

# Comet Comments

BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE - AUGUST 2021



## FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

**Welcome to the 2021-22 School year! I am excited to see many returning upperclassmen this year as well as welcoming the students and parents of the class of 2025! There have been improvements and upgrades taking place at school this summer! We have new HD lighting in the student parking lot to increase visibility and keep everyone just that much more safe! Also, we have new cafeteria flooring and seating arrangements!**

**CHS will continue its endeavor with Professional Learning Communities. Teachers will continue to work collaboratively during delayed start Wednesdays to develop common assessments and discuss data to offer support in the necessary areas. We will continue to support students at all levels of learning; inspiring to achieve and empowering to succeed!**

**Last, we are excited about starting the school year off with what might be seen as “normal” as long as transmission rates are low we can expect to not be wearing masks and have such tight parameters on social distance. That said, I do want to remind everyone that if we take consideration in washing hands, coughing and sneezing into our elbows or a tissue we are helping everyone stay a bit more healthy and keeping the possibility of mask wearing rearing its head again here at school!**



A parent or legal guardian of a student who has completed grade 9 may request a personal curriculum for the student that modifies certain Michigan Merit Standard requirements. If all of the requirements for a personal curriculum are met, then the board may award a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes his/her personal curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the Michigan Merit Standard. If the request for a personal curriculum is made by the student's parent or legal guardian or, if the student is at least age eighteen (18) or is an emancipated minor, by the student, the school District shall develop a person curriculum for the student. Developing a personal curriculum does not guarantee that it will be approved by the district. The District shall not limit or discourage the number of students with a personal curriculum on any basis other than the best interests of each individual student. Please contact the guidance counselor or Principal for more details should you feel this is an option for your child.



**August 24th - Freshman Orientation, 6:00pm**

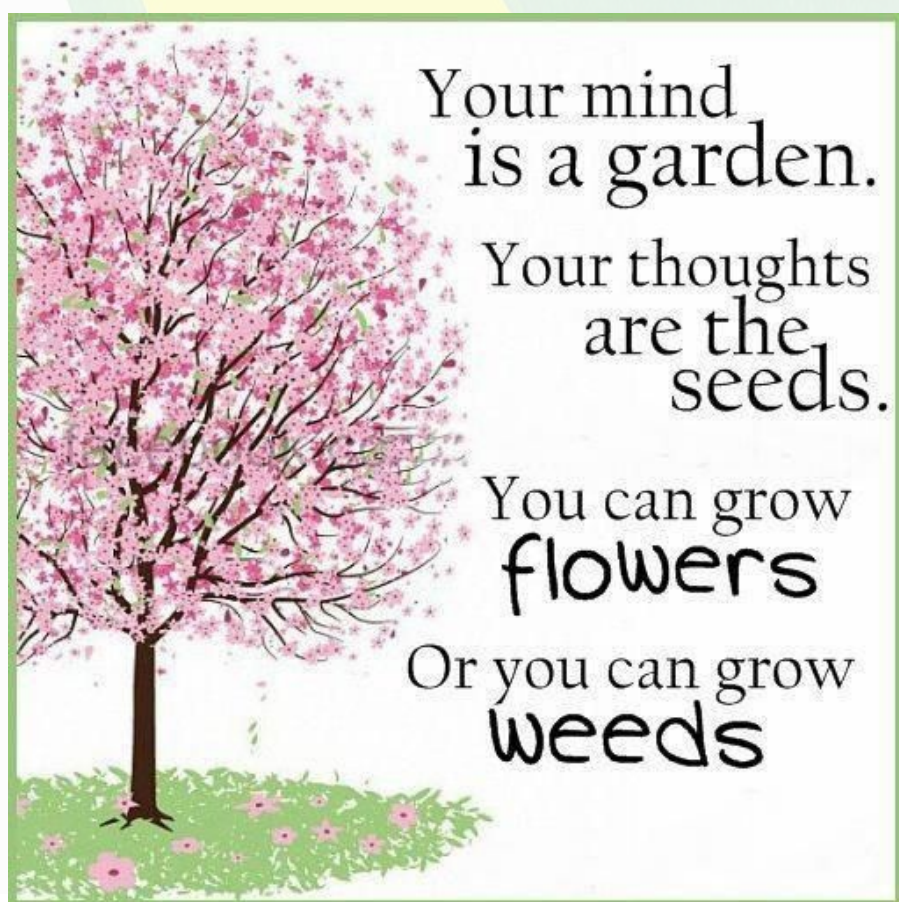
**August 30 - First day of School (½ day) and Picture Day!**

