

Comet Comments

December 2020

Coloma High School



FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

Holidays are a great time to relax and take some time to focus on other things than school! On that note. We are supporting a **NO HOMEWORK** holiday break! Please enjoy your time, your family, and appreciate all that you have to be appreciative of!

Upon our return from the Holidays, be prepared to hit the ground running as the 2nd semester will begin **January 4th, 2021!** Please have a safe and relaxing Holiday Break!

I would like to express my gratitude to all teachers and staff for working overtime throughout the shutdown. I have witnessed teachers working with students at 9 o'clock in the evening while at home, secretaries staying late for students to turn in materials. School Counselors meeting with students to address issues all while pushing students to achieve at high levels. All of our custodians, maintenance workers for keeping things clean and working! To our food service for providing weekly meals, not to mention Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner boxes for our community! Principals working to meet the educational and emotional needs of teachers who are run ragged trying to reach all of our students; thank you!

Parents and students, it is a pleasure and honor to work with you and your families day in and day out; I am proud to be a Comet!

Last but not least, it is a privilege and honor to be a dad and husband to my family; they are truly the greatest love of my life.

Please do not hesitate to show your appreciation and gratitude to those you care for, appreciate, and love! Now more than ever, we need to be sure our hearts are full and minds are clear! Happy Holidays Everyone!

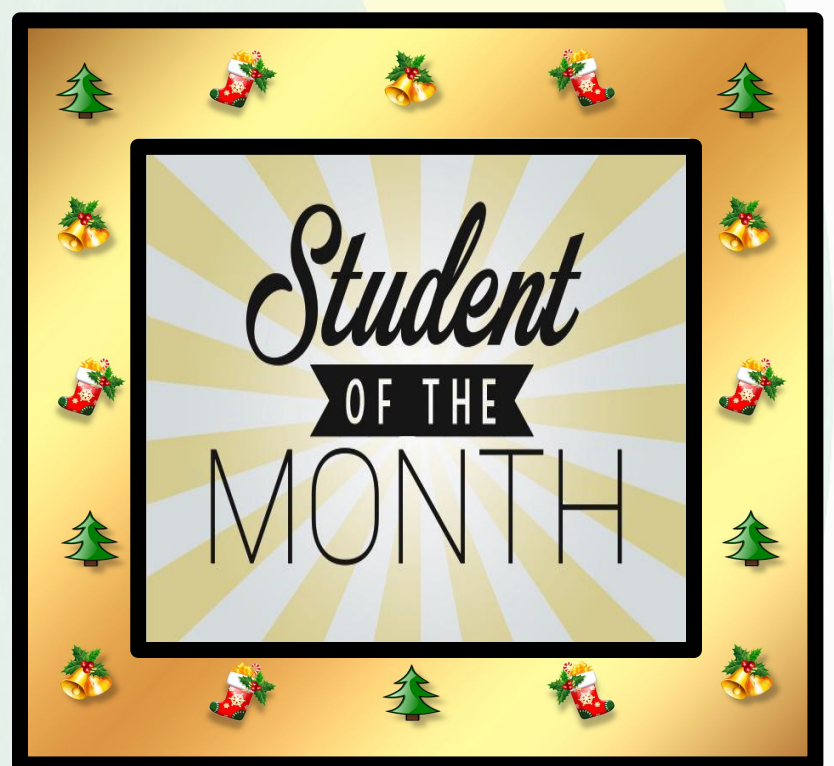
Be Safe and Best Wishes throughout the Holiday Season!



As we wrap up the first semester and get ready for the second, it is a great opportunity for students to revisit their goals for the academic year. Right now is a difficult time to plan ahead or think long term, but setting short term goals is a helpful tool for staying motivated. Below are some examples of short term goals that you can discuss with your student to prepare them for a successful second semester:

- **Seniors:**
 - Complete all college applications by January 15th.
 - Complete the FAFSA by February 1st.
 - Apply to one scholarship each month.
- **All students:**
 - Attend every class for a week.
 - Turn in all work on time for a week.
 - Check my grades and email once a day.

The most important goal is to stay mentally and physically healthy. If you or your family need assistance, please visit mi211.org for local resources.



