

Comet Comments

January 2021

Coloma High School



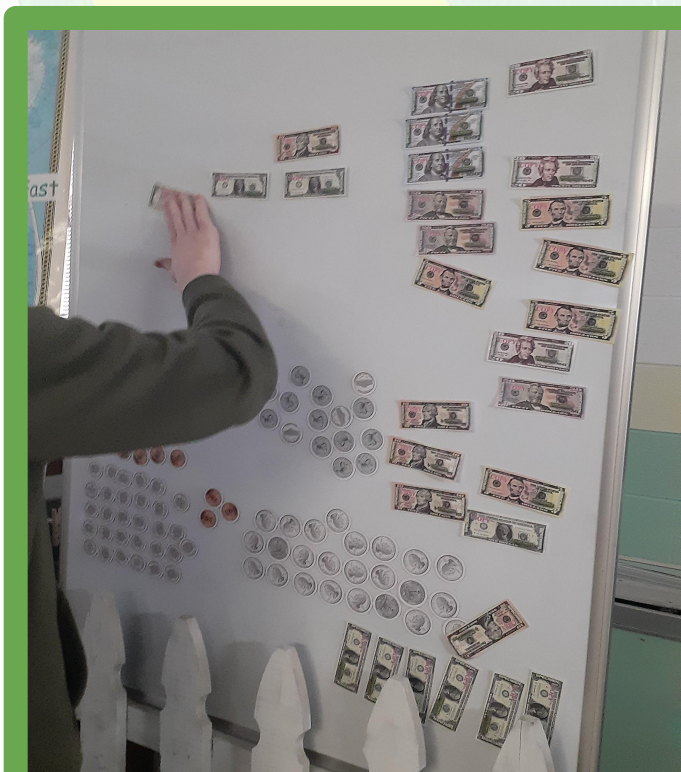
FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

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 2020-21 school year!

Students will begin 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, eventually, Ms. Brogdon 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 Ms. Brogdon or me to discuss your student's future planning.

Looking forward, we are hoping to offer additional sections of credit recovery for students in need of gaining or catching up on credit, please listen to the announcements for more information to come.

Be safe, take care of yourselves and your loved ones!



"Life skills are a focus in Mr. Ho's class."



With the second semester underway, the Counseling & College Advising office is helping students look towards the future. In January, all Juniors were given the opportunity to enroll in the CollegeBoard Opportunity Scholarship, a framework that helps students stay on track with the college application process. We encourage parents & guardians to begin having regular conversations with students now about their plans for after high school. January also marked the release of the applications for the Early/Middle College Program for current sophomores (due February 5th) and the Professional Health Careers Academy for current juniors (due February 26th). Stay tuned for more future focus in February, including 2021-22 course requests, career exploration through Xello, and a senior scholarship & financial aid competition!

For more information on all things Counseling & College Advising, please visit our website by going to chs.coloma.org >> School Life >> Counselor's Corner.



February 9th: M3 Progress Reports Run

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

February 12th: Mid-winter break - No school

February 15th: Presidents Day - No School

February 24th: Late Start, School Starts at 10am

MISSION STATEMENT:

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and empower them for their future success.

INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE –EMPOWER FOR SUCCESS



IN COLD BLOOD

A young author named Truman Capote read a newspaper article about the brutal murder of a respected Kansas farming family in November, 1959, and months later read about the apprehension of two suspects as well as the intense media buzz surrounding their pending murder case. He soon decided to spend a number of years exhaustively researching the tragic events from all angles, even that of the murderers themselves. As a side note, his childhood friend “Nellie” Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, assisted him extensively with his research.

Somewhere in this process, he decided that he wanted to create a new genre in literature, one that would be based mostly in facts but would use creative devices like a novel as well. In class we discuss how the author expertly uses typical tools of fiction, especially drama, such as dramatic irony, suspense, pathos and juxtaposition. Capote’s skillful utilization and blending of these devices gives *In Cold Blood* an artistic merit greater than one would expect to see in the “true crime” genre. We also discuss how Capote strove to avoid inserting himself or his opinions into the story, but he very purposely raised a number of unsettling questions for the reader to ponder. He termed his new creation the “non-fiction novel”, and just after the two killers were put to death for their crimes, the new genre and an all-time classic were born.

In a typical school year, which we haven’t seen for awhile, juniors read *In Cold Blood* at the end of the year. Given the Covid situation, the English department decided to save the book for senior year this time around. Currently, my senior classes are a little more than halfway through the book, and I would say that engagement has been very high overall. The book definitely lends itself to great class conversations about some weighty issues such as nature and nurture, justice (including the death penalty), and fate versus free will, and various societal problems. I also enjoy trying to prod students to think like investigators as they look at the clues and analyze the credibility of different characters as we learn about their various actions and hear their own words.

