

COLOMA COMMENTS

APRIL ISSUE 2025



A Message From The Principal



Comet Families,

We have completed standardized testing season at Coloma High School. All 9th, 10th and 11th graders completed the PSAT/SAT tests on April 16, 2026. Juniors completed the MSTEP on April 23, 2026 and the WIN test on April 28, 2026. We at the high school want to thank you for making sure your child is not only at school, but prepared for the three days of testing. This is no one's favorite time of the school year, but one that is necessary. Your child can expect the results from SAT, PSAT, MSTEP, or ACT WorkKeys in six to eight weeks. Freshmen and Sophomores have one more district assessment to complete, the NWEA, on May 5th and 7th. Freshmen and Sophomores will take a reading and math assessment. This will be the third time that freshmen and sophomores will take the NWEA. We will be able to chart your child's growth throughout the school year.

We now look forward to the few weeks we have left in the 2025-2026 school year. It does not matter if your child is a freshman or a senior, the Spring always leads to wanting to get outside and maybe let a priority or two slide. When a Senior experiences it, we call it "Senioritis". We don't have a fancy name for when a freshman goes through it, but they still have the same symptoms. This is the time that students need to refocus. Their academic and athletic goals are in reach. We are in the last leg of a great school year. We all need to help our students finish strong.

If a student does not complete a course of study to receive credit, we will be contacting parents through letters to make sure that students are able to enroll in summer school classes. There will be a deadline that students will have to enroll by at the end of the school year.

I am looking forward to being able to watch our students celebrate their achievements for this school year. Whether it be underclassmen being recognized for their accomplishments in the classroom or our Seniors walking across the stage to obtain their diplomas, this time of year is one to be proud and to celebrate your child's performance. Parents, you should also take a bow for your part of the many accomplishments your child has achieved this school year. All of those rides over the years, the late night homework sessions, the snacks, and the hugs have all made contributions to your child's success.

Even though our Seniors graduate on May 22, 2026, this does not symbolize the end of the journey. Our Seniors will continue to need your counsel and support. Graduation is a time for all of us to pause and tell our graduates, "Well done."

Important Dates

- MAY: 6 LATE START CLASSES BEGIN 10:00 AM**
- MAY 15 SENIOR CHECKOUT**
- MAY 16 PLAY "MADHOUSE 7:00 PM**
- MAY 17 PLAY "MADHOUSE 3:00 PM**
- MAY 19 CHS CHOIR CONCERT 6:00PM**
- MAY 21 CHS BAND CONCERT 6:30 PM**
- MAY 22 GRADUATION**
- MAY 25: NO SCHOOL**

Counselor's Corner

By Greg Shaffer



WHEN AND HOW DO I GET MY (PSAT 9, PSAT 10, SAT, AND/OR WIN WORK READINESS) SCORES?

PSAT 9, PSAT 10, or SAT scores will begin to roll out on **May 14th** and can be obtained here: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/>

When registering, please use your personal email, **NOT** your school email.

SAT & PSAT Testing Wrap-Up: What's Next?

Congratulations to all our students! We have officially crossed the finish line for this season's PSAT and SAT testing. Whether you were taking the PSAT 9, PSAT 10, or the SAT, you should be proud of the hard work and focus you brought to the testing room.

Understanding Your Scores

Now that the bubbling (or clicking!) is over, the next step is waiting for your official score report. Remember that these numbers are just one piece of your academic journey. Your report will provide:

- Total & Section Scores: A snapshot of your performance in Reading, Writing, and Math.
- Percentiles: A look at how you performed compared to other testers nationwide.
- Knowledge & Skills: A breakdown of specific "content domains" to help you identify your strengths and areas for growth.

Using Your Results for Growth

If you're planning to test again, your score report is a built-in study guide. Focus on the content domains where you have the most room to improve. Many students find that a small, targeted shift in focus, like drilling Algebra or Standard English Conventions, can lead to a significant jump in their next score.

Social Studies

By *Curt Mead*

“December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy...”
— Franklin D. Roosevelt.

History Goes Viral: Students Reimagine the Past

Mr. Mead's History students have been busy bringing World War II into the 21st century! To conclude their latest unit, students designed "Fake Instagram" accounts for significant historical figures. The project required deep research into biographical facts, notable contributions to society, and interesting stories that made these figures human. We are so impressed by the creativity and historical accuracy our students displayed!

FAKE Instagram



User Name: All I do is WINston

Name: Winston Churchill

Bio: Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955



FAKE Instagram



User Name: Benito_Mussolini

Name: Benito Mussolini

Bio: My name is Benito Mussolini. I'm the leader of Italy. "it's better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep"



FAKE Instagram



User Name: [therealJosephStalin](#)

Name: Joseph Stalin

Bio: Director of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1929-1953. Father of 4 kids, married twice. One brother and one sister. Was in power after Lenin's death.



