

Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - January 2022



FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

As we work our way past the holiday season and work into the 2nd-semester things are moving quickly! One of the most important things our students need to keep in mind at this point in the school year is, focus! Please remind your students to remain focused on their goals as we move toward the end of the 2021-22 school year!

Students have begun the scheduling process, there will be general questions regarding students' interests and goals to start scheduling students in the correct pathway. Again, this is general information, Mr. Shaffer will work with students to discuss scheduling and their future plans. If at any point you would like to become more oriented with the process feel free to contact the school and request to meet with Mr. Shaffer or me to discuss your student's future planning.

Looking forward, we have begun our 2nd-semester offering of credit recovery classes after school, Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4 pm. Students will report to Ms. Kimmerly's room to get their course and directions for navigating through the process!

OMG

WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 7th: M3 Progress Reports Run

February 9th: Count Day - Late Start, School starts at 10am

February 18th: Mid-winter break - No school

February 21th: Presidents Day - No School

February 23th: Late Start, School Starts at 10am



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

Early / Middle College applications are due February 4th!

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

PHCA applications are due February 25th!

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

(application is at bottom of website link)

Questions / Concerns ???

As always, please feel free to contact Mr. Shaffer at:

gshaffer@ccs.coloma.org



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



10th Grade "Freedom Writers"

The 10th grade English students spent time this year reading the non-fiction selection titled *The Freedom Writers Diary*. *The Freedom Writers Diary* is a collection of diaries written by students from Wilson High School in Long Beach, California during the 1990's. The students who were deemed "unteachable" and troubled teens became productive adults due to the dedication of their first year English teacher Erin Gruwell. The students in room 203 learned lessons from their teacher about tolerance and about how anyone can overcome their difficulties to become a success regardless of their race, religion, gender, or socioeconomic backgrounds. The students found that through their writings they could express their feelings, teach each other, and change their world.

The students in room 101 and 108 created their own diaries. The students wrote a number of reader response journals, which they later turned into a longer piece of writing. These journals explained how the diaries from the *Freedom Writers* made them feel, what they learned, or how they connected to the diary entry. At the end of the unit the students became their own "Freedom Writers", telling their own story. The students wrote about an event or person that had changed their life in some way. The students in our classes had the opportunity to express their feelings, teach each other, and change their world.



Dress Up Days:

Monday, February 14th - Red/Pink Hearts & Love 💕

Tuesday, February 15th - Long Winter's Nap (PJ Day) 😴

Wednesday, February 16th - Anything But a Backpack 🎒

Thursday, February 17th - Comet Apparel Day 🌟

Friday, February 18th - No School

****Winterfest Dance "Nordic Night", Thursday February 17th 8-10 pm in the CHS 3rd basketball court Dress is semi-formal**

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



National Honor Society Top Volunteers!



During Semester I, members of the W.L. Alwood Chapter of the National Honor Society volunteered in the community for a total of 520 hours combined! Pictured are our top volunteers from left to right: Chris Eastman, Jake Ickes, Preston Scott, Camryn Brown and Arryanna Rodrigues-Torres (not pictured Bailey McVay).

All 36 members pledged to volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per semester. Service projects included providing child care on late start Wednesdays, a Beach Sweep, organizing a blood drive, participating in Angel Tree, volunteering at the North Berrien Senior Center and North Berrien Historical Museum, helping with a kids carnival, tutoring, working at Covid vaccine clinics, assisting with Miracle League and the American Legion. "Service" is one of the 4 Pillars of the National Honor Society.

Academic Challenge Team News

The Comet Academic Challenge Team is still going strong! Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we are hard at work competing against area schools such as St. Joe, Lakeshore, Bridgman, Berrien Springs, River Valley, Michigan Lutheran, South Haven, Lawrence and Countryside Academy. The competitions went virtual last year and continue virtually with teams using Google Meet for matches. The online matches are being hosted by radio station WSJM. Charles Beal, a nationally known Quiz Bowl Moderator/Coach, is the host each week. WSJM 94.9 posts the matches on their Facebook page. The Comet Smarties are led by Co-Captains Ingrid Kublick and Jodi Dotson. Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Glisson are the coaches.



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



BAND

The high school concert band is hard at work preparing for our MSBOA Band Festival performance in March. At this Festival the band does not compete against other bands, but rather is judged against a state wide rubric and will receive a rating based on that performance. A Division I rating is considered Superior, Division II is excellent, Division III is good, Division IV is Fair and Division V is poor. The emphasis in February is our Pre-Festival concert where the band will perform for a clinician and then take part in a clinic from a master band director. This concert is on Tuesday, February 15th at 7pm in the CHS Auditorium and is open to the public. If you want to hear what we're working on and see what a band rehearsal looks like, this is your chance!

Also this month! On Saturday, February 5th we have several students participating in MSBOA's Solo and Ensemble Festival. These students will travel to Southwestern Michigan College and perform their solo, duet, or trio in front of a judge. This judge then provides feedback on their performance and gives them a final rating (same rating system as above). This event is challenging as students prepare this music primarily on their own. Be sure to wish these students luck next weekend and be on the lookout to hear the results!

Tucker Arend
Callen Hickmon
Amber Cheek
Alyse Grenon
Fletcher Todd
Camryn Brown
Brodie McQuillan
Austin Arnold
Zander Baldwin
Ava Genovese
Isabella Greenman



"ALL-STATE JAZZ 2022"

The MSVMA All-State Jazz Choir will perform at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids on Saturday, January 29th. The MI All-State Jazz Choir contains up to 20 singers, who will have two full days of rehearsal at the conference on Thursday and Friday, then their final performance on Saturday. The choir will rehearse and perform on a sound system and with a professional rhythm section.



Click the link below for a video of the performance:

[Choir video](#)

Coloma Choirs is proud to have four students selected for this year's ensemble. Kaidence Burrell, Ingrid Kublick, Hudson Sternaman, and Wyatt Arms auditioned and were selected to perform with other jazz students from across the state. The audition consisted of learning selections from two of the pieces for the 2022 ensemble and performing them via video. All four students sing with Varsity Singers, an auditioned vocal jazz ensemble at Coloma High School.



Our conductor for the fifth annual MSVMA All-State Jazz Choir is Christine Guter from California State University - Long Beach. Christine Helferich Guter is a jazz vocalist and studio singer who brings an immense wealth of experience to our faculty. She performs frequently in LA and Orange County, and has worked with many legendary musicians including Joe Williams, Bobby McFerrin, Rosemary Clooney, Diane Schuur, Maynard Ferguson, Mercer Ellington, Lionel Hampton, and Mel Tormé.

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



Freshman - Olivia Craft Sophomore -Cecilla Williams
Junior -Charitilin White Senior - Kyler Hosbein

"Snowflakes
are one of nature's most
fragile things, but just
look what they do
when they stick together."

Verna M. Kelly

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