

COLOMA COMMENTS

OCTOBER ISSUE 2025

A Message From The Principal



At Coloma High School, our number one goal is helping every student find success. One of the best things about our school is the variety of choices students have when it comes to their learning. On campus, we offer hands-on Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes in welding, automotive, nursing, and business. Students can also explore programs off campus like cadet teaching and culinary arts—just a couple of the exciting options available to them.

For students looking to get a head start on college, we offer Early Middle College and dual enrollment opportunities through Lake Michigan College. These programs let students earn college credit while still in high school—saving time and money while getting a taste of college-level learning.

We want every student to take advantage of these opportunities and to feel supported along the way. That's why we have several programs in place to help when students need a little extra support. Homework Club is offered Monday through Thursday from 3:00–4:00 p.m., giving students a quiet place to work with a certified teacher available for help. In addition, every student has a built-in RTI period during the school day. During RTI, a teacher serves as their advocate—checking grades, helping with organization, following up on missing work, and answering questions about class assignments. It's a great time for students to get that extra boost they might need.

At Coloma Community Schools, we believe in giving students every chance to explore their interests, challenge themselves, and prepare for a bright future. We're proud of our students and the many paths they can take to reach their goals. Together, we're helping them build confidence, discover their passions, and shape a stronger community for the future.

We are proud of the hard work and dedication our students show every day. Watching them grow, explore, and succeed is what makes Coloma High School such a special place.

Important Dates

**NOV: 5 LATE START CLASSES
BEGIN 10:00 AM**

**NOV 19: LATE START CLASSES
BEGIN 10:00 AM**

NOV 26: NO SCHOOL

NOV 27: NO SCHOOL

NOV 27: NO SCHOOL

Counselors Corner

By Greg Shaffer



PICTURE: SENIORS VISITING SMC'S ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR

Michigan College Month

Coloma High School celebrated Michigan College Month in several meaningful ways:

- College Fair Visit (SMC): Students attended Southwestern Michigan College's College Fair, where more than 60 colleges, universities, trade schools, and military branches were represented. Students spoke directly with representatives to learn about post-secondary options.
- Freshman CTE Exploration (LMC): Our entire 9th grade visited Lake Michigan College as part of a countywide initiative highlighting Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs available throughout Berrien County.
- Career Planning with Xello: During RTI, all students used Xello, our career-exploration platform, to complete career self-assessments and identify fields that match their interests and strengths.

Student Dignity Program

We're proud to share the success of our new Student Dignity Program, which ensures every student has access to essential personal care items. Discreet bins in student restrooms are stocked with toiletries such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tampons, and more, so students can take what they need, when they need it, confidentially and respectfully.

Launched this fall with a \$500 mini-grant, the program has already received strong student support, and staff are seeing a positive impact on student confidence and well-being.

TO HELP SUSTAIN AND GROW THE PROGRAM, COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH AN AMAZON WISH LIST BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

Each community donation directly helps reinforce our shared commitment to supporting students' dignity and success at Coloma High School.

The Importance of Completing the FAFSA

Paying for college can feel overwhelming, but completing the FAFSA is the first and most important step to unlock financial aid. Visit www.studentaid.gov to create your account and complete the FAFSA. The earlier you apply, the more aid may be available.

Scholarship Opportunities:

- National/State Scholarships: Larger awards with bigger applicant pools. Trusted search sites include Fastweb and College Board.
- Local Scholarships: Available to CHS and Berrien County students through www.berriencommunity.org.
- School/Program Scholarships: Listed on each college's website and available to admitted students who meet eligibility requirements.

We recommend focusing on local and college-based scholarships, which often have better odds.

Questions? Contact Mr. Shaffer at gshaffer@ccs.coloma.org or 269-468-2400 ext. 4004.