FAKE Instagram



Joseph Goebbels

theylove_joe

Minister of Propaganda 🗣️, Master Orator and Propagandist 🗣️, Chancellor of Germany for a day 🗣️, Husband, and father of six ❤️

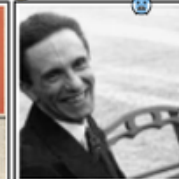


My Family 🗣️

Self Confidence 🗣️

Rallies 🗣️

My New Job 🗣️



FAKE Instagram



User Name: [FDR#1](#)

Name: Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Bio: 32nd president of the United States of America from March 4th 1933-April 12th 1945. I am the only president to serve 4 terms.



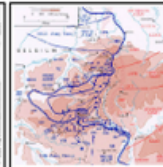
FAKE Instagram



User Name: [DwightTheDogEisenhower](#)

Name: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Bio: 5-star general and supreme commander of the American expeditionary force in Europe at the time of WWII.



Auto Shop

By Ryan Ransom

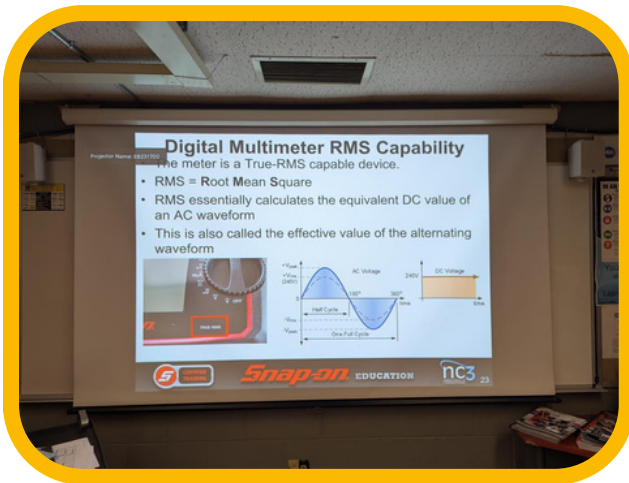
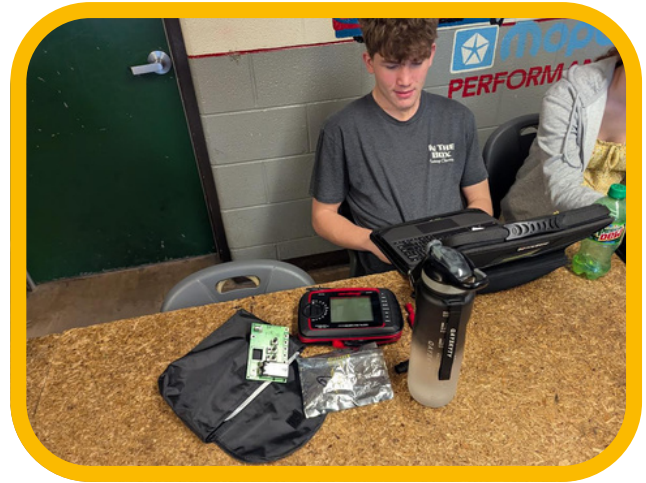


"Quality means doing it right when no one is looking" – Enzo Ferrari



Hands-on Training With Digital Multimeters

Second-year students are currently engaged in intensive, hands-on training with Digital Multimeters. This is a certification course administered through NC3 and Snap-on. The Coloma Community Schools Automotive Program is an accredited NC3 Training Center, with Mr. Ransom serving as a certified NC3 trainer. Upon completing several weeks of this specialized training, these students will be eligible to sit for the official certification exam. Having these industry recognized certifications show employers that these young people are serious about growing their knowledge.



By *Seven Mammel*

Ellipses, Circles and Parabolas

This week geometry is learning about ellipses, circles, and parabolas. Students measured the running track as if it were a giant ellipse, then marked smaller ones on the lawn with flags. Using this hands-on approach they looked at how a small change in a number on the page translates to a big change in real life. The students worked together to discuss calculations and results.



Special Education

By Diane Feddema

“You don’t drown by falling into water; you only drown if you stay there” — Zig Ziglar

A Lack of Structure can Cause Anxiety



This time of year Summer break is quickly approaching. While that is super exciting for some, it isn't for everyone. According to the World Health Organization, about 10% of teens experience Anxiety Disorders. One of the core traits to Anxiety Disorders is the intolerance of uncertainty. Most people, but especially those who have anxiety disorders, thrive on structure. Summer breaks remove that structure. In an article I read from mountainvalleytreatment.org. This article mentions Nervous System Dysregulation and how this affects teens. *“/ Parents may observe increased irritability, emotional lability, fatigue, or somatic complaints (like headaches or GI issues). Sleep patterns may become erratic. Motivation may plummet. Without the demands of school to mask it, underlying distress rises to the surface.”* So as much as teens complain about getting up each day and going to school, many secretly need the structure to help them regulate their emotions. Next time you hear a teen complaining about going to school, just tell them they are helping their nervous system to regulate.

