

Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - FEBRUARY 2023



FROM THE
DESK OF:
Craig Fisher



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 ahead of time. 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 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 7: New Date and Time for Freshman Orientation,

March 9: Late Start,- School starts at 10 am

March 11: St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 17: ½ day; school ends at 11:37am - End of Marking Period 3

March 28: Report Cards for M3 due

March 30: Senior Class Portraits

****April 7 - STR8TALK Presentation****

MISSION STATEMENT:

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and empower them for their future success.

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE –EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS



Scheduling

We have begun the scheduling process for next school year and we will continue to work with your student(s) with their course selections. As students have requested their courses they were asked to share their choices with you at home. Please feel free to review the links below to assist in course planning with your student(s):

Click [HERE](#) for course descriptions.
Click [HERE](#) for a sample 4 year scheduling plan.

Interested in a career in the healthcare industry and potentially earn college credits for FREE? Consider PHCA!

The Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA) program introduces high school juniors and seniors to professional health careers through both coursework and rotating internships in area healthcare facilities. It is a partnership between Lakeland Regional Health System, Lake Michigan College, Western Michigan University, the PA 56 Consortium, and the Berrien RESA.

- CONTENT AREAS
 - Medical Ethics
 - Safety (CPR, Infection Control)
 - Medical Terminology
 - Body Structure and Function
 - Assessment Procedures
 - Legal Responsibilities
 - Human Anatomy Emergency Procedures

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

PHCA applications are due March 15th!
Click [HERE](#) for application!

Questions / Concerns ???

As always, please feel free to contact Mr. Shaffer at:
gshaffer@ccs.coloma.org



BAND

The Coloma HS Comet band had several students perform at MSBOA District Solo and Ensemble this month. These students prepared a solo, and in a couple cases a duet, to perform for a judge and receive a rating. A Division I rating is considered superior (like the grade of an A) and a Division II is considered excellent (grade equivalent is a B).

Our Band Director, Kaitlyn Keck is so proud to say that all of the students received either a Division I or a Division II rating! Those who received a Division I have qualified for the State level of Solo and Ensemble where the judging is much more rigorous. If you see any of these kiddos, be sure to congratulate them on a job well done. They represented Coloma well! :)

Emily Abraham/Alyse Grenon
Division I Flute Duet

Brooklyn Nord/Isabella Kiser
Division II Trumpet/Trombone Duet

Grayson Coulter
Division II Trombone Solo

Isabella Kiser
Division I Trombone Solo

Liliana Contreras
Division I Clarinet Solo





Students in Pre-Calculus 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 modified basketball shooting competition.



Hanna Sicurello faces off against Ayvah Johnson



Carter Crist and Atisthan “Pray” Phonpittayakul compete for the Championship

The round robin rock-paper-scissors tournament illustrated the difference between permutations and combinations.

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

Hanna vs Ayvah	Ayvah vs Hanna	Carter vs Pray	Pray vs Carter
Hanna vs Carter	Ayvah vs Pray	Carter vs Hanna	Pray vs Ayvah
Hanna vs Pray	Ayvah vs Carter	Carter vs Ayvah	Pray vs Hanna

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
Hanna vs Ayvah	Carter vs Hanna	Pray vs Hanna
Carter vs Pray	Ayvah vs Pray	Ayvah vs Carter

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.

DIFFERENTIAL LEARNING IN HISTORY

Here at Coloma High School, our history teachers are doing more than just teaching historical dates and events to their students. Students are engaged in many activities with differentiated learning in history classes. Most of these activities help students learn and fine tune their skills as a young historian. Some of the skills being taught in history classes are: reading maps, reading timelines, examining data, analyzing primary and secondary sources and writing history “in your own context”. Through mapping exercises students are able to examine a map and determine where events happened and why they occurred in that area. Students also learn to analyze timelines and sort through information, and dates to link events through cause and effect. Students look at many different types of primary sources as a part of history classes as well. This can vary from Laws and Acts from Congress to political cartoons of the time period. Students learn to closely examine primary sources by determining what type of source the document is, who wrote it, who the main audience is and what it means. Students can then use that information to once again write history into their own context. There are many ways to teach these skills to students. One of the ways the history department has done this is through skill stations in class. These skill stations allow students to move around the class to different stations set up by the teacher where students work on different exercises building their skills as a young historian.



