COLOMA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Comet Comments

SCHOOL ISSUE - February 2022

FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

Before we know it, the sun will be shining and temperatures will rise!

The second semester is bound to go fast as we are already approaching spring break, I have a few reminders for everyone! First, attendance can become an issue at this point in the school year, please stay on top of missing work and be diligent with attending school regularly. Additionally, with the attendance policy holding true to not exceeding 8 absences before making up time, this must be done prior to the end of the school year.

Spring Testing will take place upon our return from Spring Break, grades 9-11 will be affected by this. There will be more information as we get closer to the test dates. Please help us by being sure that your student is present and prepared on our testing days.

Additionally, Spring sports are right around the corner! If your student has not participated in a sport this year, they will need a physical on file in the athletic office prior to participating.

OMG WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 9: Late start school starts at 10am

March 18: ½ day of school - school ends at 11:37 am - End of M3

March 21-25: Spring Break

March 29: Report Cards for M3

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

IS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FOR YOUR STUDENT???

Career and Technical Education is preparing students to meet the needs of the high-wage, high-skill jobs that are rapidly becoming available in Michigan and across this country.

Coloma High School and Berrien County offer many opportunities for our students with CTE programs. Below are some quick facts about students who are enrolled into a CTE program:

Berrien County CTE Facts: (Based on 2019-20 data)*

- Number of CTE programs in Berrien County - 66
- Number of Students involved - 2,345 (unduplicated) high school students were enrolled in CTE programs
- 30.9% of Berrien County 10th through 12th grade students took a CTE class
- CTE Graduation Rates - 94.5%

Michigan Statewide Facts: (Based on 2019-20 data)*

- 114,523 high school students participate in CTE classes throughout Michigan
- CTE Statewide Graduation Rate - 95.64%

National CTE Facts*

- 7.6 million students at the secondary level participated in CTE
- 77% of high school students participate in a CTE program while in school
- 1/3 of CTE students are enrolled in programs preparing them for careers in leading industries

Skilled Trades*

Skilled Trades are careers that often require less schooling and are in demand for fields like healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction, and automotive. Today's Skilled Trades jobs offer a wide array of opportunities for high school and community college students

- 545,000 Professional Trade jobs in Michigan
- 15,000+ skilled trade jobs are available in Michigan
- 47,000 new job openings are expected annually

*Source: *Going Pro; ACTE/CTE Policy Watch; CTEIS Analytics Report; My School Data

Please contact Mr. Shaffer at gshaffer@ccs.coloma.org if you would like to have your student enroll into a CTE program for next school year; it's not too late!

Please click HERE for more details of CTE programs offered throughout Berrien County!

