

COLOMA COMMENTS

SEPTEMBER ISSUE 2025



A Message From The Principal

Important Dates

**OCT. 8: LATE START CLASSES
BEGIN 10:00 AM**
**OCT 10: NO SCHOOL FOR
STUDENTS**
OCT. 17: END 1ST MARKING PERIOD
**OCT. 21: PARENT TEACHER
CONFERENCES 4:00 PM**
**OCT. 22: LATE START CLASSES
BEGIN 10:00 AM**
**OCT. 23: PARENT TEACHER
CONFERENCES 4:00 PM**
OCT. 24: HALF DAY

October: College and Career Month at Coloma High School

At Coloma High School, October is all about preparing students for life beyond high school with our **College and Career Month!** Throughout the month, students will have the opportunity to explore their future educational and career options through a series of exciting events and activities designed to inspire and guide them toward success.

Coloma High School is proud to offer a wide array of **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** classes that equip students with real-world skills. Our CTE programs include:

- **Welding**
- **Machine Tool**
- **PHCA (Pre-Hospital Care Assistant)**
- **CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)**
- **Business Classes**

In addition to CTE opportunities, Coloma students can also **earn college credits** during their high school years through **Early Middle College (EMC)** and **Dual Enrollment** courses at **Lake Michigan College (LMC)**, providing a head start on higher education.

For those seeking an academic challenge, Coloma High School offers **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses in:

- **English**
- **Math**
- **Social Studies**

These AP classes help students develop college-level skills and can lead to college credits with successful exam scores.

Why It Matters

College and Career Month is a vital part of Coloma High School's mission to prepare students for their futures, whether they choose to pursue higher education or enter the workforce. These activities, along with our CTE programs, dual enrollment options, and AP courses, are designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to take their next steps after graduation.

We encourage students of all grade levels to take full advantage of the resources available this month. It's never too early to start planning for your future!

Let's make October a month of discovery, preparation, and excitement as we help our students pave the way to their dreams!

For more details and a full calendar of events, visit our school website or contact the guidance office.



October is College Month in Michigan!!



October is known as College Month, but at Coloma High School, we're celebrating all postsecondary 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

Spanish

By Amanda Ferris

""Give credit to works and not to words". — Miguel de Cervantes

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!

¡Hola! I'm Amanda Ferris, the Spanish teacher at Coloma High School. This is my 7th year teaching in Coloma. I am very excited to be teaching Spanish levels 1-5 this year! Spanish is a huge passion of mine, and I can't wait to teach new and returning students through comprehensible input and cultural experiences.

Spanish classes will focus on key vocabulary structures and phrases that students can relate to and use in real life situations. I hope to continue to create a classroom environment that is positive and engaging. Music, novels, and interactive activities will be utilized in all classes. There will be many fun activities ahead including: Locotubre, Día de Muertos, Wooly Week, Locura de Marzo, cooking, and more.



By Terry Sheehan

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.



Science

By Brandy Van Neil

“Exploring, learning, and growing together—one day, one lesson, and one success at a time!”

Observation and Experimentation in Chemistry



Chemistry is defined as the study of matter. Matter is anything that has mass and takes up space. Chemists observe what substances are made of, the structure and properties of matter and the many changes it can undergo. Experiments in chemistry should be designed so that the effects of different variables on the behavior of a substance can be studied independently. Scientists and students can do this by making observations under controlled conditions, where only one variable is changed at a time. Controlled experiments make it possible to separate the variables that are responsible for a given observation in a complex series of events.



For the first lab of the school year, chemistry students designed and conducted controlled experiments as they attempted to explain the complex series of chemical reactions that occurred in the Observation and Experimentation lab. When calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate and a solution of bromothymol blue and water are combined, a series of temperature, color, and states of matter changes can be observed. Students, working in collaborative groups, were then tasked with determining which variables caused which of the changes. To do this, the groups had to devise and conduct a variety of controlled experiments. This year's chemistry students did an amazing job of observing and experimenting.

Physical Education

By Travis Hargan

Physical activity is good for the body and good for the brain.

Misconceptions About Physical Education (Gym) Class

Gym class has carried the same inaccurate stigma for generations: It's only for the athletes. This couldn't be further from the truth! The name of the class alone (Physical Education) means to educate oneself of the benefits of physical activity.

The reason our physical education program offers activities such as badminton, pickleball and tennis is because individuals would be able to continue those activities without the assistance of a high school athletic program. Our physical education department aims to educate students on activities they can participate in within their community at a low cost to continue being physically active. The sad truth is that when the availability of organized sports offered by a high school disappears, so does one's physical activity, which results in health risks.



The Misconceptions

- Gym class is for the athletes
- You're graded based on how good of an athlete you are.
- You have to change your clothes every day of class.
- The only sports played in gym are bigger team sports like football and basketball

The Truth

- It's for everyone. Especially those who have little experience with organized sports.
- You're graded on how well you participate and your understanding of the structure of various activities.
- You don't have to "change" everyday. You just have to avoid certain shoes like boots/heels as well as pants like jeans. If you wear basketball shorts and a t-shirt to school, you can walk into a gym and be considered dressed appropriately without changing.
- Big team sports are likely not available in an organized fashion after high school. High school PE classes try to focus on lifelong activities that can be continued after one finishes high school.

Students of the Month

September

“
Inspire to Achieve
Empower for Success
”

A+



Freshman

Abby Jo
Sevrin



Sophomore

Angely
Garcia-Hernandez



Junior

Karsyn
Jacobs



Senior

Rick Cruz

Starfish Award



Mrs. Chris Smith

Mrs. Smith has been a secretary at Coloma High School for 8 years. Her smiling face is the one that greets students, parents, and staff when they come into the office. Chris has also been coaching the sideline and competitive cheer teams for an impressive 16 years! In the spring of 2025 her team took 7th place at the MHSAA state finals.

Outside of school she spends her time running to her son's school and sporting events. Being a mom is her #1 joy.

Mrs. Smith's Words of Wisdom:

“Never stop believing in yourself, practice respect for yourself & others, and understand that mistakes are opportunities to learn and make us better people.”