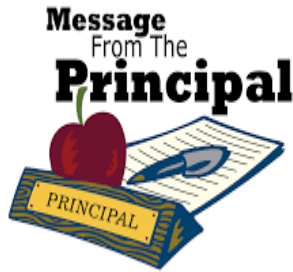


COLOMA COMMENTS

October Issue 2024



Dear Coloma High School Families,

As the vibrant colors of fall settle in, I'm thrilled to share some of the exciting developments happening this month at Coloma High School. October is a special time here – a time for community, connection, and progress.

Celebrating Student Opportunities and Growth

We continue to expand opportunities for our students to succeed beyond the classroom. Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including welding, machine tool, PHCA, CNA, and business classes, are in full swing, equipping students with hands-on skills that open doors to numerous career paths. Additionally, our Early Middle College (EMC) and Dual Enrollment programs with Lake Michigan College provide students a head start in higher education, allowing them to earn college credit while still in high school. And, of course, our Advanced Placement (AP) classes in English, math, and social studies provide rigorous academic challenges for students eager to excel.

College/Career Month

This October, we highlighted College/Career Month. Freshmen went to LMC for Career Pathway Day. Freshmen were able to see the different CTE classes that are offered throughout Berrien County. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors took part in our first College/Career Fair. We had fourteen institutions come to our campus. Students heard presentations from different colleges and were able to ask questions. Throughout the month various colleges have been on campus to talk to students during lunch. Central Michigan University and Michigan State University were here during RTI to speak to students who signed up. Mr. Coburn, MCAN advisor, has been meeting with seniors one on one to help them plan their next steps. During this month over half of our Seniors have applied to at least one institution for post secondary education and training.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward this month, we encourage all students to take advantage of the support systems we have in place. Tutoring, career counseling, and our dedicated teachers are all here to ensure that every student has the resources they need to thrive. Families, thank you for your continued support in encouraging your students to engage in these opportunities and for being a crucial part of their educational journey.

Thank you for being part of what makes Coloma High School such a special place. Let's continue to work together to make this school year one of growth, success, and memorable moments.



Counselor's Corner

October is MI College Month!

In Michigan, October is known as College Month, but at Coloma High School, we're celebrating all post-secondary pathways! From college and university programs to military service and professional training for skilled careers, we're shining a spotlight on the diverse options available to our students.

Throughout October, Coloma High School students are exploring these post-secondary paths through exciting events like:

- College/Career Fair – Students engaged with representatives from colleges, trade schools, and the military, gaining firsthand insights into a variety of career and educational pathways.
- College Rep Lunch Visits – Students connected with representatives from numerous schools and programs during lunch, giving them a chance to ask questions and learn more about their options.
- Xello Presentations – Through self-assessments on Xello, students discovered careers aligned with their interests and skills, opening doors to new possibilities.
- CTE Career Pathway Day – Freshmen ventured to Lake Michigan College with other Berrien County schools to explore hands-on Career & Technical Education (CTE) opportunities.
- Seniors! Take note: many institutions are reducing or waiving application fees this month for MI College Month, so it's a great time to apply!

We're excited to support and guide our students as they explore all the options ahead!

Respectfully,
Gregory Shaffer, MBA, MA
School Counselor



November 6:
Delayed Start

November 11:
Veterans Day Breakfast 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

November 18:
Progress Notes

November 20:
Delayed Start

November 27-29:
Thanksgiving



A Note from Special Education

On October 16th, the high school special education department put together a family information night. There are multiple resources available for students who have a disability. We wanted to make sure our Coloma High School families had the opportunity to come and gain information for their children that could help them be successful academically and socially. The resources that are available are often not talked about enough.

Michigan Career Technical Institute was one of the presenters. (MCTI) is a post-secondary vocational and technical center for students who have a disability. They offer multiple different courses such as nursing, automotive, welding, etc.. There are also dorms on campus.

Disability Network assists people who have a disability and live in Southwest Michigan. They help set and reach goals such as living. They see disabilities as a natural part of the human condition and work to educate the community and remove the barriers. 51% of the board and staff at Disability Network identify as having a disability.

Riverwood delivers mental health services and programs. Their mission is to provide children, families, and adults with mental illnesses the caring and confidential services each individual requires.

If you have any questions regarding one of these resources please reach out to Shyann Traylor at straylor@ccs.coloma.org or by phone at 269-468-2400 Ext: 4115



Career and Technical Education

PHCA and CNA students participated in the Career Pathway Day at the Mendel Center. Brandy Starling, Gavin Morlock, Alivia Hutchins, Ava Cartwright, Bethany Rose, Olivia DeChant, Olivia Craft and Makenna Baryo. They demonstrated skills learned in class and 9th graders had the opportunity for hands on practice.



On October 18th two of my upper Level students, Makenzie 2nd year and Aaron 3rd year spent the day with me at the Annual Career Pathways Day promoting careers in Automotive Technology to all of the 9th graders in Berrien County and a few from Van Buren County well. They demonstrated some of the diagnostic tools and procedures we use to test and repair today's vehicles. We had many great questions and interest from the 9th grade students from around the County! A big thank you to the Berrian RESA CTE team for putting this event on and inviting us!



World History and Government

The Black Plague Simulation in World History Class

By Brett Walsworth

Starting this week world history classes are learning about medieval times, and one of the more interesting (and frightening) topics is the Bubonic Plague, also known as the Black Death, which is just as terrifying as its name suggests.

First, we will read several prime source accounts about the topic and watch videos that explain how the disease was spread, why it was so devastating, the toll it took on the unfortunate people whose path it spread across, and the long-term effects of a plague that would kill off $\frac{1}{3}$ of Europe within the span of a few terrifying years.

Once we have discussed all of these things, we will do a simulation in class. Basically, students will start in groups and pretend to be travelers by land or sea, going to a number of European cities during the time of the plague in the late 1300s. With a pre-set travel agenda and the roll of the dice, students will go from one city to another at different times. Along the way, they will draw beans out of a bag to represent their chance of contracting the plague or cholera, another common disease of the times. The higher the roll of the dice means the higher probability of contracting disease. For an added dose of reality, travelers had a much higher probability of catching diseases in certain cities, like London, so that is reflected in the "infected" beans they draw while there. The goal is to hopefully make it through all the cities unscathed, which often does not happen.

The next day we reflect on the game and what we learned from it. There really are quite a few takeaways from the simulation. One of the largest ones, hopefully, is to gain a sense of understanding and empathy for the terrible circumstances that so many of our ancestors went through and a sense of appreciation for the lives we have today.

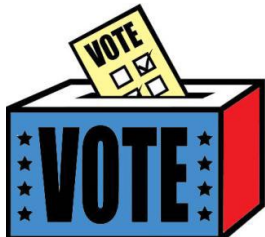


Election News and Bill of Rights

Mr. Cantrell

The civics class is currently going through the Bill of Rights in great detail so that students will know their rights and appreciate the sacrifices our nation made to secure them.

Students also review the election map and predict what it will look like after the election. To encourage some research and effort into the maps, the student who gets the map 100% correct will receive a prize. This also leads to our study of the electoral college, its roots, and its current role in our government.



We will also be reviewing the Electoral College and breaking the election cycle down bit by bit to understand why swing states matter so much and why we receive so much mail and texts/calls this time of year. This is a great way for students to get engaged and understand the complexities of the election process.

Halloween Activities

Staff Pumpkin Decoration Contest



SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Freshman

Gavin Dunafin



Sophomore

Linda Lara



Junior

Cole Brown



Senior

Grant Ecker