Freshman - Kourtney Smith

Sophomore - Preston Scott

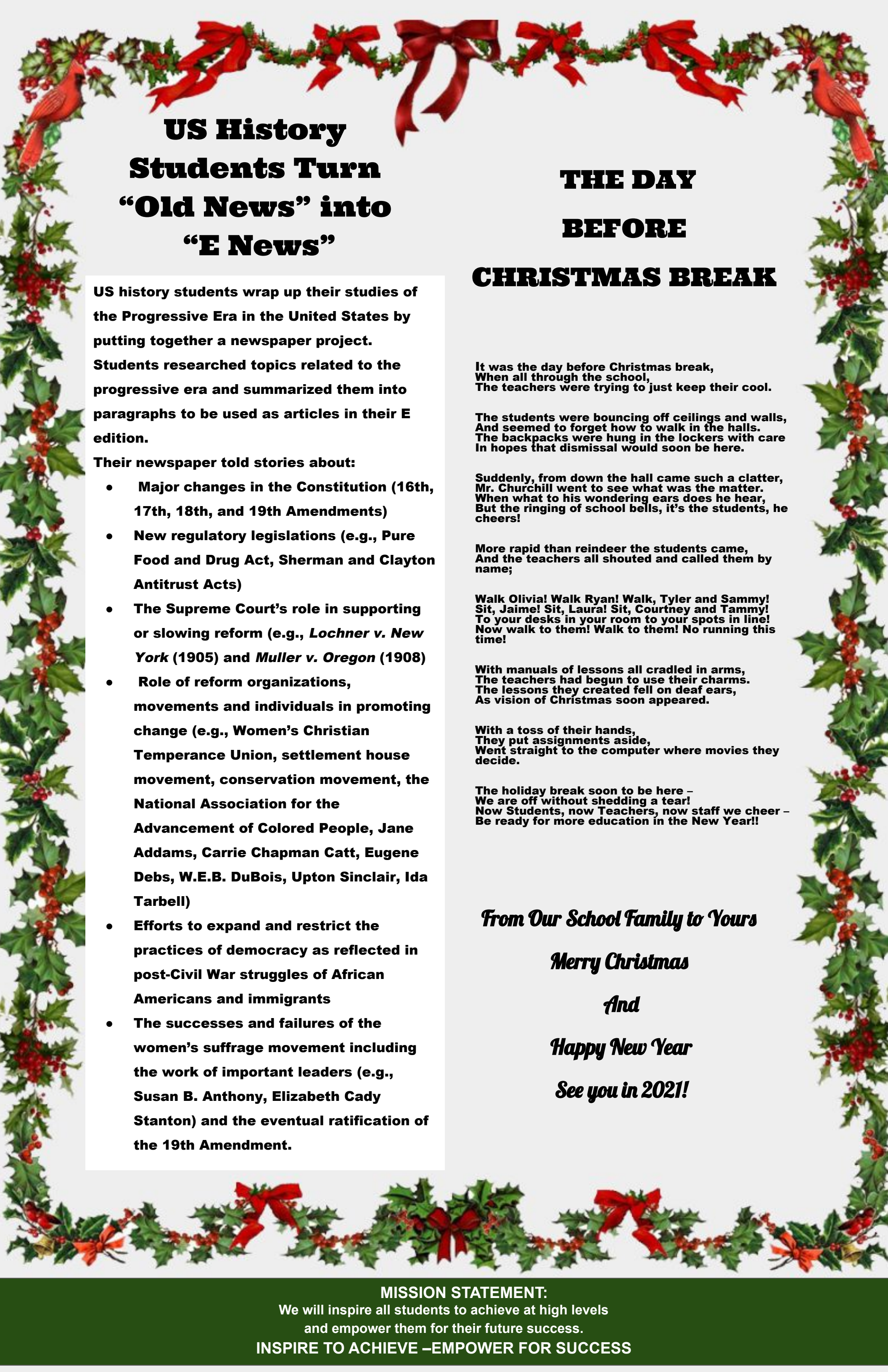
Junior - Cameron Schinck

Senior - Ryan Molchan

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



US History Students Turn “Old News” into “E News”

US history students wrap up their studies of the Progressive Era in the United States by putting together a newspaper project.

Students researched topics related to the progressive era and summarized them into paragraphs to be used as articles in their E edition.

Their newspaper told stories about:

- Major changes in the Constitution (16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Amendments)
- New regulatory legislations (e.g., Pure Food and Drug Act, Sherman and Clayton Antitrust Acts)
- The Supreme Court’s role in supporting or slowing reform (e.g., *Lochner v. New York* (1905) and *Muller v. Oregon* (1908))
- Role of reform organizations, movements and individuals in promoting change (e.g., Women’s Christian Temperance Union, settlement house movement, conservation movement, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jane Addams, Carrie Chapman Catt, Eugene Debs, W.E.B. DuBois, Upton Sinclair, Ida Tarbell)
- Efforts to expand and restrict the practices of democracy as reflected in post-Civil War struggles of African Americans and immigrants
- The successes and failures of the women’s suffrage movement including the work of important leaders (e.g., Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton) and the eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment.

THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

It was the day before Christmas break,
When all through the school,
The teachers were trying to just keep their cool.

The students were bouncing off ceilings and walls,
And seemed to forget how to walk in the halls.
The backpacks were hung in the lockers with care
In hopes that dismissal would soon be here.