You never know how Strong you are until being Strong is your only option

~Bob Marley

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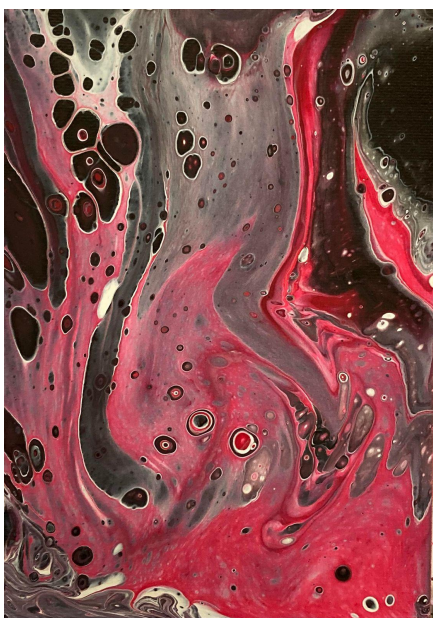
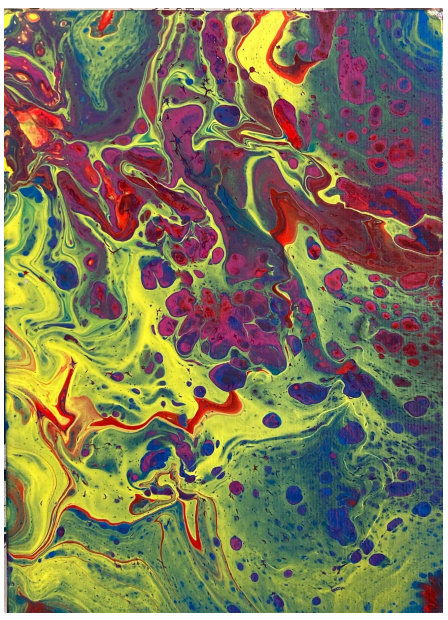
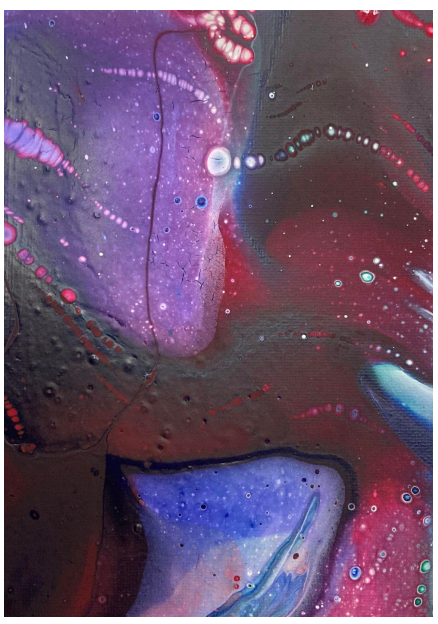
classroom NEWS

ART

Art 2 classes have been studying and classifying art using the four aesthetic theories of art: imitationalism (realism), instrumentalism (sending a message) formalism (focus on elements of art and design), and emotionalism (hits you in the feels). This week Art 2 students practiced and fine tuned the art of paint pouring in order to greatly appreciate one of the last favorite theories; formalism. Students did practice pours, researched new techniques, and then poured again.







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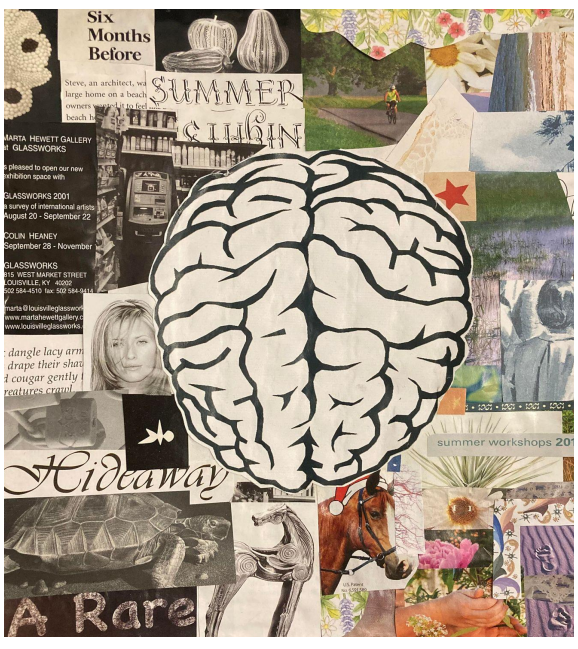
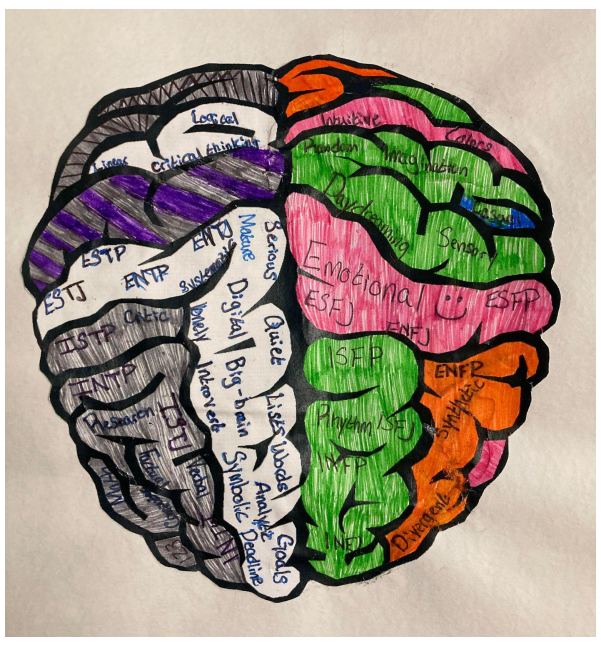
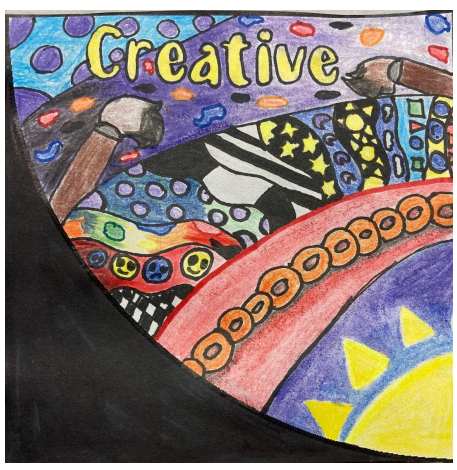
ART is for everyone

