

Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2021



FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

With the first month of school behind us, I am seeing progress as well as indications that we have room for improvement. That said, this is a great time to reflect and work to make the best choices possible! Please take a few moments to cover behavioral and academic expectations with your student(s) at home. With a great partnership between school and parents, we can make great strides with our students!

October 1st is Homecoming 2021! Below is a list of the things provided to all high school students!

Hall Decorating - celebrating class colors

Seniors - [Royal Blue](#)

Juniors - [Orange](#)

Sophomores- [Pink](#)

Freshman - [White](#)

Dress up days are listed below:

Monday - Disney Day

Tuesday - Dress to Impress

Wednesday - Farm Day

Thursday - Tye Dye Day

Friday - Green and Gold Day

On Friday, October 1st, we will have spirit day which is a full day of activities such as volleyball, powder puff football, a tailgate party with cornhole, and music. To complete spirit day, we will have a pep rally for all fall sports.

In addition, a form of Porta Pit chicken is present again courtesy of the Coloma Athletic Boosters! Please stop in and see the cooks prepare and serve food to all of the fans!

Happy Fall!



October is Michigan College Month!

Throughout the month of October, Coloma High School students will focus on learning more about the world of post-secondary. We will present brief videos that are college-related. We will have visits from colleges, universities, the military, and trade schools during lunch hours. We will also be offering an information night where we will offer support from college professionals on FAFSA questions that you may have.

Highlights for MI College Month at CHS include:

- **College 101 Mondays!** Mondays in October, students will watch brief videos in RTI on college-related topics.
- **College Gear Tuesdays!** Tuesdays in October, students and teachers are invited to wear spirit gear from their favorite college.
- **College Trivia!** Students will be asked a trivia question at the end of October, pertaining to post-secondary education. The winning classroom will receive an awesome prize with an amazing presentation of the prize!
- **Lunch Hour Rep Visits!** We will have visits from colleges, universities, the military, and trade schools during lunch hours.
- **College Tours!** We are planning on taking our seniors to visit local colleges to get a first-person experience of a college campus. Dates are to be announced.
- **Virtual FAFSA Info Night!** [Do you have questions on FAFSA???](#) professionals from Southwestern Michigan College will present on this topic **Tuesday, October 19th at 6pm.** Google Meet link will be sent out.



October 1st - Homecoming

October 6th - Count Day

October 8th - ½ day students

October 13th - Late Start, School starts at 10am - NHS Induction 7pm

October 14th - Fall Choir Concert 7pm

October 22nd - End of Marking Period 1

October 27th - Late Start, School starts at 10am

October 26th & 28th - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7pm

October 28 - ½ day students and staff

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



Water Strider Science

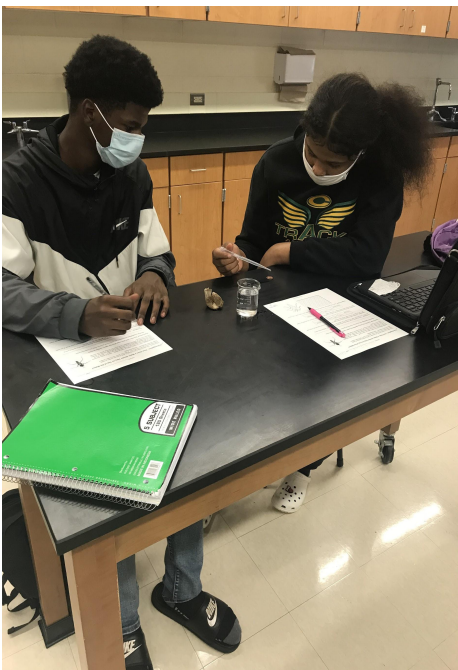
By Brande Van Niel



Anyone who enjoys Michigan's many lakes and rivers has seen water striders skating across their surfaces. The ability of these insects to walk across water is due to several interesting factors. Water striders have long,

hydrophobic legs that allow them to stay above the water. Another factor that helps the water strider move across the surface is water's ability to "stick to itself". This is known as water tension. Water striders use this surface tension to their advantage through their highly adapted legs and distributed weight. Pollutants can affect the surface tension of water and thus harm a water strider's ability to move across the water.

Students in Ms. VanNiel's biology class explored how pollutants can affect the surface tension of water. To investigate this, students conducted an experiment where they carefully added drops of plain water to the surface of a penny to see how many it could hold. They repeated this procedure four times and then took an average of the number of drops of plain water the penny could hold. For the second part of the experiment, students dropped soapy water onto the surface of a penny and recorded the number of drops it could hold. As before, they repeated this procedure four times and took the average. Most students found that the penny could hold far fewer drops of the soapy water than the plain water. From this, they could conclude that polluted water could affect the water strider's capability of moving across the water.