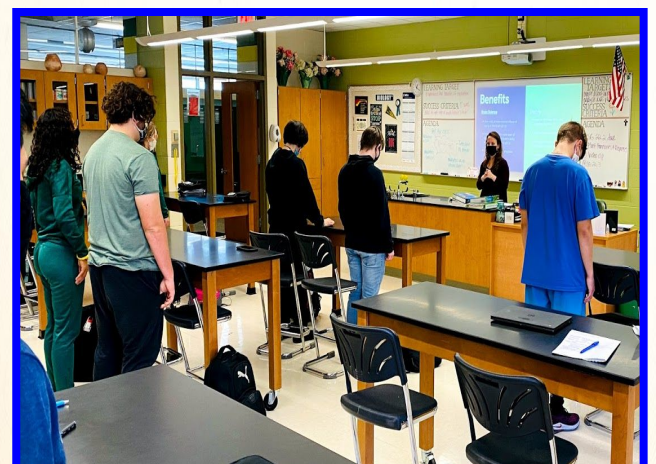
If you have never read this classic, I would highly recommend it. You may want to leave a light on as you read certain parts though. Despite the copious amount of detail in the book, a close examination will show each detail and description adds to the mosaic-like whole. Capote also keeps the reader turning pages as we learn more and more about what really happened in that rural farmhouse on one fateful night, getting a clearer understanding of the aberrant minds behind the tragedy.

WHAT'S NEW AT CHS - BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE!

This fall, a brand new elective was added to our course offerings. Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Glisson are teaching Behavioral Science for the first time. Nearly sixty students, all of whom are juniors and seniors, are currently enrolled in this course. During the first semester, students learned the basics of ethology (animal behavior) and even experimented with live earthworms! Since then, the focus has been on psychology. Below is a photo of students modeling brain hats. This was a fun way to study the lobes of the brain and what they control.



During their explorations into psychology, students have been on a path of self-discovery. Topics that we explored included the following: approaches to psychology, the workings of the mind and body, personality and individuality, adjustment and breakdown. We were fortunate to have our new school counselor, Ms. Brogdon, lead us through some meditation exercises, and the class has never been so centered and relaxed!



We are looking forward to switching topics this semester to sociology. I think we can all agree that there is no better time than the present to study social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.

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Students started the second semester in Art by building community and celebrating diversity. We studied the art of famous ornithologist James Audubon. We analyzed how his bird drawings changed history and he challenged the way artists documented animals via drawings from dead, stuffed animals shot in the wild. Instead James studied them in their natural environment, caught them in amazing detail, and also included their environment versus old drawings that were just on a white background. To print his book back then it would have cost \$115,640 in the early 1800's (over \$2,000,000 today). His book, *Birds of America*, took him over 14 years to complete and he created 435 lifesize drawings of 497 different bird species. The book was printed on handmade paper and was 39.5 inches tall by 28.5 inches wide.

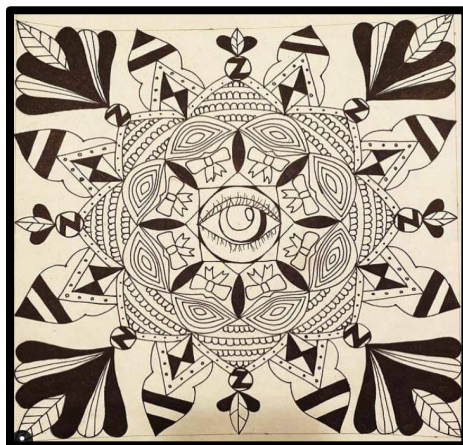
We chose birds because in many ways humans and birds have a lot of similarities. We travel in social groups for security and purpose. We identify and categorize each other in different social groups. Additionally birds come in so many different species (over 10,000 documented) and it was felt to be a great metaphor; how students in a classroom are all different and unique in their own way but when we come together we can create beautiful artwork.



Top: James Mathis

Top Right: Savannah Hamilton

Right: Scott Gilson



Last semester Art 3/Advanced Art students studied mandalas and turning their “ugly voices” = negative things and “super heroes” = positive things into symbols. They then incorporated their symbols into a radial design. They completed this project virtually and I am so proud of them!

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Academic Awards

Congratulations to the following students for earning an Academic Letter or Chevron for 2020! Academic Letters are awarded to students who earned a GPA of 3.8 or higher for the previous school year. Chevrons are awarded to students who earned a GPA of 3.8 or higher for the previous school year, and have already earned their academic letter, signifying two or more consecutive years of high academic achievement. We are so proud of these students!