By Kevin Russell

"It is nice to have valid competition; it pushes you to do better."

— Gianni Versace.

Season Summary

The Robotarians, FRC #2959 HS robotics team, has had a good season. We finished our robot, Dusty, in time for our week 1 Lakeview District event competition. We finished 18th at the end of qualifications and were picked by the #7 alliance. We unfortunately didn't advance during the eliminations.

After Lakeview, we re-grouped and planned how to improve Dusty for the Berrien Springs event. We worked to improve the intake for picking up fuel, reinforcing our hopper and making it move smoother. We also spent time practicing and testing to good effect.

At the Berrien Springs event, Dusty performed better and was more effective. We had a great run Saturday afternoon, helping defeat two of the undefeated teams in qualifications. We ended up #11 at the end of qualifications. We were the #1 pick of alliance 5 (We were with South Haven's Ramageddon and Edwardsburg's Eddies Circuits). We were able to advance into the semi-finals before we were eliminated. The team's hard work paid off with the better performance. Additionally, we won the Industrial Design award for our robot's form and function.

Unfortunately, we haven't earned enough points to advance to the State competition, but we were close. This ends our competition season, but we still plan to keep working to train students for next year, prepare for sponsorship presentations and off season outreach (such as the Glad Peach festival, hosting FTC event and more).



Colome Students pictures

DJ Rigozzi - Junior -> holding the plaque

Jose Rios - Freshman -> right of DJ

Kailan Brown -> 8th grader -> far right



Congratulations to Chris Smith DISTRICT 19-4 COACH OF THE YEAR!!

We are so Proud!



The following is a short biography Coach Smith was asked to submit to the MHSAA Competitive Cheer District 19-4

I graduated from Coloma High School in 2004 and have been proudly coaching competitive cheer at Coloma for the past 17 years. Go Comets! Coaching has been such a meaningful part of my life, and I'm incredibly grateful to be part of this program. In the 2013-2014 season, I was honored to be named Conference Coach of the Year in the Wolverine Conference. More recently, my teams have achieved incredible success. In 2025, Team 16 was Conference and District Champions and earned a State Finals finish, (7th place) setting multiple school records along the way. In 2026, Team 17 continued that momentum as Conference and District Champions.

Outside of cheer, I've been married to my wonderful husband, George, for 19 years, and together we have a 9-year-old son, James, who keeps life fun and full. He enjoys playing football, basketball, and baseball.

I am incredibly grateful to have received the District 19-4 Coach of the Year award, but this honor is not just mine. It belongs to every athlete who has trusted me, pushed themselves beyond their limits, and given their heart to this program.

This program is built on hard work, resilience, and belief, not just in the sport but in each other. Being a part of that, watching these athletes grow not only as competitors but as people, is the greatest reward I could ever ask for.

Once a Comet, always a Comet



Students of the Month

April



Inspire to Achieve
Empower for Success



Freshman

Kiley Beilman



Sophomore

Shaelyn Claeys



Junior

Charles Gagliardo

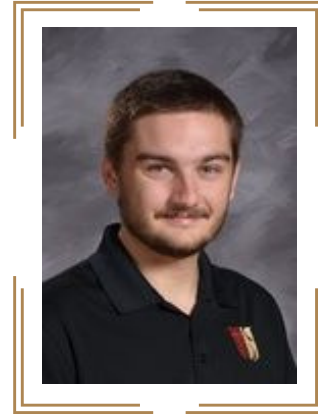


Senior

KJ Young



Farewell Mr. Jabobs



Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Brenden this month. With his education complete he is ready to move on to a career in teaching. He was a huge asset to CHS as our permanent substitute. During his time with us we were able to watch him grow and develop into a great educator. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

He will be missed!

Congratulations Robbie Trail Starfish award winner for April



Seniors

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Decision Day May 1st

- Seniors will be called to the auditorium over the PA around 9:30 AM.
- Decision Day Spirit Wear: Staff/Students are encouraged to wear college wear or school-appropriate military/career wear

Class of 2026 Top 10



Lizbet Acevedo Vega



James Anthony



Cole Brown



Ava Cartwright



Callie Crisenbery



Cassidy Emrath



Madalina Gallegos



Lylah Hyska



Brooklyn Nord



Taylor Truman

Other Dates to Remember

May 6 : Senior Awards at 7:00 pm

May 14 : Senior Final Exams 4-6 periods

May 15 : Senior Final Exams 1-3 periods

May 22 : Graduation Breakfast and rehearsal beginning at 7:45 am

May 22 Graduation Parade at 4:30 pm

May 22 : Graduation Ceremony at 6:00 pm





Coloma Community Schools

Craig Fisher, Coloma High School Principal
300 W. St. Joseph Street, Coloma, MI 49038
(p) 269.468.2400 | www.chs.coloma.org

Parents, Guardians, and the Class of 2026:

Your child's senior year has been a busy one, and we are certain everyone is looking forward to seeing this year be concluded with a wonderful graduation ceremony! To help make this possible there are several things we would like to share with you.