Students working at the different skill stations in Mr. Mead’s World History class

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CO-TEACHING IN ELA CLASS

Lenny Meschino is a co-teacher for Mr. Sheehan's 9th grade ELA class. Co-teaching creates an inclusive environment, and the goal is to keep the students in the same classroom regardless of their skill level. Inclusion increases one-on-one support for students, improves the student-to-teacher ratio within the general education classroom and sets students up for academic success! Other areas of support include reading tests, quizzes and books out loud.

Currently, the class is reading *A Thief of Always*, written by Clive Barker. If the students aren't reading independently or working on assignments, classmates work together, collaborate in groups, which helps promote social awareness. The 9th grade class does something different everyday, which helps keep the students engaged!



2nd and 3rd year students are learning about Drivetrain components specifically Automatic Transmission Service at this time. They are learning about Transmission Fluid types, Capacity and how to properly change or rejuvenate the fluid and Filter if equipped.

Earlier in the Year I applied for an Equipment Grant and am happy to report my applications were accepted and the program is receiving a new 12,000 Lb Challenger 2 Post Vehicle lift and a Snap-on Tools Battery Testing and Evaluation Certification Kit. This Lift will allow the safe lifting of heavier vehicles and taller ones as well. This certification opportunity through Snap-On Tools and NC3 will add to the increasing number of stackable certifications students can earn in the Automotive Technology Program.

Some of the certifications students can earn while in the Automotive Technology Program at Coloma HS.

- Automotive Service Excellence or ASE Entry Level Certification
- Ford New Tech ACES Certification - these convert to Stars certifications if a student is hired by Ford after HS. (over 90 Hrs of training and certifications are available)
- OSHA 10 Hr Safety Certification

Finally I would like to thank Tapper Ford in Paw Paw MI for sponsoring my students and program so that we can offer the Ford New Tech ACES program to our students here in Coloma!

AUTO LAB



In the Auto Lab the 1st Year students are learning about Braking systems and currently inspecting and measuring drum Brakes. This includes learning to use Precision Measuring tools and verify these measurements against Factory Specifications.

1st Year students have almost all completed their OSHA 10 Hr Certification Course and will be receiving their US Dept of Labor Certification Cards in the mail shortly if they have not already. Each year every new group of students completes this certification. Also of note students can apply for 1 Credit Hr of Industrial Safety Direct Credit through LMC at the beginning of each year.

Transmission
Systems



Transmission
Systems Work



Brake work



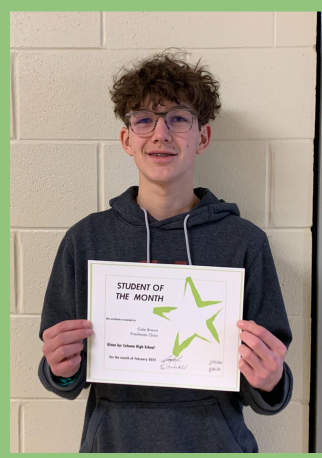
Measuring Brake
Drums

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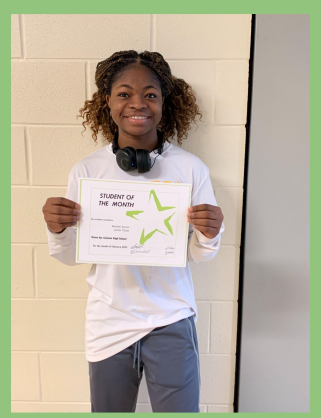
★STUDENTS OF THE ★MONTH



9TH GRADE -
Cole Brown



10TH GRADE -
Jaylen Draughter



11TH GRADE -
Miatta Sarno



12TH GRADE -
Brianna Loomis

STARFISH AWARD

Mr. VanPeteghem has been teaching English and Public Speaking at Coloma for 24 years. His favorite part of teaching is seeing the students become engaged and doing things they didn't realize they could do. Outside of school he enjoys going to his kids sporting events, coaching baseball, gardening and growing vegetables and pumpkins, collecting coins, sports cards, and license plates, watching baseball, and of course eating good food.



**Be a catalyst
for change.
Live your life
inspired to
find things
you are
passionate
about and
make those
things better
than they are
now.**

I chose Mr. Kevin VanPeteghem for the February Starfish Award because in my 9 years at Coloma I've seen how Mr. VanPeteghem truly cares about students and does everything he can to help students to be successful. He regularly will communicate with other teachers and coaches so individual students who sometimes need the most help get the much needed support of an entire team of teachers. ~ Mr. Klee

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