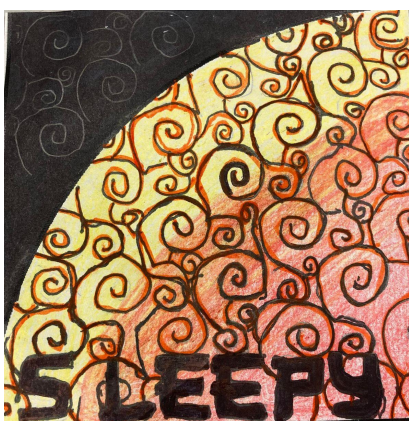
Advanced Art has been studying the scientific theory of the left brain and right brain hemisphere with its corresponding characteristics. In theory the left side of the brain is more logical, linear while the right side of the brain is more spontaneous and creative. Students created collages that demonstrated their understanding of which characteristics the brain hemispheres were responsible for. Students then watched "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink in order to better understand how our changing economy and career need is pushing out left brain thinkers and requiring a higher need of workers with right brain characteristics. We are wrapping up these concepts with a flyswatter project. Keep your eyes on art halls as these new, innovative bug smackers will be displayed for students to see.





Lastly, check out the art room hallway for the collaboration project being installed next week. All high school students created a "quarter circle"; when hung together the collaboration will be a series of completed circles. Students first started this project by looking at how artists use color to express a variety of emotions and symbolism. Did you know that scientists proved that when some people look at the color red their heart beat increases or even their body temperature? We then looked at the wheel of emotions and selected an emotion that we wanted set as our goal for the rest of the semester. Some cases chose emotions they wanted to avoid.





