Comet Comments

October 2019

Coloma High School

FROM THE DESK OF *Mike Churchill*

Happy Fall! Fall is upon us as we can see the leaves changing and temperatures dropping! We November 1st will officially mark the end of the 1st marking period for the 2019-20 school year. We will be having parent teacher conferences on November 4th and 7th this year from 4-7 pm each evening. All teachers will be in the cafeteria and available to you on a 1st come 1st serve basis. Please be sure to stay up to date with your students potential by using the Power School app and website to access grades for your student. If you need username and login information, please stop in the office and the secretaries will help you!

For something fun, The High School Art Club created their 1st haunted house with a ton of time, effort and awesome family members they were able to pull it off just in the nick of time for our Junior High and High School students to visit and enjoy! A huge thanks to the Coloma Police Department for helping chaperone the visits and Mrs. Ferguson for taking on the project for the enjoyment of the students!

COUNSELOR

SENIORS:

YOU SHOULD BE APPLYING FOR COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, JUNIOR COLLEGES OR TECHNICAL

SCHOOLS AT THIS TIME. ONCE YOU HAVE APPLIED GO TO YOUR "PARCHMENT" ACCOUNT AND ORDER YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO BE SENT TO THESE COLLEGES.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU APPLY FOR ANY SCHOLARSHIPS THAT YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR AT THESE COLLEGES. IF YOU ARE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM LMC, SMC, KVCC AND YOU DECIDE TO GO TO WMU OR ANOTHER COLLEGE IN JUNE YOU CAN ALWAYS DECLINE LMC OR SMC OFFER IN JUNE. ACCEPT ANY AND ALL SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SEE ME.

THERE ARE SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS LISTED IN THE FIRST "CB" COLLEGE BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER. YOU CAN ALSO FIND THE "CB'S" ON OUR HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE UNDER COUNSELOR CORNER. WATCH THE DEADLINE DATES FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION.

THIS IS COLLEGE READINESS MONTH. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU MEET WITH MR. HOULEHEN OUR AMERICORPS COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID PART TIME SPECIALIST. HE WILL HELP YOU WITH COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND COMPLETING THE FAFSA.

HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!!

What's Happening

November 1 - End of First Marking Period

November 4 - Report Cards Run

November 4 & 7 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm

November 8 - No School

November 12 - Academic Letter 7 p.m.

November 22 - 9th Grade Vision Screening

November 27 - Half - Day of School (Ends at 11:37 am)

November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Break/No School

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE ‘GREEN FLAG DAY’

On October 1st twenty 2nd and 3rd year Automotive students visited Southwestern Michigan College for the Automotive Programs Green Flag day. The goal of the day is to show students the latest in technology. On the schedule were several different clinics on automotive repair as well as a class on what to do and not do in an interview. This was followed by a campus tour and Dorms tour as well as meeting with the lead Automotive Instructor to talk about how to enroll and why SMC might be the fit for them.

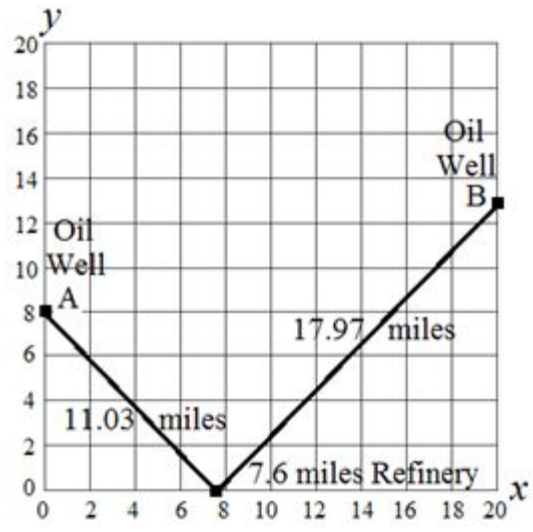
Snap-on held the Alignment clinic and a number of Coloma students won pocket screwdrivers for their knowledge. In the Engine oil and filter clinic held by NAPA several of our students won hats and tape measures. The Clinic on employability seemed to catch some students attention as the things the employers were talking about, being on time, reliability and work ethic are things they have heard me harp on day in and day out. It seemed that they suddenly realized that was not just something Mr. Ransom expects but rather something universal.

