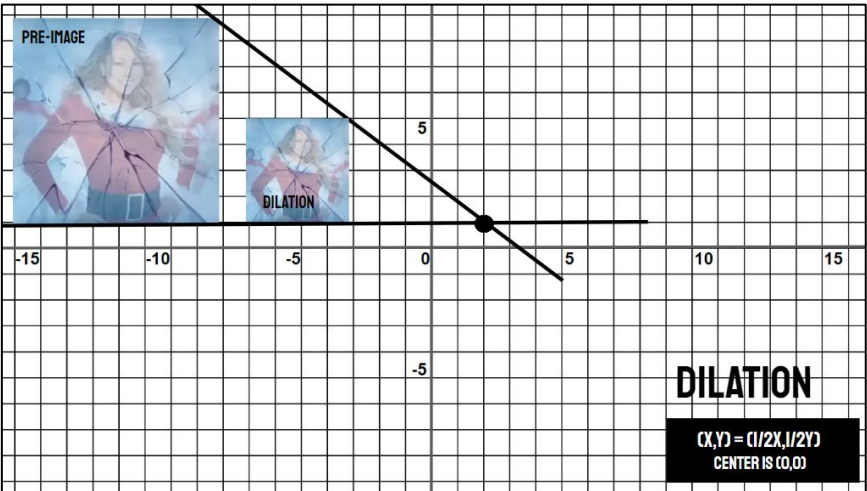
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TRANSFORMATION IN GEOMETRY

Have you ever wondered how the graphics of your favorite video game are created? Geometry students learned the basic geometric transformations that are used to move an image across a screen. These transformations included translations, reflections, rotations and compositions. Translations move an image left or right and/or up or down. Reflections mirror an image over a “line of reflection”. Rotations turn an image around a given “point of rotation”. Lastly, compositions combine 2 or more transformations. Students created these transformations using Google Slides. Aubrey Stevens is ready for the Holiday Season as shown below:



Mr. Fisher our “Maitre d” for the morning. Surprised the teachers and staff by going room to room serving coffee, tea, hot chocolate as well as many other treats.

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SENIORITIS

SENIOR YEAR can be a long list of lasts, as well as a long list of bests. From the last first day of school to the final time one wears their school colors at graduation, senior year can be the best out of the “greatest years.” Senioritis is defined as “a decline in motivation or academic performance that supposedly afflicts some seniors in high school, especially in their last term”. This can be seen in most schools. Whether it be hanging out with friends or skipping a small math assignment because “it won’t affect my grade,” senioritis can be seen in most students at some level.

Overall, some of the most common senioritis symptoms include:

- Falling academic performance
- Declining school attendance
- Stopping extracurricular activities
- Skipping work or volunteering hours
- Withdrawing from friends or family
- Personality changes
- Shifts in emotional well-being
- Exhaustion, tiredness, or sleepiness

Luckily, there are simple steps to beating the affliction and finishing the year strong.

ENCOURAGE FUN

Making time for recreation is important. Play brings joy. And it’s vital for problem-solving, creativity, and relationships.

Students shouldn’t give up everything that makes them happy for the sake of school. Instead, they need to find a balance, ensuring they are performing well as students and living their outside lives.

SET ACHIEVABLE GOALS

Setting attainable goals is another good idea. This helps students organize their responsibilities and determine a reasonable path for handling what needs to be done. It can also shine a light on tasks that aren’t crucial, making it easier to find places to cut back, if necessary.

STOP OBSESSING OVER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

It’s wise for students to not overly fixate on college admissions or their after-high school academic plan. Obsessing about whether they’ll get into a top choice school can add stress and make their senior year harder.

It’s also crucial that parents adopt the same mindset. If a parent continuously pressures their student for details about college admissions, it can ramp up their student’s anxiety, making what can be a difficult period worse.

CREATE A PLAN

In many cases, having a solid plan for applying to college, landing scholarships, and completing the FAFSA can help students stay grounded. Scheduling critical activities over time prevents the college transition from becoming overwhelming, and that can make a difference.

BE SUPPORTIVE

As a parent, if you suspect your student has senioritis, being supportive does help. Talk to your student about the situation. Find out what’s giving them trouble. See if there is anything you can do to make navigating their senior year easier.

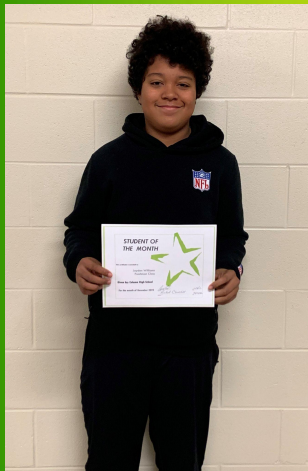
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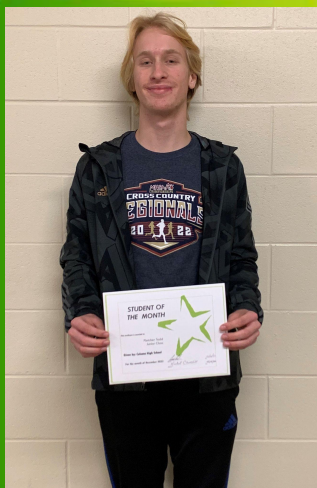
★STUDENTS OF THE ★MONTH



**9TH GRADE -
Jayden Williams**



**10TH GRADE -
Landon Kittell**



**11TH GRADE -
Fletcher Todd**



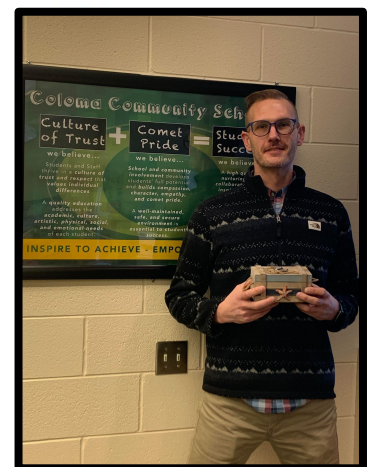
**12TH GRADE -
Canryn Brown**

STARFISH AWARD

For this month's "Starfish Award", I would like to nominate my colleague Josh Fields. I nominate Josh because of his dedication in doing what is best for his students. Josh has the amazing ability to form relationships with his students that allow ALL students to learn and be successful in his math classes. Mr. Field's commitment to his students' learning is second to none, which is why he is so deserving of this award.

---Mrs. Jenn Ickes

“Live in the moment
the past is the past
and the future will
come soon enough.
Enjoy high school for
what it is and make
the most of each and
everyday”



Mr. Fields has taught Algebra I and Geometry for 2-½ years.. His favorite part of teaching is developing relationships with students and helping them succeed. Then celebrate their successes. Hobbies include basketball, Chicago Bears, listening to live music, spending time in nature watching the sunsets, mountain biking traveling and most importantly spending time with his son, Benson.

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