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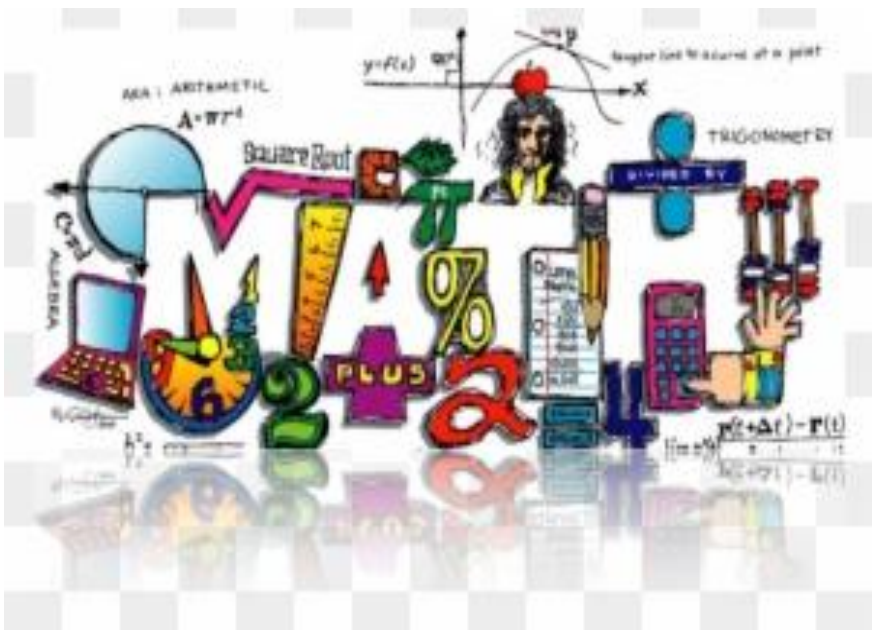
Well, this month's newsletter math article falls to the new guy so I (Keith Calkins) will highlight the upper level math courses at Coloma (which is what I teach). Algebra II has been required in Michigan for all high schoolers since 2008 when the Michigan Merit Curriculum was implemented and research shows Michigan's low income students are now more likely to enroll in college and middle- and upper-income students are more likely to earn college degrees than before (Soobin Kim, MSU, 2018). However, there continues to be efforts to remove this high academic standard even though Michigan students score in the bottom third in the U.S. and the percent of Michigan adults with college degrees remains well below the national average. Of course, many stylize the course name as Algebra 2, using an Arabic numeral instead of Roman, and since Algebra is an Arabic word, perhaps there is justification for that designation. Whatever name you use there is still a lot of math to cover which builds on all math the students were taught in previous years. This year there is much discussion about the learning gaps various students have, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated disruption it has had on schooling. Research is still trying to tease out if it is better to ignore these gaps and plow forward or regress and teach students basic skills. Algebra II covered linear and quadratic functions, including complex numbers first semester and since Christmas has moved on to polynomial and radical functions. Later this semester we will cover exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, finishing the year with some probability. There are four sections of Algebra II students, with two offered fourth period so one is co taught by Brian Klee with a special education teacher. We have started SAT prep every Wednesday using Khan Academy. The SAT/ACT tests are required for every junior and will be given about April 12–14. It is not too early for sophomores to start preparing for the SAT nor too late for seniors since they can retake it at their own expense. Research by Khan Academy shows an over 100 point test score improvement with only an hour a week or so of additional practice.

Their program is adaptive, focusing on what the student needs to review. Many of these students have some of the greatest needs to review their basic times tables, fractions, and otherwise master enough math to make change and fill entry level positions in society. Instructions on how to get started are in the weekly course announcements posted in the Goggle Classroom Stream. Precalculus is an essential elective for any student considering studying or working in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics) field. Precalculus covers many Algebra II topics but in more depth, preparing students for calculus. This semester students have been studying trigonometry, currently the laws of sines and cosines. Precalculus students should have completed Algebra II and have a teacher recommendation to enroll. There is one section of Precalc students, mostly juniors and seniors. There is also one section of AP Calculus students, mostly seniors. AP stands for Advanced Placement which means those opting to take the AP exam on May 9 can often receive college credit, depending on where they go, or are at least more likely to be admitted to a prestigious university. Fall semester was devoted to finding the slope of any function anywhere (differentiation) and spring semester is devoted to finding the area under any curve anywhere (integration). Calculus students must have teacher recommendation or appropriate PSAT/SAT scores to enroll. Calculus students enjoy a 1.0 GPA boost on their passing Calculus grade.



