

The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL
COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | CELA | COMSTOCK K-12 VIRTUAL ACADEMY



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MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read
Center Point*

A newsletter about the
Comstock
Community Center



From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

Looking back on the past few weeks and our return to school, I'm thankful for the incredibly smooth and positive start to our school year. The lion's share of the credit goes to our Colt Cabinet and district staff whose passion, preparation, and energy ensured that the focus was on our students and their academic, emotional, and social needs. Now that it's October and the fall season is upon us, let's look ahead to what the future will hold for Comstock Public Schools.

Construction projects related to the bond are continuing and will soon be completed. At Comstock Elementary, six of the eight construction phases are done. Phase 5 which consisted of the library media center and the kitchen looks fantastic. Phase 6 which focused on the modernization of three classrooms were completed on October 1 and the rooms look great. The entire elementary renovation project is still on schedule with Phase 7 scheduled to be done in January and the final phase, Phase 8, in April. To top it all off, the building is fully air conditioned.

Comstock Middle School continues its transformation. With new sidewalks and an impressive new parking lot, new exterior, nine remodeled classrooms, as well as new flooring, painting, and many other upgrades, the building has taken on a modern and clean look. As a result of the 2016 bond, our teachers now have terrific facilities to share with our middle school students and we are excited for the community to see those spaces. And in lockstep with CES, next summer CMS will be modernized with full air conditioning.

While the Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA) didn't have any construction this summer, there's still something new there in the form of a partnership with the Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University. Teaching Chinese language and culture is Ms. Yang who is helping students make connections with a culture from the other side of the planet.

At the STEM Academy, this year promises to be full of learning about the world all around us. Students will have a year filled with robotics, bio-



In her new room, kindergarten teacher, Emily Flegal, explains the breakfast choices.



McKenzie Reilly's second grade room is ready for students.

medical science, Girls on The Run, sweet maple syrup science, squishy circuits, 3D printing, and so many other STEM Activities including music and art.

At Comstock High School, the fall sports season started with a big win, 50-6 over Coloma in varsity football. As the sports season continues into the fall and winter, be sure to come out and cheer the Colts on to victory. We've already seen the hard work the Comstock Band of Blue has done in preparing for the fall sports season. We look forward to more of their performances under the leadership of our new director, Mr. Bergh.

Compass High School is connecting students with inspirational ideas and people who can help turn those ideas into reality. Every Wednesday at Compass is now a day of service. Students can

Continued on next page



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS
www.comstockps.org

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Pamela Dickinson, President
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by empowering, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach their full potential, and to ensure all students learn and thrive in a safe and healthy environment.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an inclusive, high performing learning community where we foster dreams, explore possibilities, and create futures.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions concerning your schools, the answer is only a telephone call away:
269-250-8907

STORIES OR INFORMATION

The Comstock Communicator is published by Comstock Public Schools. Information may be sent to Dr. Jeff Thoenes at jeff.thoenes@comstockps.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.



@ComstockPS

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get tutoring and counseling appointments. The library will be open for Book Club, group meetings, and a variety of speakers and community service initiatives.

The Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy, now three years old, has become a priority for some because of the pandemic. With the Academy, the District offers devices, hot spots and academic support as well as a drop-in computer lab at 3010 Gull Road. Over 100 students enroll in the Academy each year.

As we settle into the routine of the new school year, more than ever, we recognize that connecting with one another is essential to a well-rounded education. It's important to connect with teammates, classmates, teachers, parents, bus drivers and coaches. I encourage you to take advantage of opportunities like the student and parent Lighthouse Teams at Comstock Elementary. Take part in middle school and high school athletics, and connect with teammates who might just become lifelong friends.

Let's connect with each other... all year long. Reach out directly to my office if you have questions or concerns about the District. Reach out to me if you want to be a part of our District's progress. Let's connect at conferences. And concerts. And basketball games. Let's connect at the library. And in the park. Let's make this a great year to be



Students in Leigh Ann Emrick's third grade class are hard at work. Assisting her this year is paraprofessional, James Melvin.

a Colt!

In a final note, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we have a lot to be thankful for - revamped buildings, in-person learning once again, and the excitement that goes along with learning new concepts and ideas. Let's also be thankful that some sense of normalcy has returned and that the

lessons of the pandemic year have made us stronger.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes
Superintendent

Comstock Grad Says, 'Thank You'

Dear Comstock Community,

I feel grateful to have had the privilege of calling Comstock home for over 50 years. My parents came to the area in the 1970s and chose this community because of the Comstock School District. Back then, Comstock set the standard in Southwest Michigan for what schools should offer their students. The new middle school and high school were the envy of surrounding communities, and I was lucky to have been educated in both buildings. It wasn't until returning to these facilities in the early 2000s when my son became a Comstock Colt that I realized just how fortunate I was.

Comstock's middle and high schools haven't changed much since I graduated in the early 80s. It was clear that the district did a great job of caring for these facilities, but the buildings could no longer hide their age. Today, I return to these spaces again, but in a different role. I'm no lon-

ger a student nor the parent of a student. Now, I look at these buildings through two lenses: that of a tax-paying community member and as a construction manager.