**September 3rd - No School**

**September 6th - Labor Day, No School**

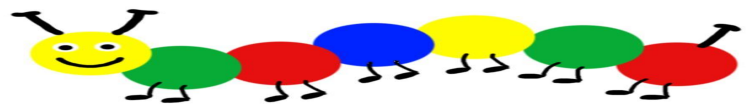
**September 15th - Late Start, School starts at 10:am**

**September 29 - Late Start, School starts at 10:00am**



# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

## Parent Information



**NO BREAKFAST  
WILL BE SERVED  
THE FIRST DAY  
OF SCHOOL!**

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

On the first day of school (Monday, August 30, 2021), all high school students will report to the High School Auditorium for a quick information meeting. From there, students will be organized by class and released to follow a four period bell schedule. On the first day, students will receive their schedule, receive a rules/procedures briefing, receive their lockers, sign up for parking passes, and have their school pictures taken. 9 - 12 graders will be issued their Chromebook on the first full day of School (Tuesday, August 31, 2021).

**\*DEADLINE FOR THE OPTION TO  
PURCHASE CHROMEBOOK INSURANCE IS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND.\***

*\*Parents of 9 -12 grade students should look for a mailing next week. The mailing will contain a form that will need to be signed and brought back to school on the first day in order for their student to receive his/her Chromebook.*

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Coloma Community Schools provides information through the web site. It provides a great deal of information including calendars, announcements, teacher web pages, athletic information, fine arts information, and much more. We invite you to take a look at the high school's site at [www.ccs.coloma.org/colhs](http://www.ccs.coloma.org/colhs). This newsletter (and future editions) will be posted online. Future information will be provided to parents via e-mail or by going to the web site. Please ensure your email address is current and listed in PowerSchool so we may contact you at your convenience as well as reduce costs by saving paper. During the year, we will also use the PowerSchool email service to send out report cards and progress reports.

### STUDENT PARKING

Students who drive to school are required to park in the east lot, have a completed Application to Drive on School Property form (5514F1), and a valid parking permit displayed on the front windshield of the vehicle. In addition this year, the number on the parking permit will identify the spot that coincides with the number in the parking lot in which the student is to park. The cost for the permit is \$10 (yearly fee). Students will have the opportunity to register their vehicle after the **first week** of school. Students who fail to register their vehicle run the risk of being towed (at the owner's expense). Students will be called to the office to buy their parking passes during the second week of school. Students will be given 3 warning notices before their vehicle will be towed. We appreciate your compliance as this is one piece to helping us provide a secure environment for your student.

Students arriving late for school must park in the east lot and follow the sidewalk from the parking lot to the main entrance. **The main entrance is the only authorized access point for the high school during school hours.**

### SCHOOL HOURS

Students are not permitted inside the school building more than 30 minutes before the start of their first class (7:30 am) without prior approval or supervision of a teacher. Students are not permitted to remain in the school building beyond 30 minutes after the completion of their last class (3:30 pm). The main vestibule area will be the designated waiting area for students waiting for a ride after 3:30 pm. Referral to an administrator for disciplinary action may result if students do not comply with school hour exceptions.

### NOTICE OF DISCRIMINATION

Coloma High School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, or race in its education programs and activities required by Title IX. Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the Title IX/Compliance Officer or the Office of Civil Rights. Our Title IX/Compliance Officers are **Assistant Principal, Fred Paulsen (269-468-2400 - [fpaulsen@ccs.coloma.org](mailto:fpaulsen@ccs.coloma.org)) and Wendy Tremblay (269-468-2405 - [wtremblay@ccs.coloma.org](mailto:wtremblay@ccs.coloma.org)).**



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[geskusphoto.com/fallorders](http://geskusphoto.com/fallorders)  
Use this webcode at check out: 4035DIWUYBZCHN**

### 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**

# More Info



## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is tracked at the high school by semester. Students are allowed to accumulate 8 absences (*excused or unexcused*) per class before credit is withheld pending time being made up on an hour per hour basis. There are some instances of “**exempt**” absences which do not count towards the 8 absences such as a stay in the hospital, college visit, or a death in the immediate family. Students will be briefed on the attendance policy on the first day of school. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the full policy located in the student handbook.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

Any student in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade may enroll in a post-secondary (dual) enrollment program providing he/she meets the requirements established by law and by the district. Any interested student should contact the guidance counselor to obtain more information.