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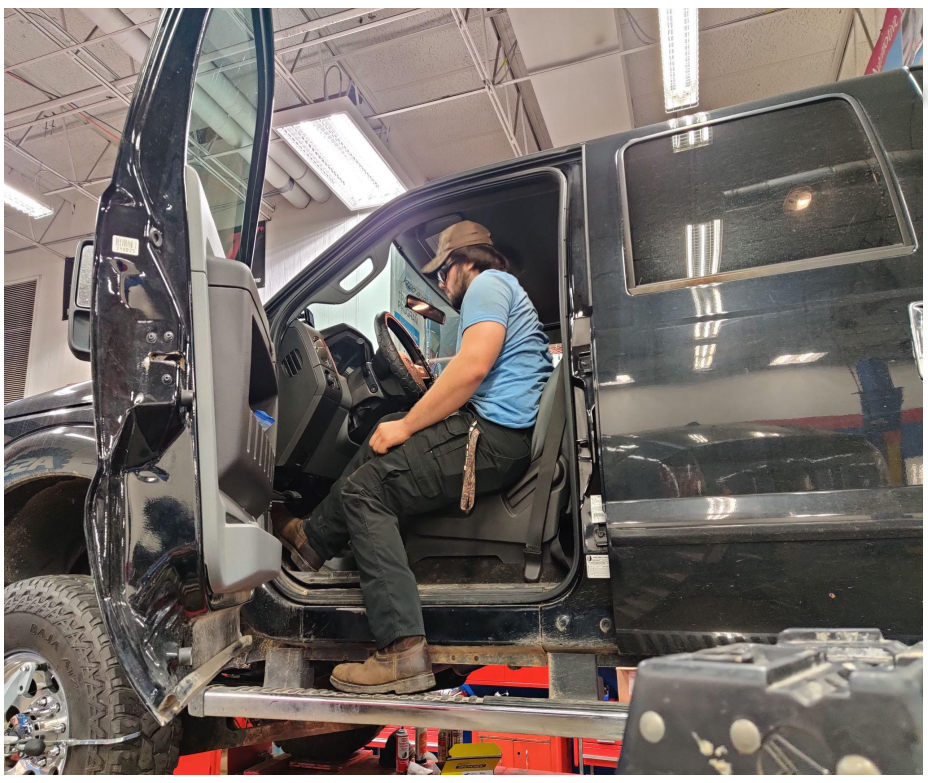
classroom NEWS

AUTO



William Schaus is a student in the Coloma High School Automotive Technology program and is currently placed as an intern at ABC Truck Repair in Coloma. William decided to take Automotive Technology when he was working on cars at home with his Cousin who had previously graduated from the CHS Auto Program.

When asked about what he enjoys most about his CTE classes (William also takes Welding) he noted that learning by doing things with his hands is much easier than only seeing or hearing about something. The hands-on work in both Auto and Welding fit his natural learning style best.

William noted he would recommend these classes to any student that is interested in Automotive or Welding and who would like to see if these are a good fit for a future career.

When asked about his future plans and goals William stated he plans to attend the University of Northwest Ohio and take their Heavy Diesel program as his intention is to work as a Heavy Equipment Operator and Technician.

William stated that the skills he has learned and polished in the Automotive Technology and Welding Programs already are helping greatly in his internship job and will have set him up both to go on to Technical College and as a foundation for his career goals in the Heavy Equipment Repair industry.

CTE Business/ Information Technology students OSHA General Safety Certified

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our CTE students for a job well done. Over the past few months Mr Mead's CTE Business students have accomplished a lot. They have learned about Business/ Technology and had opportunities to become OSHA certified. These students have completed a 10 hour General Workplace Safety course through Career Safe. This course ends with an OSHA certificate for industry safety. They have been working to achieve this certification since September.

CareerSafe®

CareerSafe®

presents

Certificate of Completion

to

has completed the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Course.
All requirements have been satisfactorily met.