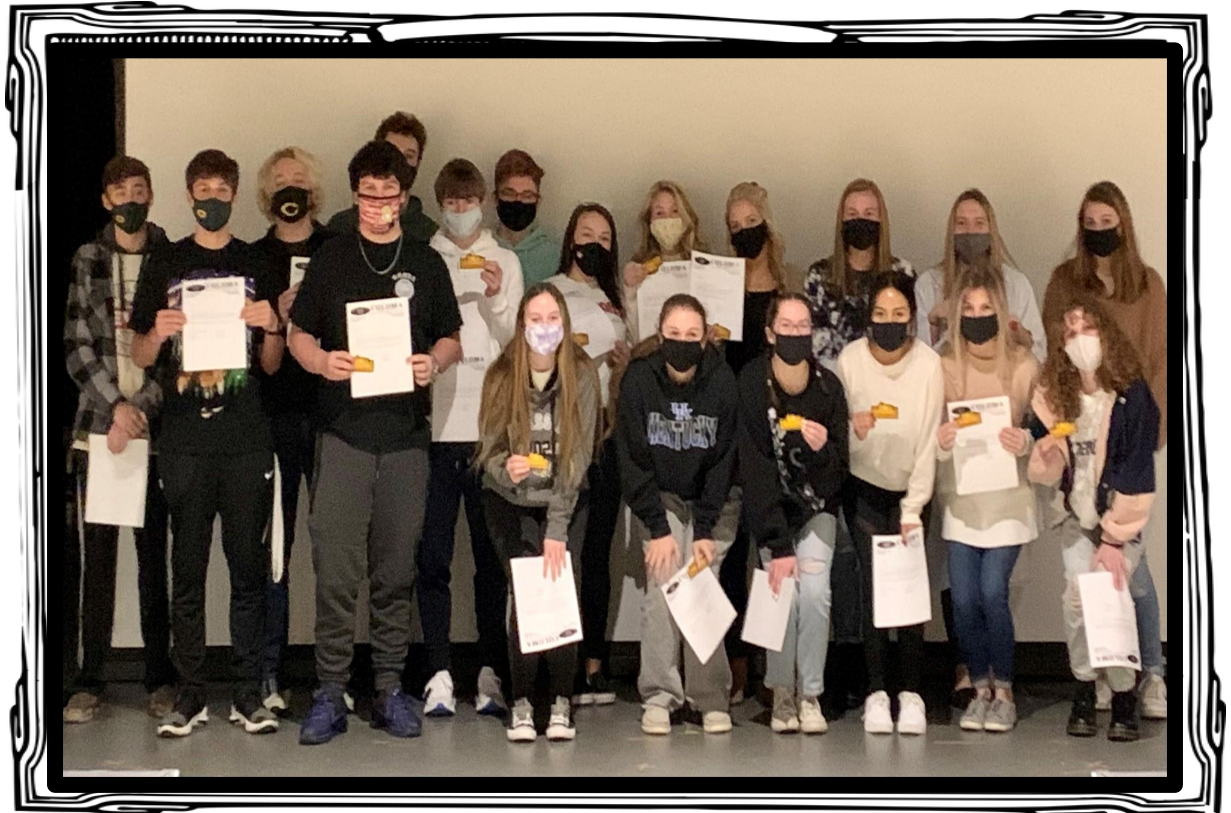


2020 Academic Letters

Henry Bell, Jonen Bravo, Camryn Brown, Kyle Burnette, Payton Carter, Michael DeRosa, Drew Goodline, Andy Granados, Hannah Grenon, Katrina Howell, Charis Lemoine, Brodie McQuillan, Addyson Milnickel, Ryan Molchan, Abelina Nestor-Cruz, Mason O'Neal, Aaron Pounders, Kayla Pratl, Cristian Quintana-Santana, Cameron Schinck, Bryan Schlipp, Preston Scott, Wesley Seabury, Olivia Stroba, Elizabeth Teter

2020 Chevrons

Vaneza Alvarez Maltos, Riley Davis, Christopher Eastman, Kaitlin Foster, Ava Genovese, Eric Gomez, Isabella Greenman, Cali Grenon, Ja'Vachey Hill, Jake Ickes, Kayleigh Jewell, Grace Kiessling, Kylie Kosek, Ethan Kreitner, Maurissa Lagrow, Mason Lampros, Ashley Little, Chloe Mathis, Madison McQuillan, Molly McVay, Yesenya Perea, Luke Phillips, Marisa Pullins, Arryanna Rodrigues-Torres, Kayla Smith, Karon Smith-Mwewe, Ethan Vandermolten, Abigail Vandermolten, Kayla Walter, Lucian Whitaker, Chloe Williams



FUN FACT

Some migratory birds fly in a “V” or “J” formation called a Echelon. This makes it easier for the flock to communicate, and the vortex helps the birds in the rear to save energy.