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.

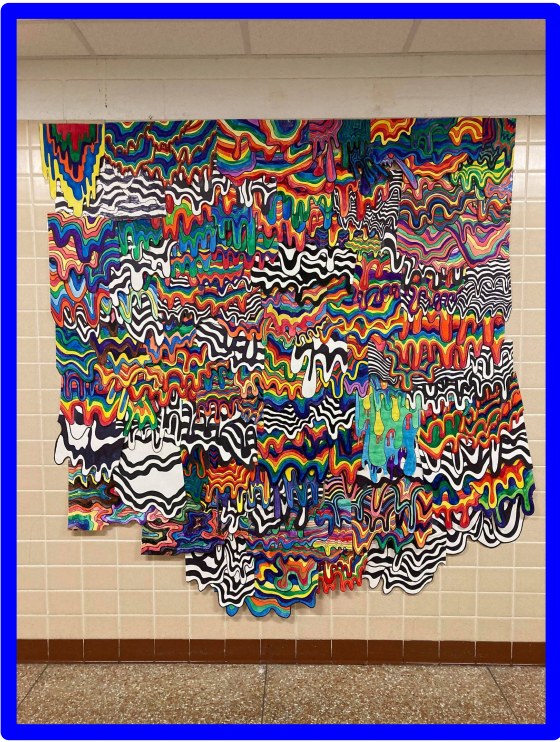
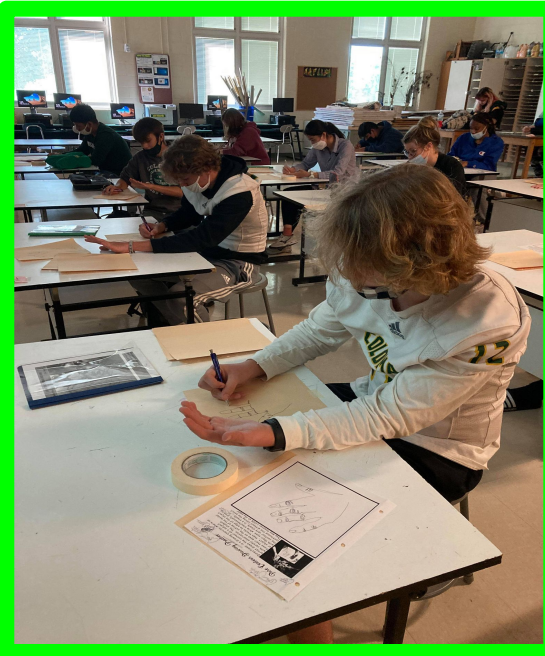
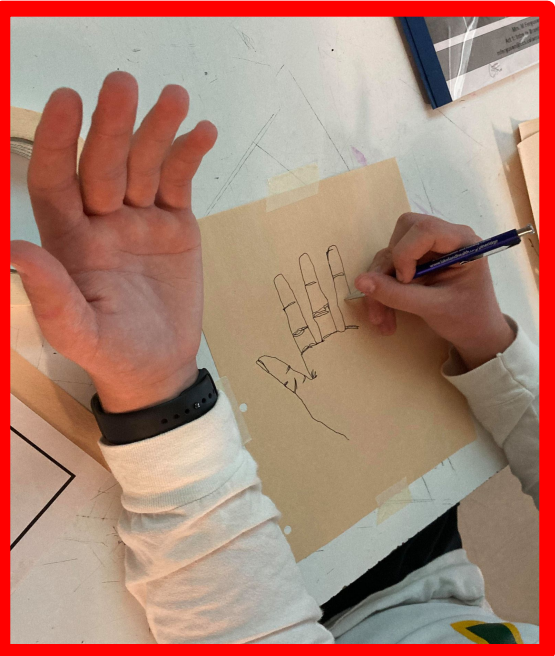
MISSION STATEMENT:

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

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE –EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS



Coloma! Art 1, Art 3, and Advanced Art students studied the work of Los Angeles artist Jenn Stark. Stark is best known for creating optical art using psychedelic colors in patterns and drips that mimic intricate motifs found in nature. Students worked together to create a large, colorful drip inspired artwork. Each student created their own drip using sharpie, watercolor paints, and scissors. We then hung all the individual drips together to create one large artwork. You can see this work in person in the hallway outside the auditorium by Mr. Ransom's room.

