

Comet Comments

September 2020

Coloma High School



FROM THE
DESK OF
*Mike
Churchill*

With the first month of school behind us, I am confident that we are making huge strides in keeping everyone safe! Students, staff, and parents have been amazing in the effort to return to school face to face; THANK YOU!

As October is quickly approaching, we will begin administering PSAT9, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT tests. This will make up for missing testing last spring. Although this is a change of season for testing we are prepared to administer all tests! Please see below for the testing schedule.

On October 14th, 2020 9th grade and 12th-grade students will attend school remotely from home to accommodate testing within the building. Alternatively, on October 27th 10th and 11th-grade students will attend school virtually from home to accommodate testing as well!

Who? What? When? Where?	PSAT NMSQT 10/11th grade 205 Students	PSAT9 9th Grade 138 Students	SAT 12th Grade 102 Students
Test Date	October 14	October 27	October 27
Grades not attending (Work from Home)	Grades 9&12 Need Online Assignments	10&11 Need online assignments	10&11 Need online assignments
Mode	paper /Pencil	Online	Paper Pencil
Time	10 am to 3 pm (late start day)	8 am to noon	8 to 12:30

Again, a big thank you to all of our staff, students, and Comet families for working hard to maintain our face to face instruction!

Happy Fall,

Mike Churchill



October is College Application Month!

Throughout the month of October, Coloma High School students will be focusing on applying to post-secondary programs. We will have virtual visits from colleges, universities, the military, and trade schools. We will also be offering support on completing applications, starting the FAFSA, and understanding the college process. Any student who completes a college application, registers for the ASVAB, or submits their FAFSA in the month of October will be entered in a raffle for Nintendo Switch! Highlights for the month include:

- **College 101 Mondays!** Students will watch brief videos in RTI on college application topics.
- **College Gear Tuesdays!** Students and teachers are invited to wear spirit gear from their favorite college.
- **Virtual College Rep Visits!** Students will be able to sign up to meet virtually with representatives from a variety of schools and post-secondary programs during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendees will be entered in weekly raffles for college swag.
- **Virtual Parent FAFSA/College Admissions Info Night!** October 12th at 6:30pm. Zoom link will be sent in advance via school messenger.



September 29 - Progress Reports

October 5 - Picture Day

October 9 - 9th grade Vision Testing

October 14 - Late Start School starts at 10am

October 28 - Late Start School Starts at 10am

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

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.

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."

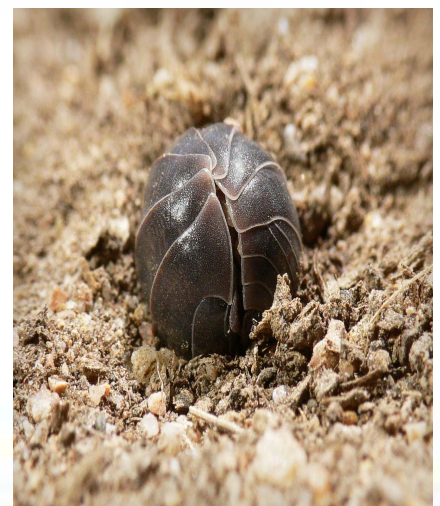
Maya Angelou



Collecting Biological Data

By Brande VanNiel

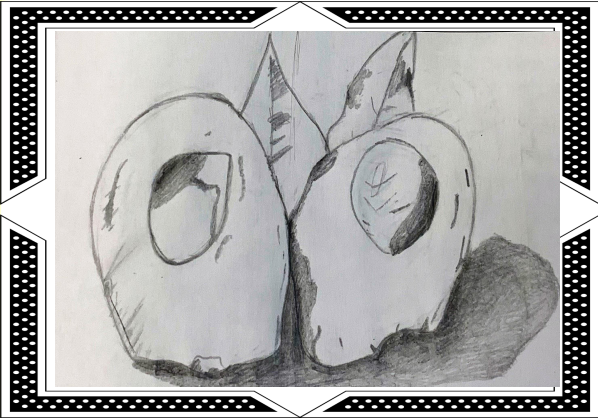
Seeing different forms of life and interacting with them on a daily basis is something we all do without giving it much thought. Things like walking your dog, talking with your friends or even mowing the grass are all interactions with living things. You may ask yourself, "What do these things have in common?" Students in Ms. VanNiel's biology class explored that very question when they conducted the Collecting Biological Data activity. In this activity, students observed the characteristics of pill bugs (sometimes called roly polies) to determine if they demonstrated the characteristics of life. Before beginning the procedure, they noted characteristics such as color, length, number of legs and body segments. For the procedure, they gently touched the underside of the pill bug with their pencils. This caused the pill bug to roll up into a ball. The students then timed how long it took for the pill bug to return to normal. They repeated this process five times and then found the average time. The next step was to create a graph to display the data collected. Finally they drew conclusions, based on these observations, about whether or not the pill bugs demonstrated all of the characteristics of life. The students did a great job with this activity.