It was a beautiful day to be on campus and the students got to see what small college life could be like.

Math Department News:

Applying the Distance Formula

by Mr. Brian Klee



As a math teacher, I eagerly await students to challenge me with the question of, "When will I use this?" Such challenges are truly appreciated and help me improve as a teacher. If I don't have a real-life application for a given concept, I immediately search for a problem that can be solved using that concept.

One such example is applying the Distance Formula, to determine how minimal amount of pipe needed to connect oil wells to an oil refinery. The past 7 years, Geometry students have been challenged to search for the solution to the following problem to earn an automatic A+ on their 1st Quiz:

> *"An oil company has drilled two oil wells that are 8 miles and 13 miles out from the shore. The distance that they are apart is 20 miles horizontally along the shoreline. What is the best location on the shoreline, to the nearest tenth of a mile, to build an oil refinery that will require the LEAST amount of pipe to be laid to both wells?"*

The distance formula is really just a more detailed variation of Pythagorean Theorem , but applied to graphing on the coordinate grid. Many students used a "guess and check method" in which they knew that the distance of the pipe could be calculated using because the pipeline would be the diagonal hypotenuse shown in the diagram. They would then proceed with the following guess keeping the sum of the bolded numbers 20 because of the distance along the shoreline:

At this point students realized that the least amount of pipe would occur between 7 and 8 miles horizontally from Oil Well A so he then checked each tenth in between until he found the smallest possible value using to concluded that the Refinery should be located 7.6 miles horizontally from Oil Well A and 12.4 miles horizontally from Oil Well A. Meanwhile, the distance of pipe to Oil Well A would need to be and to Oil Well B would need to be .

While not everyone will use the Distance Formula or Pythagorean Theorem to decide where to place an Oil Refinery, there are endless problems in architecture, construction, engineering and many other applications that can be solved using this concept. In fact, anytime a right angle exists, the Pythagorean Theorem can likely be applied to find missing distances. Makes the nerdy math teacher inside of me excited for Chapter 6 and Chapter 9 in our Geometry books!

World History Survives the Bubonic Plague

Students in World History took part in a simulation of 14th century Europe during the time of the "Black Death." Each student was assigned a role of Merchant or Pilgrim. Each desk was a European city and the traveler would roll the dice to see how many nights they would stay in the town. For every night in the town they would pull a bean out of the bag with the town's name on it. If they pulled out a colored bean, they were infected. Their trip took them around the classroom and usually had 10-15 stops. The longer they stayed in their town the greater their chances of getting sick. Generally, 20-40% would not make it. It was a great way to bring history alive and get the students up and moving around. Many of the students would be nervous when they rolled the dice and become worried when they came to a town that was infected, very similar to the real life experience. Each student then would write a reflective essay about their experience in the form of a post card entry back home.

The pile of dead bodies from 5th hour after The Plague had swept thru Mr. Marfia's class.

CHS will hold Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 4th and 7th from 4 - 7 pm in the high school cafeteria. Parents will need to park in the east lot and follow the sidewalk to the front entrance. After entering the high school, parents will be given their student's report card and directed to the high school cafeteria. We have several teachers that are shared with the junior high. Here is a list of those teachers and when and where they will be during conference.

Teacher	Date	Location	Date	Location
Mrs. Ferguson	11/7/19	High School	11/7/19	Junior High
Ms. Rocca	11/4/19	High School	11/7/19	Junior High
Mrs. Selvidge	11/4/19	High School	11/7/19	Junior High
Mrs. Thomas	11/4/19	High School	11/7/19	Junior High
Mrs. Vroon	11/4/19	High School	11/7/19	Junior High
Mr. Marfia	11/4/19	High School	11/7/19	Junior High

You are welcome to see these teachers during their Junior High conference time if that fits your schedule. We look forward to seeing you!!!!