Social Studies

By Tyler Cantrell



"The Constitution is the guide which I never will abandon." - George Washington



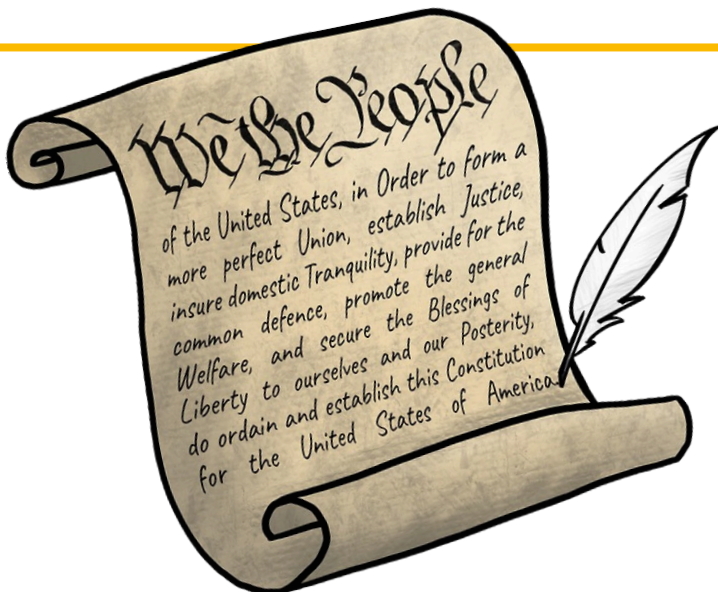
Constitutional Amendments

Eleventh grade students in Mr. Cantrell's Civics class recently took part in a hands-on lesson about democracy by drafting their own Constitutional Amendments. Under the guidance of Mr. Cantrell, students explored how the amendment process works and then applied that knowledge to issues they felt were most relevant to the modern United States.

Working in small groups, students debated and proposed amendments on a variety of topics including healthcare, gun safety, voting age, and term limits for elected officials. Each group researched historical context, current laws, and public opinion before writing their own proposals and explanatory statements. The exercise challenged students to think critically about the balance between individual rights and government responsibilities.

Some students proposed lowering the voting age to sixteen to encourage earlier civic engagement, while others argued for stricter gun regulations to promote public safety. Another group focused on universal healthcare access, suggesting a progressive tax to fund coverage for all Americans. Others examined political accountability by proposing term limits for members of Congress and executive officials.

Through this creative exercise, Coloma's Civics students demonstrated that the principles of democracy remain alive and meaningful in the classroom—one amendment at a time.



Classroom PHCA Program

By Barb Morris

"Sometimes I inspire my patients; more often, they inspire me." —Unknown

Mendel Center Career Fair

On October 17, student's from Coloma's Professional Health Careers Academy (PHCA) participated in the Career Fair at the Mendel Center.

Students representing PHCA were; Alivia Hutchins, Ashley Herhold, Campbell Pace, Sally Shelby, RaNa Mbwambo, Cassie Emrath, Ava Cartwright and Bethany Rose. The students demonstrated proper hand hygiene, how to remove used gloves and measuring vital signs. The 9th graders had the opportunity to do hands on practice of the skills.



Classroom

Auto Program

By Ryan Ransom

“Take care of your car in the garage,
and the car will take care of you on
the road.” — Amit Kalantri

Auto Tech Students Lead Career Pathways Day Mentorship

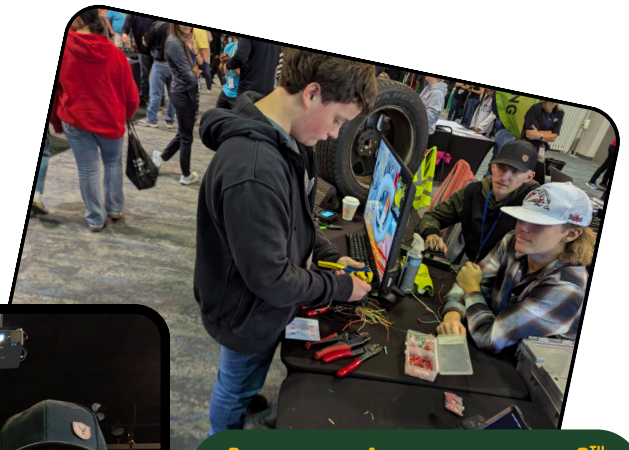
On Friday, October 17th, the CHS Automotive Technology program successfully hosted a booth at the Annual Career Pathways Day, an event designed to introduce all county 9th graders to potential high school career paths.

We were proudly represented by two outstanding students who took time out from their local shop internships to share their experiences: Aaron, a 4th-year student from Coloma High School, and Skylar, a 2nd-year student from Watervliet High School.