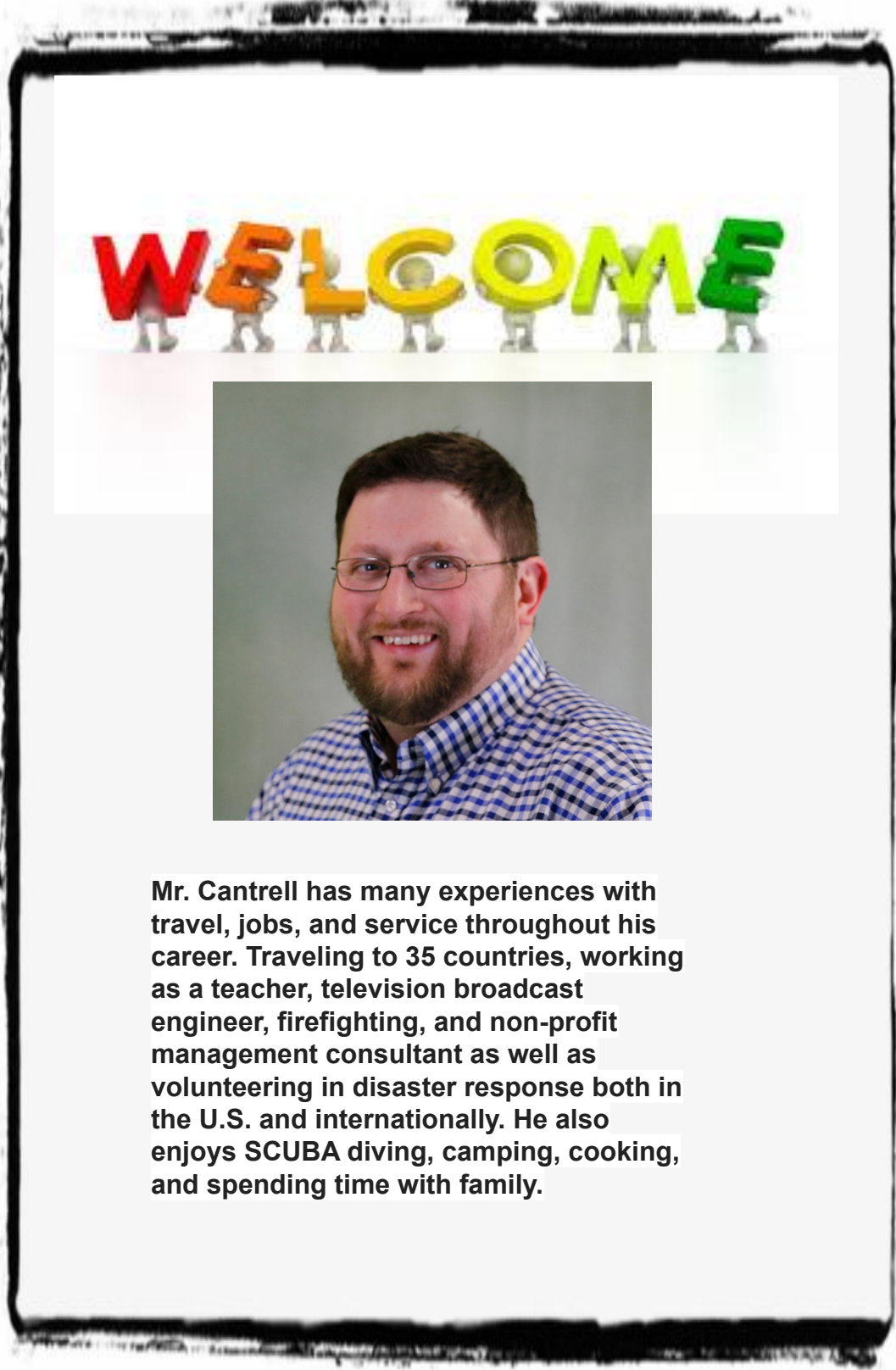


Meanwhile Art 1 students are developing their observation skills through hand and eye coordination exercises called Contour Line Drawings. First they started off drawing their hands without being allowed to pick up their pen or look at their paper. This is called blind contour line drawing. It strengthens their eye for details like wrinkles, folds, nails, and finger shapes. Then they repeat the exercise while being allowed to look at the paper but not pick up their pen; this is pure contour drawing. These exercises will prepare them for the rest of the semester



The new ceramics program is underway this year! The program was on a four year hiatus while Art Club raised the funds to purchase a new kiln. The ceramics students worked very hard the first two weeks to get the large studio back into shape. They're hard work will set the stage for future ceramics classes.

This week they are designing maker's marks. A maker's mark is an artist or company mark that is pressed into ceramic products before they fire them in a kiln. It's a unique way that ceramics artists sign their creations. Our students are creating their designs on paper and then will work with Mr. Mares to 3D print them into physical stamps!