We want to emphasize the importance and seriousness of the commencement ceremony. We encourage students and parents to help us with the expectation of this ceremony being a formal event. We look forward to conducting a dignified event in honor of this achievement so that it can be remembered as one of the best memories of their high school career! Please help us by encouraging your guests to conduct themselves in a dignified and respectful manner that is befitting of a ceremony of this nature.

We ask that parents, relatives, and friends always remain in the bleachers.

All persons attending the ceremony must have a ticket. At Senior checkout on May 15, 2026, seniors will pick up their allotted fifteen (15) tickets for the ceremony. ALL students who have unpaid fines or did not complete the required credits required to graduate will not be issued tickets or a cap and gown until these issues are resolved..

Students have been told that there is a dress code and behavior code for the commencement ceremony. It is as follows:

Dress Code:

- Dress Attire
- Khakis or Dress Pants
- Dress Shirt
- Dress Shoes

Not Allowed:

- Jeans or Shorts
- T-Shirts
- Sunglasses
- Water Bottles

Caps and gowns are **NOT** to be decorated with ornamentation except where allowable by law. Only cords and stoles awarded by Coloma High School for Academic Excellence, such as NHS, Honor Graduate, Summa Cum Laude, Magna cum Laude, and Cum Laude. No cameras, cell phones, or other electronic devices are to be on the graduates during the ceremony. No corsages, flowers, or signs are to be carried during the ceremony.

If you have a person who will need accommodated seating due to health concerns, Please email rtrail@ccs.coloma.org or call the office at 269-468-2400 and let us know by May 21, 2026 to accommodate your request.

Any senior who arrives for commencement dressed inappropriately or who displays inappropriate behavior will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

The following requirements must be met before a Senior can participate in the commencement ceremony:

Inspire to Achieve – Empower for Success

It is the policy of Coloma Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, disability, height, weight, marital status, or any other status covered by federal, state, or local law shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service, or in employment. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact our compliance officers, Wendy Tremblay and Craig Fisher at 302 W. St. Joseph Street, Coloma, MI 49038, 269.468.2424 or via email at complaint@ccs.coloma.org.



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The following requirements must be met before a Senior can participate in the commencement ceremony:

1. Any student taking correspondence courses or credit recovery must have all work completed by May 15, 2026.
2. All grade and Michigan Merit Curriculum credit requirements must be met by May 15, 2026. All incomplete and course requirements must be completed by this date.
3. All bills owed to the school (current and past due) must be paid in full on or before May 15, 2025.

Calendar of Events

May 14, 2026	Exams 4th, 5th, and 6th hour. Students will receive a checkout form in their 4th hour. Upon the completion of each exam, students will use the form to check out of each of their classes with their teachers. Please leave your checkout form with your 6th-hour teacher at the end of the exam in that class. Friday morning, please pick up your checkout form to complete the same process for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-hour exams on May 15th.
May 15, 2026	Exams 1st, 2nd, and 3rd hour. Upon completion of each exam checkout with your teacher using the same sheet as you did the prior day. After 3 rd hour, take your Chromebook and checkout form to the Auditorium to start the checkout process. If you do not have your CHECKOUT FORM, you will not be able to checkout without it.
May 22, 2025	ALL STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION REHEARSAL. FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN REHEARSAL WILL MEAN YOU WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. Seniors will be served breakfast and will take part in Senior Superlatives at 7:45 am.. Practice for the commencement will follow breakfast. BRING YOUR CAP AND GOWN. After rehearsal, we will take a class picture in the gymnasium and then line up to march past the elementary and intermediate schools for a celebration with the younger Comets! The students will then be released for the day.

INDOOR CEREMONY: Seniors are to report to the cafeteria at 5:15 PM. **NO FAMILY MEMBERS** are allowed in the high school, they must take their seats in the gymnasium. Graduates will enter only through the door by Room 104 (Mr. Sheehan's Room, Door #2) in the high school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the High School office by telephone, 269-468-2400, we are happy to help! Thank you for your continued support and for making this ceremony one to remember for your families and your graduate!

Respectfully,

Craig Fisher
Principal

Inspire to Achieve – Empower for Success

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