## TARDY POLICY

Parents will no longer be able to excuse students who are tardy to school 1<sup>st</sup> hour. Special considerations will be given by the principal when there is bad weather. Tardies are tracked by the hour and are as follows; 1<sup>st</sup> tardy – warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy – 15 minute teacher detention, 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy 30 minute detention, 4<sup>th</sup> tardy – 45 minute detention, 5<sup>th</sup> tardy – 1 hour detention, 6<sup>th</sup> tardy – 2 hours of detention, 7<sup>th</sup> tardy and beyond – assigned unexcused absence for that class. Students are to be in their assigned seat ready to learn when the bell rings to avoid being marked tardy.

## HOW TO SIGN UP ON POWERSCHOOL

You will need create your PowerSchool account to be able to check your child’s grades and attendance. Go to [www.ccs.coloma.org](http://www.ccs.coloma.org), click on “Parents” and “Resources”. There are Online Grade Book Instructions to help you .

## REPORTING YOUR CHILD’S ABSENCE

If your student will be absent from school, we ask that you call the school before 9:00 am to report the absence. The office is staffed beginning at 7:15 am to take your call, but you may call earlier and leave a voicemail. If we don’t hear from you, we must assume you do not know your student is not here, and either something happened to them on the way to school, or they are skipping. We will try to inform you via automated alerts when your student is absent unexcused. For their safety, please keep your phone and email information current so we can reach you. Remember that you can check attendance online any time through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

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## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Please refer to the dress code section located in the student handbook which can be found on the high school’s web page. All students will be issued a handbook contained in the student planner. When issued, students will sign a form acknowledging receipt and responsibility for adhering to the rules contained within.

Here are a few of the rules to be aware of before issuing the handbook.

1. Shorts or skirts worn must extend to the mid-thigh in length.
2. No tank tops are allowed as all shirts worn must have sleeves.
3. No hats, beanies, or other headgear may be worn in the building at any time.

Violations of the dress code will be addressed on a case by case basis and will not be tolerated. Questions regarding the dress code may be addressed to Mr. Paulsen.

## STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Parents who transport their students to school are encouraged to use the west parking lot in order to avoid the student parking lot. The main entrance and circle drive is **“OFF LIMITS”** for student drop off and pick up immediately before or after school and is only to be used to drop off students who are late or pick up students who leave early for appointment. **The circle drive needs to be accessible to emergency vehicles immediately before and after school since the east and west lots are quite busy.**

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# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!



**Keith G. Calkins**, also known as, Kei $\theta$  (K e to the  $\sqrt{-1}$  theta), or Keith the Complex Number, has been teaching STEM classes since 1978. Holding secondary certification in math, physics, chemistry,

and computer science, he will be teaching algebra II, precalculus, and AP Calculus, and looks forward to a good 2021–22 school year as Green and Gold Coloma Comet! Born in Cadillac, Michigan, and raised near the former 4H Kettunen Center and Center Lake Bible Camp south of the city, he has managed three family farms since his father died, one farm will be sesquicentennial [150 years, same family] in another 10. He has deep roots in Michigan with 15 of his great-great-grandparents buried in the state. Number 16 (of 16) blacksmithed in Michigan 20 years before dying while homesteading in Dakota Territory. DNA tests and related research indicate the surname Calkins is likely derived from “kin” of King Cole, that merry old soul!