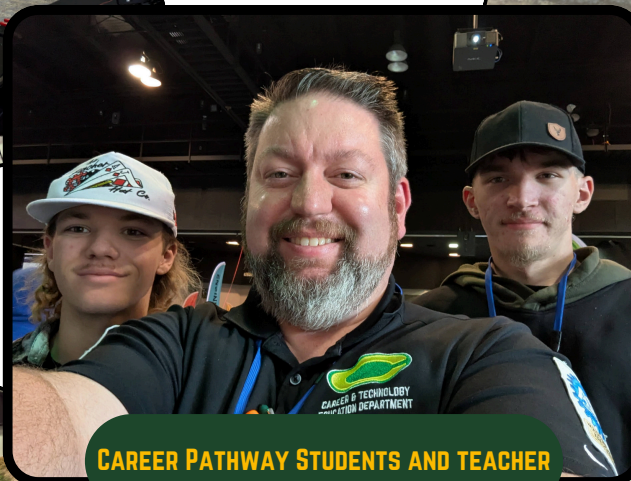
These two young men engaged directly with their younger peers, offering insightful reasons for pursuing a career in automotive repair. Their enthusiasm and effective interaction with students from Coloma and many other schools throughout the day were truly commendable, making the automotive booth a major success.



AARON SPEAKING WITH A COUPLE OF 9TH GRADERS



SKYLAR AND AARON SHOWING A 9TH GRADER HOW TO SPlice A WIRE



CAREER PATHWAY STUDENTS AND TEACHER



CAREERPATHWAYS SKYLAR AND VISITOR USING BORE SCOPE.



SKYLAR AND AARON TALKING WITH STUDENTS

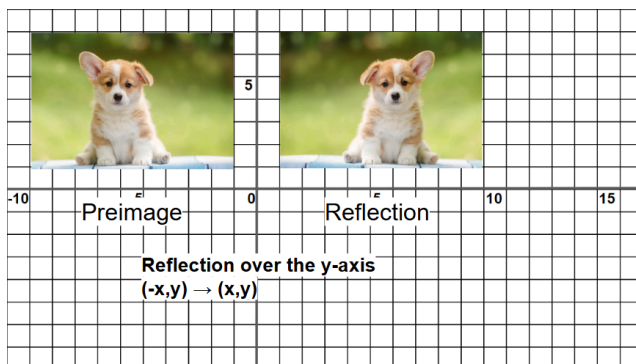
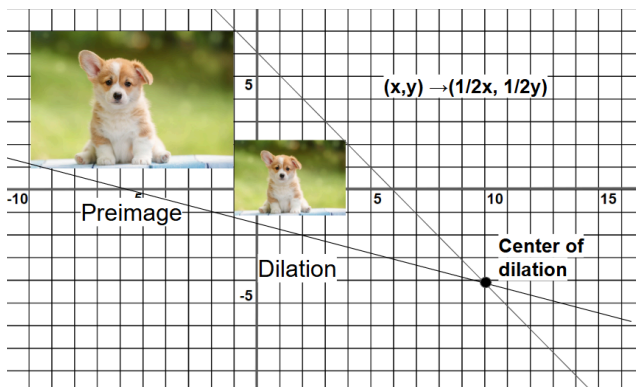
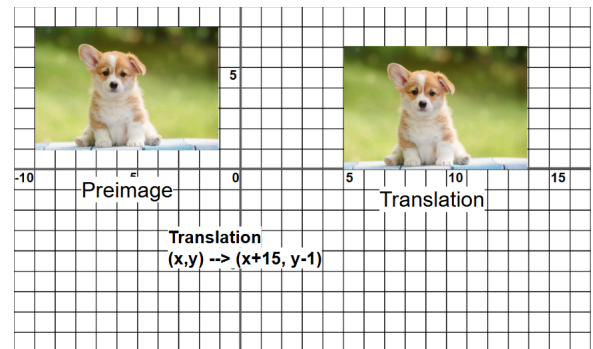
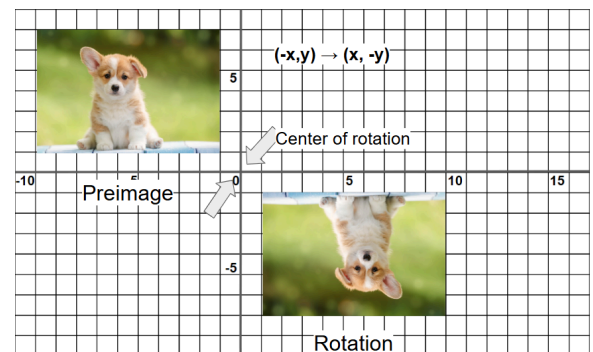
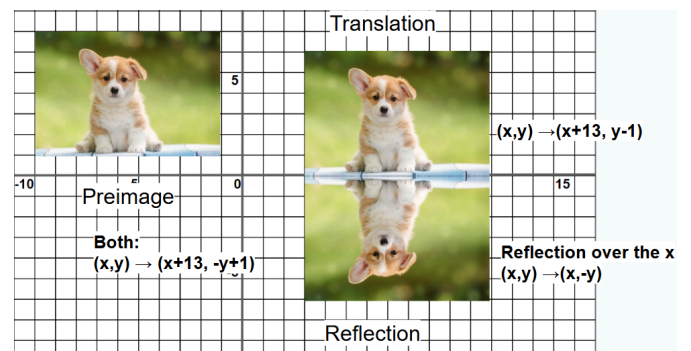
By Brian Klee