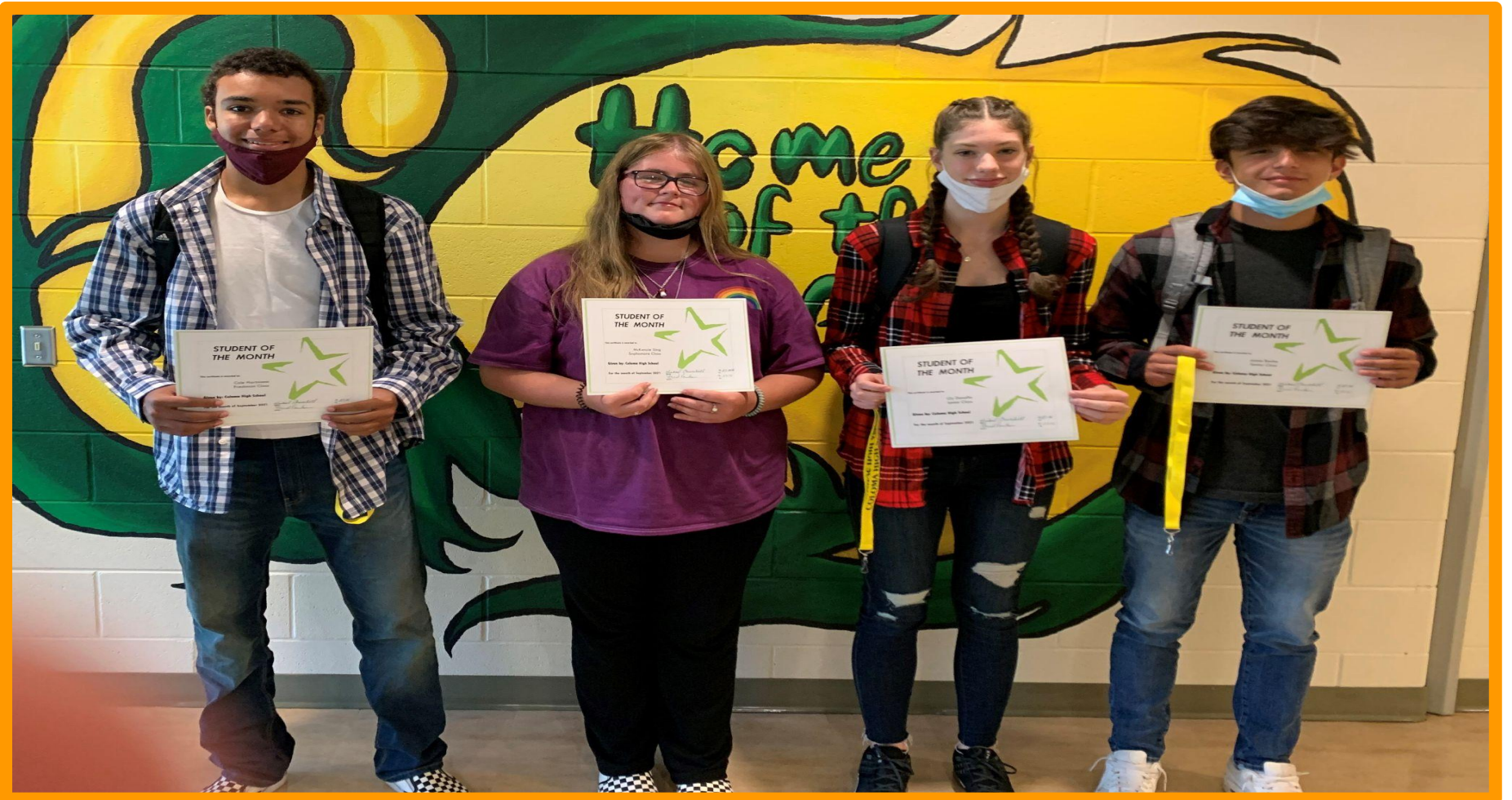
Mr. Cantrell has many experiences with travel, jobs, and service throughout his career. Traveling to 35 countries, working as a teacher, television broadcast engineer, firefighting, and non-profit management consultant as well as volunteering in disaster response both in the U.S. and internationally. He also enjoys SCUBA diving, camping, cooking, and spending time with family.

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



Outstanding EFFORT Award Criteria “It is not about perfection, It is about Effort”

- Responsible
- Raising their potential
- Persevering through obstacles
- Must show progress or improvement



9th - Cole Hartmann
10th - McKenzie Sing
11th - Lily Dunafin
12th - Jamie Rocha



*“Listen! The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves!”*

— Humbert Wolfe

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