Keith worked 32 years at Andrews University, the last 17 teaching math in the Berrien County Math & Science Center, which included AP Calculus AB/BC and AP Statistics, and during many of the first 15 served as assistant director in the Computing Center. His book Euclidean Geometry and Its Subgeometries is available from Springer or Amazon. Thirteen Junes he “read” (graded) AP Calculus exams for ETS (5 as table leader), and 3 Junes he read AP Physics exams. Keith taught 8 years at Ferris State University primarily physics, but also chemistry, computer science, and freshman success, and served as department webmaster, on the academic senate, and as VP of the non-tenure track faculty organization. Keith taught physics three semesters at Lake Michigan College and a couple semesters of math at various public schools. He served as a substitute PreK-12 teacher almost 500 days, often long-term, including a stint at Coloma finishing the year in chemistry. Keith’s first love is numbers, (by kindergarten he was told he would be a math major) and his wife knows it! Terri, his wife of 41 years, is a writer specializing in Biblical fiction, publishing under her maiden name Fivash. They have two grown sons Theron and Jared, and have lived in the same house in Berrien Springs for 42 years, except when Keith is at the family farms!



## Travis Hargan

is a hometown resident with two children in the Coloma district (3rd and 6th grade). He'll be teaching high school Physical Education, and will also serve as the Jr. High Cross Country coach. This will be Mr. Hargan's 16th year teaching locally. When he's not at school, he spends much of his time perfecting his craft as a professional Stand Up Comedian.



My name is **Gregory Shaffer**, and I am extremely excited to join the team at Coloma High School as the new School Counselor this year! I am a licensed School Counselor through the State of

Michigan and have years of experience in working with diverse populations of students in school districts that ranged from very small-town districts to very large districts that have multiple high schools. With that experience, I have obtained a vast knowledge and passion on post-secondary options for students. I truly enjoy working with students and families, as we work together in the planning of whatever post-secondary goals are best suited for your child(ren).

In my spare time, I love being with my family as much as possible. I am married to my high school sweetheart and together we have four children. We typically like to eat out quite often and you will probably catch me eating at one of our wonderful local restaurants. Otherwise, I enjoy helping my daughter with her “mini farm”, which consists of 12 chickens, 3 ducks, 4 goats, 2 bunnies, 2 dogs, and finally 4 cats!

I most definitely look forward to working with our students this year and to assist with each and every one of them to achieve their personal best! Please feel free to contact me anytime throughout the school year with any questions!

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# OUR SCHEDULE!

## 2021-22 DISTRICT CALENDAR

|                                                                 |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>August 2021</b>                                              |                                                                             |
| T 24                                                            | PD Staff - All Staff                                                        |
| W 25                                                            | PD Staff - Certified Staff                                                  |
| M 30                                                            | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Day for Students</b> ; K - 12 Half Day; PM Work Day Staff |
| <b>September 2021</b>                                           |                                                                             |
| F 3                                                             | No School                                                                   |
| M 6                                                             | No School – Labor Day                                                       |
| W 15                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| W 29                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| <b>October 2021</b>                                             |                                                                             |
| W 6                                                             | Fall Count Day                                                              |
| F 8                                                             | K - 12 Students Half Day; Half Day Staff                                    |
| W 13                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| F 22                                                            | End of First Marking Period (38 days)                                       |
| W 27                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| Th 28                                                           | K - 5 Students Half Day; 6 - 12 Students Full Day                           |
| F 29                                                            | K - 12 Students Half Day; Half Day Staff                                    |
| <b>OCTOBER CONFERENCES:</b>                                     |                                                                             |
| T 26                                                            | 4 - 5 & 9 - 12 Evening Conferences                                          |
| W 27                                                            | K - 3 & 6 - 8 Evening Conferences                                           |
| Th 28                                                           | K - 5 Afternoon Conferences; K - 12 Evening Conferences                     |
| <b>November 2021</b>                                            |                                                                             |
| W 10                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| W 24                                                            | No School                                                                   |
| Th 25                                                           | No School – Thanksgiving Day                                                |
| F 26                                                            | No School – Thanksgiving Break                                              |
| <b>December 2021</b>                                            |                                                                             |
| W 1                                                             | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| W 15                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| Th 16                                                           | K - 12 Students Half Day; PM Work Day Staff                                 |
| F 17                                                            | K - 12 Students Half Day; PM Work Day Staff                                 |
| *End of Second Marking Period (37 days) / End of First Semester |                                                                             |
| <b>WINTER BREAK – Dec. 20 – Dec. 31, 2021</b>                   |                                                                             |
| <b>January 2022</b>                                             |                                                                             |
| M 3                                                             | <b>CLASSES RESUME</b>                                                       |
| W 12                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| M 17                                                            | No School – MLK Day                                                         |
| W 26                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| <b>February 2022</b>                                            |                                                                             |
| W 9                                                             | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD / Spring Count Day                              |
| F 18                                                            | No School – MID WINTER BREAK (possible snow day make up)                    |
| M 21                                                            | No School – MID WINTER BREAK (possible snow day make up)                    |
| W 23                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| <b>March 2022</b>                                               |                                                                             |
| W 9                                                             | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| F 18                                                            | K - 12 Students Half Day; Half Day Staff                                    |
| End of Third Marking Period (53 days)                           |                                                                             |
| <b>SPRING BREAK – March 21 – 25, 2022</b>                       |                                                                             |
| M 28                                                            | <b>CLASSES RESUME</b>                                                       |
| <b>April 2022</b>                                               |                                                                             |
| W 6                                                             | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| F 15                                                            | K - 12 Students Half Day; Half Day Staff; Good Friday                       |
| W 20                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| *Mandated state testing may cause altered schedules in April    |                                                                             |
| <b>May 2022</b>                                                 |                                                                             |
| W 11                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| W 25                                                            | 2 Hour Late Start; Staff PD                                                 |
| F 27                                                            | Graduation 7:00 p.m.                                                        |
| M 30                                                            | No School – Memorial Day                                                    |
| <b>June 2022</b>                                                |                                                                             |
| W 8                                                             | K - 12 Students Half Day; Full Day Staff                                    |
| Th 9                                                            | K - 12 Students Half Day; Full Day Staff                                    |
| <b>*LAST DAY OF SCHOOL*</b>                                     |                                                                             |
| *End of Fourth Marking Period / End of Second Semester          |                                                                             |