Transformations

Have you ever wondered how the graphics of your favorite video game are created? Geometry students learned the basic geometric transformations that are used to move an image across a screen. These transformations included translations, reflections, rotations and compositions. Translations move an image left or right and/or up or down. Reflections mirror an image over a "line of reflection". Rotations turn an image around a given "point of rotation". Lastly, compositions combine 2 or more transformations. Below is an sample of student work show these transformations as done by Lila Groendyk.

Unit 2 Alternative Assessment

By: Lila Groendyk



Special Education

By Shyann Traylor

"Every student can learn, just not on the same day or in the same way" — George Evans

Watching the Gradual Change in Development

September and October went by in a flash. I tend to compare Freshman students to the leaves on trees. Between schedule changes and transitioning from the Junior High there has been a lot of change in their lives. They are now in the grove and figuring out how credits work. It is nice to see that they are starting to understand that if they don't do their work (get passing grades) they are going to have to work twice as hard next Marking Period. They are adjusting to new expectations both academically and behaviorally and will see as time goes by that that change is sometimes hard but not necessarily bad. I have seen great growth in both areas with students I come in contact with and truly enjoy seeing the change that just 2 months makes.

Marching Band

By Marc Hartman

"If you are not counting, you are guessing. If you are guessing, you are wrong!"

2025 SHOW "SUNSHINE"

The Coloma Comet Marching Band is having a fantastic season so far this year! They enjoyed performing at all of the home football games and have kicked off their competition season with steady improvements each week. The band competed at the Jenison Invitational and Cedar Springs Invitational within a week of each other and saw a huge jump in their score. On Tuesday, October 14th they performed at MSBOA District VI Marching Festival and received straight A grades from all judges in all categories and received an overall Division 1 (Superior) Rating.

The Marching Comets continue their competitive season with the Michigan Competing Bands Association on Saturday, October 18th at the Portage Northern Invitational and will be vying for a spot at MCBA State Finals the following weekend. The Comets are hoping to cap off their first ever season with MCBA on November 1st at Ford Field. Congratulations to these outstanding students for all their hard work so far this season!

CONGRATULATIONS COLOMA MARCHING BAND

DIVISION 1 RATING AT MSBOA MARCHING FESTIVAL!

- Straight 1's from all Judges
- Straight A's in all Categories

LET'S GO COMETS!



Students of the Month

October

“
Inspire to Achieve
Empower for Success
”

A+



Freshman

Bryce Cartwright



Sophomore

Isla Reinhardt



Junior

Ryann Axsom



Senior

Baylee Varvel



Starfish Award



Miss Jazmin Peddy

Miss Peddy has been our social worker since 2023. She helps students in both the high school and jr. high.

Jazmyne received the starfish award because she is always willing to jump in and help in any situation. She maintains a positive mindset and takes pride in her work. She is a strong leader, very supportive, and makes sure she builds stronger relationships with the kids.