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

Fun Facts about the Month of October

• The name of the month of October comes from the Latin "octō", meaning "eight", because in the Roman calendar October was the eight month of the year. With the adding of January and February at the beginning of the calendar after the Julian calendar reform, October became the tenth month of the year, as we know it today.

• The Anglo-Saxons called October "Wintirfyllith", meaning "fullness of winter" because it had the first full moon of the winter season.

• Another fun fact about October is that, according to folklore, if the deer have a gray coat in this month you should expect a hard winter.

• The holiday of Halloween, celebrated in October, comes from "All Hallows' Eve" or the night before "All Hallows" day ("All Saints" day) as in old English "hallow" means "to sanctify".

• The zodiac signs for October are Libra (September 23 – October 22) and Scorpio (October 23 – November 21).

• Famous people born in October include Angela Lansbury, Hillary Clinton, Bill Gates, Julia Roberts, Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Julie Andrews, Hugh Jackman, Katy Perry, Alfred Nobel, Anne Rice, Arthur Miller, Auguste Lumière, Friedrich Nietzsche, Christopher Columbus, Johannes Vermeer, John Keets.

• The birthstones for October are the tourmaline and the opal. Tourmalines display a wide spectrum of colors, such as yellow, pink, blue, red, green, black or brown and they are believed to help you stay calm under pressure, bring peace and tranquility and defeat emotions like anger and jealousy. Opals exhibit different colors (green, white, yellow, blue, pink etc.) depending on the conditions under which they were created. Opal gemstones are believed to cure eye infections, strengthen memory, calm nerves and enhance creativity.

• The traditional flower of the month of October is the calendula, symbolizing comfort, healing, protection and grace.

• Special holidays in October include Halloween (October 31st), Columbus day (the second Monday of October), Yom Kippur, Diwali, International Peace Day (October 2nd).

Outstanding Teacher of the Week

October 7th 2019

Teacher of the week for 10.07.2019 is Megan Miltibarger! The recognition for this achievement comes from Mrs. Miltlibarger accepting the challenge of moving to the High School and taking on teaching a new subject with relentlessness! Mrs. Miltibarger went above and beyond to collect resources to continue teaching Algebra and Geometry after facing adversity of resources being removed for a short time. After finding the correct human resource, things were restored and the students did not skip a beat! Thank you Mrs. Miltibarger for your service to our students and our community!

October 14th 2019

Teacher of the week for 10.14.2019 is Thomas! The recognition for this achievement comes from reaching her 15th consecutive division 1 rating and a 3rd place finish at the Lakeshore Invitational! Mrs. Thomas has overcome a number of obstacles this season which in many cases could break a persons spirit and drive. Thank you Mrs. Thomas for your service to our students and community!

October 21st 2019

Teacher of the week for 10.21.2019 is Tonya Kimmerly! The recognition for this achievement comes from Mrs. Kimmerly and her Powerschool position. Mrs. Kimmerly is readily available to work with anyone to improve their experience with Powerschool as well as a tech issue that may come up from time to time! Mrs. Kimmerly is also at a number of school activities and coaches as well. Most recently, Mrs. Kimmerly worked with me to help with running particular reports that ultimately make it faster to communicate out to parents of those who are struggling and failing classes. Adversely, I am able to reach out to parents/families of those who are accelerated as well. Thanks for all of the hard work you display Mrs. Kimmerly!

October 28th 2019

Teacher of the week for 10.28.2019 is Megan Ferguson! The recognition for this achievement comes from Mrs. Ferguson and her work with the Art Club. Mrs. Ferguson agreed to create a Haunted House with the Art Club which turned out to be a huge undertaking! Students created props from styrofoam, cardboard, apple packing dividers even borrowing props from family members! Mrs. Ferguson and her family along with 31 Art Club members have created something that is quite phenomenal! Thank you for all of your dedicated time, visions, creations and shared passion for art that you instill in our students daily!

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COMET PRIDE

Students OF THE MONTH

-OCTOBER-

SENIOR – COLE ALSUP

JUNIOR – KYLIE KOSEK

SOPHOMORE – LUKE PHILLIPS

FRESHMAN – ETHAN MCNEW

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