Suddenly, from down the hall came such a clatter,
Mr. Churchill went to see what was the matter.
When what to his wondering ears does he hear,
But the ringing of school bells, it’s the students, he cheers!

More rapid than reindeer the students came,
And the teachers all shouted and called them by name;

Walk Olivia! Walk Ryan! Walk, Tyler and Sammy!
Sit, Jaime! Sit, Laura! Sit, Courtney and Tammy!
To your desks in your room to your spots in line!
Now walk to them! Walk to them! No running this time!

With manuals of lessons all cradled in arms,
The teachers had begun to use their charms.
The lessons they created fell on deaf ears,
As vision of Christmas soon appeared.

With a toss of their hands,
They put assignments aside,
Went straight to the computer where movies they decide.

The holiday break soon to be here –
We are off without shedding a tear!
Now Students, now Teachers, now staff we cheer –
Be ready for more education in the New Year!!

From Our School Family to Yours

Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year

See you in 2021!

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A Virtual Learning Success Story

We are all aware of the pitfalls of virtual learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many feel, quite rightly so, that it is not nearly the same as in-person school, and I wholeheartedly agree. Quite a few teachers feel they are unable to inspire their students in quite the same way online as they have in a brick and mortar classroom. Again, I concur. But for my students and I here at Coloma High School, virtual learning has actually improved key outcomes.

From my teacher's perspective, the more one-on-one time I get with my students in my self-contained special education classroom, the better it is for them. Of course, this is a luxury that rarely happens in the actual classroom. My attention is diluted when we are all physically together because each student has his or own needs and there's only one of me. Consequently, I get pulled in different directions throughout the day.

However, in our virtual classroom, our computers allow for a more intimate, face-to-face interaction that can last throughout the entire day. You see, even though there may be nine or ten of us on the Google Meet video class, each of my students interacts with me from their homes as though it's just the two us. Classmates are not physically around vying for attention. When I instruct online, the experience is truly, one-on-one.

For example, oral reading has improved while learning virtually because the reading passage being read is large on



my student's screen. From my home computer, I can use a program such as Screen Brush to point out and underline words and syllables. This cannot happen in the classroom because the technology available in my building does not allow for such a feature. Subsequently, reading out loud has improved by leaps and bounds.

The same holds for life skills. My students have become far more proficient in using online technology during the lockdown much more than they would have become if we were in a classroom, where we default to using traditional teaching tools like books and whiteboards. Functional adult independence is the over arching goal in my classroom, and virtual learning has helped tremendously in realizing these competencies in technology.

Hopefully, other teachers have found some success with their online classrooms. In a time when there are so many disadvantages in education, my students and I are thriving in many ways. We've been lucky.

Dan Ho
Special Education

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Math Department Minute

CHRISTMAS BREAK
Dec 21 - January 1, 2021

January 8th - Reports Cards S-1

January 13 - Late Start - school starts at 10am

January 18 - No school MLK Day

January 27 - Late Start - school starts at 10am



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA...

1. *In the 1964 movie Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer, what was the name of Rudolph's elf friend?*
2. *What popular Christmas Song was actually written for Thanksgiving?*
3. *What was the first company that used Santa Claus in Advertising?*
4. *In "The Christmas Song," who did the narrator see kissing Santa Clause under the mistletoe?*
5. *In the movie Elf, how does Buddy get to the North Pole?*
6. *Where did there arise such a clatter?*
7. *What are Christmas trees also called?*

It has been an interesting end of the semester trying to wrap up our polynomial unit on-line, but when we return from the holiday break our Algebra II courses will switch gears from studying polynomials to analyzing radical functions. The goal of the radical function unit is for students to eventually be able to use their knowledge of these functions to create real-life models that can be used to make predictions on population growth rates, amounts of chemicals in water, and heart rates of various sized animals. We will be using the online graphing technology that is found at www.desmos.com for many of our lessons. Please feel free to check that site out with your student as well as the other activities that are assigned by viewing their Google Classroom site.

As the Algebra II students approach Spring Break, they will be using Khan Academy's SAT test practice site in class (<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>). This website is approved by CollegeBoard. The site is able to provide students with individualized SAT style questions that will help each student in the content areas where they need to show the most growth to improve their respective SAT score. We will be using that SAT review on most of our late start Wednesdays so that our students can get some consistent exposure to the types of questions that are asked on the mathematics portion of that test. Our entire department wishes everyone a happy and safe winter break, and look forward to seeing our students mentally recharged for the second semester.

Answers: 1- Hermey, 2- Jingle Bells, 3- Coca-Cola, 4- Mommy, 5- He hides in Santa's sack, 6- On the lawn 7- Yule-Tree

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MAGIC
OF
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FAMILY AND FRIENDS**



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