## 2021-22 HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULES

| <b><u>GOLD SCHEDULE</u></b>  |               | <b><u>2-HOUR DELAY<br/>PLC DAY SCHEDULE</u></b> |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> Hour         | 8:00 - 8:53   | 2 <sup>ND</sup> Hour                            | 10:00 - 10:38 |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> Hour         | 8:58 - 9:58   | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Hour                            | 10:43 - 11:21 |
| RTI                          | 10:02 - 10:37 | 3 <sup>RD</sup> Hour                            | 11:26 - 12:04 |
| 3rd Hour                     | 10:42 - 11:35 | <b>A Lunch</b>                                  | 12:04 - 12:34 |
| <b>A Lunch</b>               | 11:35 - 12:05 | 4 <sup>TH</sup> Hour                            | 12:34 - 1:29  |
| 4 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 12:10 - 1:03  | 4 <sup>TH</sup> Hour                            | 12:09 - 12:34 |
| 4 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 11:35 - 12:00 | <b>B Lunch</b>                                  | 12:34 - 1:04  |
| <b>B Lunch</b>               | 12:00 - 12:30 | 4th hour                                        | 1:04 - 1:34   |
| 5 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 1:05 - 1:57   | 5 <sup>TH</sup> Hour                            | 1:39 - 2:17   |
| 6 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 2:02 - 3:00   | 6 <sup>TH</sup> Hour                            | 2:22 - 3:00   |
| <b><u>½ DAY SCHEDULE</u></b> |               | <b><u>EXAM DAY SCHEDULE</u></b>                 |               |
| 1 <sup>ST</sup> Hour         | 8:00 – 8:31   | EXAM 1/4                                        | 8:00 – 9:07   |
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> Hour         | 8:36 – 9:13   | EXAM 2/5                                        | 9:12 – 10:25  |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> Hour         | 9:18 – 9:49   | EXAM 3/6                                        | 10:30 – 11:37 |
| 4 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 9:54 – 10:25  |                                                 |               |
| 5 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 10:30 – 11:01 |                                                 |               |
| 6 <sup>TH</sup> Hour         | 11:06 – 11:37 |                                                 |               |



**Parents— Jostens will meet with your Sophomore student on September 13th during RTI to talk about the class rings. For seniors, Jostens will meet before Christmas break for Cap & Gown, etc. Get a head start and order online at: Jostens.com**