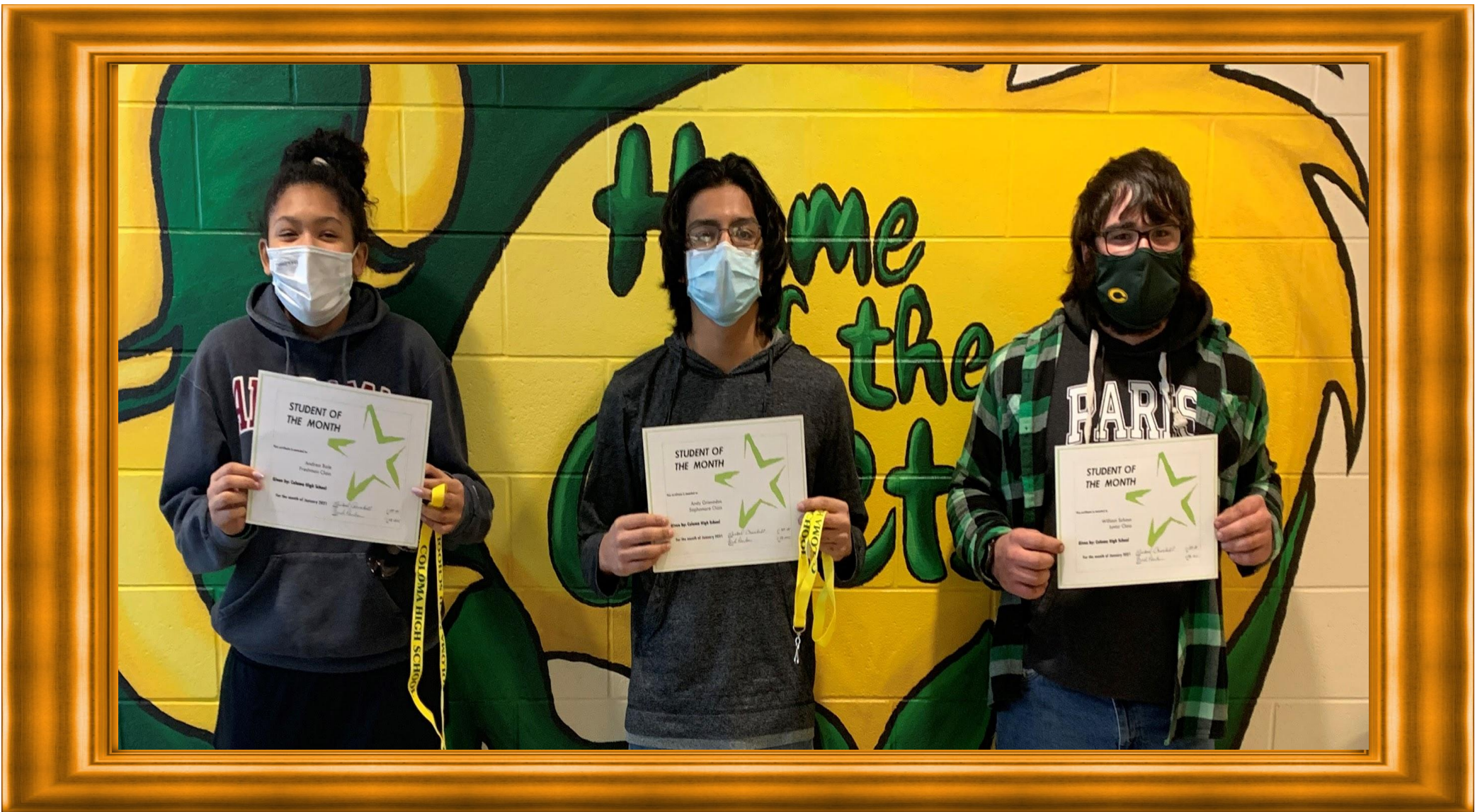
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JANUARY

Students of the Month



Freshman - Andrea Bale Sophomore -Andy Granados Junior -William Schaus
Senior - Bernabe Guzman-Hidalgo (Not Pictured)

JANUARY 13

13th January is generally the coldest day. January regularly produces frost, ice and snow. It is the chilliest month of the year in the UK.

January was originally called Januarius, named after the Roman god Janus. Janus had two faces which allowed him to look back into the old year and forward into the new.

28th January 1807 London's Pall Mall becomes the first street anywhere to be illuminated by gaslight.

3rd January Lord of the Rings writer, J.R.R. Tolkien, would've been 119 years old. Elvis Presley was born on the 8 January 1935

January is National Soup Month

18th January is 'Pooh' day

17th January 1912 Scott reached the South Pole - Robert Falcon Scott was a British naval officer and explorer of Antarctica, who died attempting to be the first to reach the South Pole.

USELESS FACTS ABOUT JANUARY
BROUGHT TO YOU BY **funkyfresh**

2nd January The Saxons believed was the unluckiest day of the year

In January 2006 a juvenile female Northern Bottlenose whale was discovered swimming in the River Thames. It was the first time the species had been seen in the Thames since records began in 1913.