Trainer: *Ricardo Baeza* Date: *January 18, 2022*

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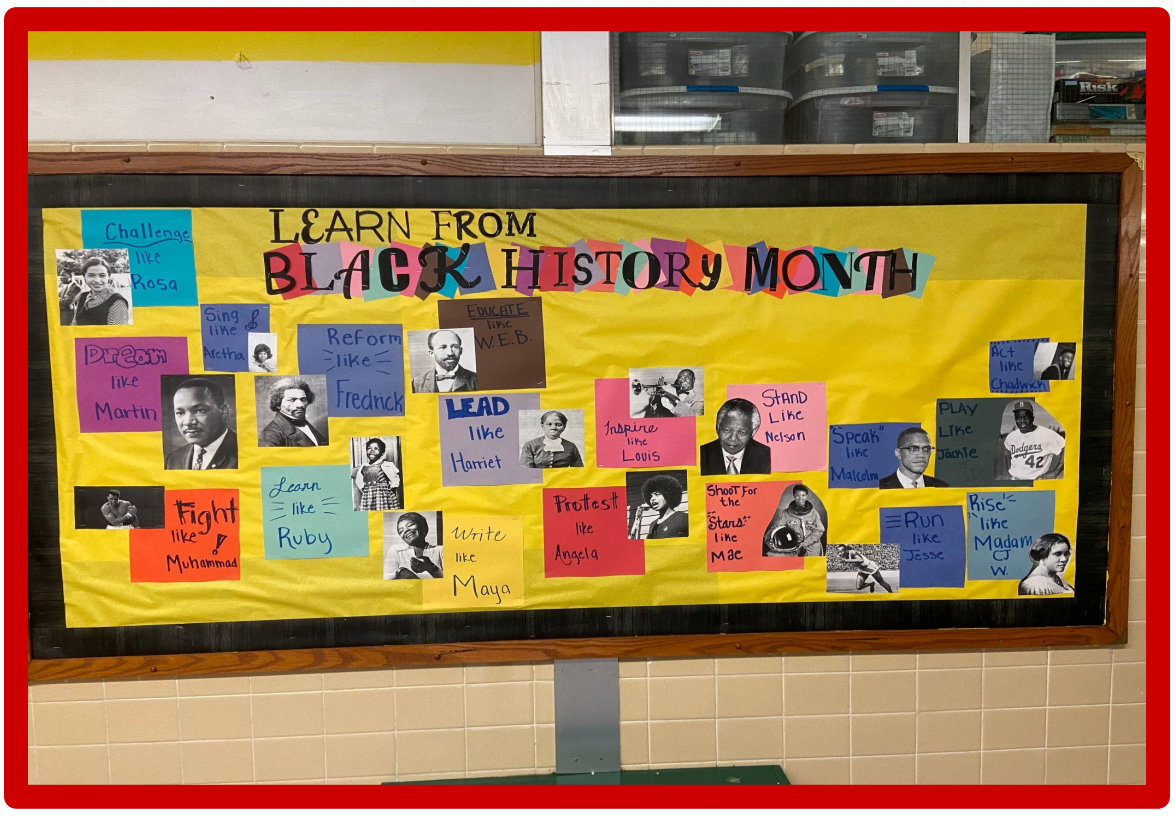
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



This month Mr. Cantrell's history students decorated a hallway bulletin board to commemorate Black History Month. Students used knowledge that they learned in 8th grade and High School U.S. History to create quotes that aligned with significant people in African American history. The lesson will be supplemented when U.S. History students begin learning about the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's next month.

winterfest 2022

(Left to right) Senior King and Queen: Ava Genovese, Jake Ickes; Junior Prince and Princess: Charles Little, Savannah Hamilton; Sophomore Duke and Duchess: Miryssa Nelson, Biden Genovese; Freshman Count and Countess: Madelynn Hamilton, Tyrell Taylor-Owens

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Freshman - Heavyn Swetay **Sophomore - Ingrid Kublick**
Junior - Kyle Burnette **Senior - Layne Whitaker**

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