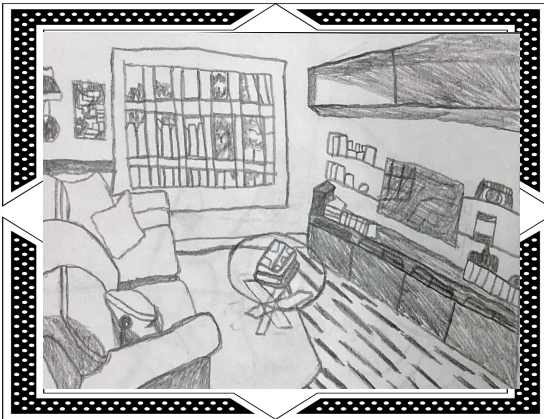
MISSION STATEMENT:

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

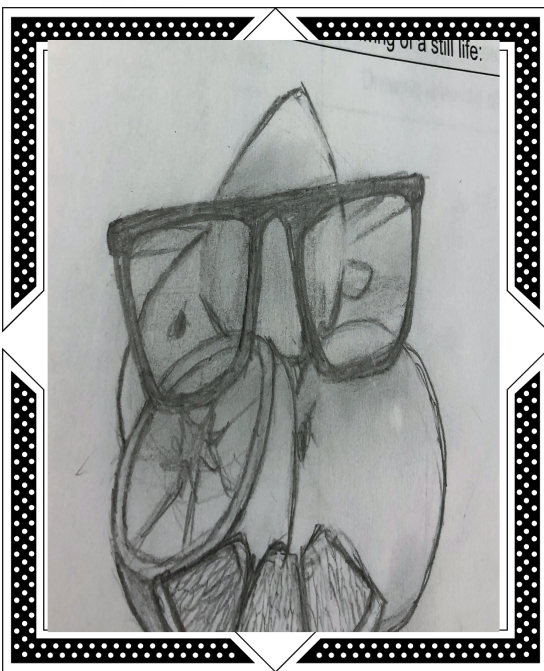
INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE –EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS



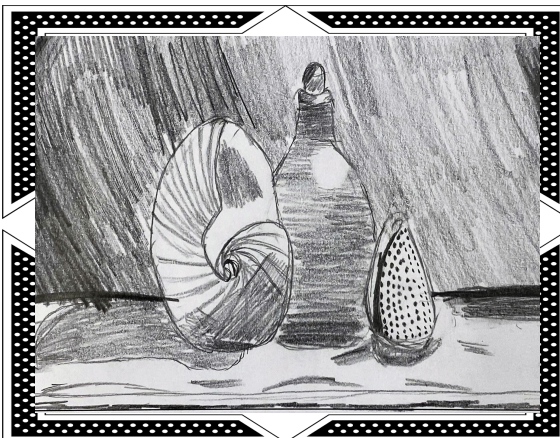
BAILEY MCVAY



ONTONIEL RAMIREZ



ALEXIS ROBARDS



COURTNEY VARVEL

Art 1 students are starting the year strong with their Artistic Growth warm up drawings. These drawings are important to the art class. Students complete them at the beginning of the year with no guidance. Then as part of their final exam they complete the same drawings again. This is to show how their skill has grown over the semester. Students will be working the entire semester on drawing skills using a variety of black and white mediums.



Sadly due to the circumstances created by Covid, there will be no after school Art Club this school year.



The art program would like to extend their gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cayo for their generous donation in memory of their daughter Sarah Cayo.

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



Great Lakes Facts You May Not Know

Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area - Spanning nearly 32,000 square miles, Lake Superior is not only the largest freshwater lake in the world (by surface area) but it is also one of the largest lakes in the world, second only to the Caspian Sea. In fact, if you were to add up all the water in Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and four of Lake Erie it would total the volume of Lake Superior.

Lake Michigan's shore is home to the largest freshwater sand dunes in the world - Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, as well as many other protected dunes along the western coast of Michigan, make up the world's largest collection of freshwater sand dunes. The tallest dune at Sleeping Bear stands about 450 feet above the shore of Lake Michigan.

The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world - The five Great Lakes - Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie and Ontario - span a total surface area of 94,600 square miles and are all connected by a variety of lakes and rivers, making them the largest freshwater system in the world.

More than 20% of all the world's freshwater is in the Great Lakes - It is estimated that there are nearly 24,000 cubic miles of surface freshwater on earth. The Great Lakes hold over [5,400 cubic miles of water](#) -- therefore accounting for more than 20% of the world's surface freshwater.

Lake Superior contains half of the water in all the Great Lakes - As mentioned before, the Great Lakes hold over 5,400 cubic miles of water. Of this amount, Lake Superior holds 2,900 cubic miles, or 3 quadrillion gallons -- accounting for more than 50% of the water. The rest is distributed among the other four lakes, with Lake Michigan holding the second most, Huron third, Ontario fourth, and Erie holding the least. To raise the water level of Lake Superior by one inch, you would need to pour more than 500 billion additional gallons into it!

Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely within U.S. territory - The Great Lakes touch 8 states -- but Michigan is the only state that touches four lakes, with borders on Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie. While two Canadian provinces also touch the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that doesn't touch Canada.

The Empire State Building would sink beneath the surface of Lake Superior - Lake Superior's deepest point is 1,330 feet -- for comparison, the Empire State building is 1,250 feet tall from ground to roof. If you built the Empire State Building on the deepest point of Lake Superior, the only thing peeking above the waves would be the antenna.

The Great Lakes Region is the primary water source for more than 40 million people - It accounts for more than 90% of the surface freshwater in the United States. The freshwater system is also an important shipping route, tourist attraction and energy source.

Michigan has the most freshwater coastline of any U.S. state - Michigan also ranks in the top 10 for shorelines in the U.S. Who needs the ocean when you can go boating, surfing, paddle boarding and swimming in the fresh waters of the Great Lakes?

Lake Michigan has a 'Bermuda Triangle' of its own - There's an area of Lake Michigan where many unexplained occurrences have left people bewildered that has been dubbed the Michigan Triangle -- similar to the Bermuda Triangle. Occurrences have included unexplained ship disappearances and missing planes. North of the triangle near Traverse City, a strange, Stonehenge-like rock formation rests below the lake's surface. Some believe the two phenomena are related to each other.

Lake Erie has a Loch Ness-like sea monster - Lake Erie is allegedly home to Bessie, a 'sea monster'-like creature that has been spotted on multiple occasions for decades. The Cleveland baseball team - the Lake Erie Monsters - were named after this legend.

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