I serve as part of the Miller-Davis Company team renovating the middle school and elementary school as part of the 2016 bond proposal. When I'm on the job, I can see, first-hand, where improvements need to be made. Current renovations at the elementary and middle school buildings have had an immediate positive impact on the quality of education teachers can provide. Upgrades that include new HVAC systems, lighting, flooring, and technology allow our young people a level academic playing field to compete with peers from other districts.

While the renovations to date are a great start, further improvements are necessary. Our school buildings were designed to have an approximate life span of 50 years and, while these buildings have performed well over the past five decades,

needed updates go beyond routine maintenance. It's time to turn our attention to vital building improvements that the 2016 Bond did not include.

I have always been proud to tell people that I live in Comstock; now I want to instill that same sense of pride in a new generation by allowing them the opportunities I had as a young student. While I may no longer have children in the school system, it makes me smile to think that there is a family out there, just like mine, who chooses this community as their home because of the continued commitment we've made to our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Craig Howard
1982 Comstock Colt
Field Operations Director for Miller-Davis
Company

Students Learn from Summer Fun Camp Activities

School Social Worker Rida Jones created activities to help students with social and emotional learning at the Summer Fun Camp.

In the Climb the Emotional Rope activity, students were asked to think of a painful emotion or feeling. Then, they placed the feeling at the bottom of the rope and worked their hands up the ladder to release it.

“The intent is to have students recognize their painful feelings and understand that it is okay to

let go and not hold on to them,” said Ms. Jones.

In the Feeling Post, students wrote positive affirmations on Post-It notes and gave them to each other.

Finally, in the Pop Big Emotions Without Being Hurt, students thought of a strong emotion and then passed a token with the feeling symbolically inside without having the word “explode.” This helped students learn how to regulate strong emotions.

District Receives \$6,000 Grant

The District has received a \$6,000 grant from the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) targeting social emotional learning (SEL). Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel and School Social Worker Rida Jones co-wrote the grant which will be used to buy SEL teaching and student materials.



School social worker, Rida Jones, and Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel with the grant check from KRESA.

CPS Receives Boost in Federal, State Monies

The District has received a boost in Title III (federal) and Section 41 (state) monies this school year. Last school year, the district received \$6,855 in combined funding from both governmental sources, but this year's combined allocation will be \$13,057 which is nearly a 100 percent increase.

The purpose of Title III and Section 41 monies

is to help ensure that English learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement.

The funding is also intended to assist teachers, including preschool teachers, administrators, and other school leaders in developing and enhancing their capacity to provide effective instructional

Board Briefs

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

June 28, 2021

- Michelle Darnell, finance director, presented the 2020-21 Budget.

REGULAR MEETING

June 28, 2021

- Accepted resignation of Yesenia Guerrero, second grade teacher.
- Approved hiring Tay MacIntyre, counselor at STEM; Christopher Bergh, band director.
- Recognized the following retirees:
 - Stacy Costello, Mary Jane Craves, Brenda Diebler, Ann Juzwiak, David Kramer, Nancy Prullage, Lisa VanDyken, Shannon Wonnacott, Laurie Anderson, Lisa Mitchell, and Wendy Shreve.
- Approved overnight trip to Fort Custer for the soccer team.
- Approved the 2020-2021 General Appropriation of the General Fund Resolution.
- Approved the 2021-2022 General Appropriation of the General Fund Resolution.
- Renewed the Superintendent's contract into 2024.
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations.

REGULAR MEETING

July 12, 2021

- Accepted resignations of:
 - Julia Kneiling - CES, Art Teacher
 - Elizabeth Pierce - CMS, Social Studies Teacher
 - Dr. Laura Henley - School Psychologist
- Approved the graduation policy.

- Moved into closed session to discuss a letter from the District's attorney.

REGULAR MEETING

July 26, 2021

- Approved resignations of Jennifer Johnson, CELA, GSRP Teacher; Jordyn Dryden, Spanish teacher.
- Approved hiring Natalie Hosbein, functional teacher, CHS.
- Recognized the retirement of Wendy Shreve, 30 years of service; Shirley Amos, eight years of service on the School Board.
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the Comstock Education Association.

REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2021

- Accepted resignations of:
 - Danielle Perez, Fourth Grade Teacher, CES
 - Sheri Nickelson - Fifth Grade Teacher, CES
 - Julie Sorenson - Counselor, CES
 - Anneliese Wolfe - Functional Teacher, CES
- Approved hiring:
 - Cynthia Moon - Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), CELA
 - Mary-Margaret (Maggie) MacGirr - Art Teacher, CES
 - Jason Haithcox - Math Teacher, CHS
 - Abigail Schreiner - Science Teacher, Compass
- Appointed Paul Lamphear as the Board's representative with Sun FundED.
- Approved the hockey co-op agreement.

- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the Comstock Education Association (CEA).
- Approved the contract negotiated with the CEA.

REGULAR MEETING

August 23, 2021

- Accepted resignations of:
 - Nichole Francomb - Functional Teacher, CES
 - Sherria VanSparrentak - Kindergarten Teacher, CES
 - Robert Cole - PE Teacher, CMS
- Approved hiring:
 - Elizabeth Triemstra - GSRP Teacher, CELA
 - Kali Blackburn - Social Worker/Counselor, CES
 - Hannah Greene - Fifth Grade Teacher, CES
 - Jessica Duffy - Social Studies Teacher, CMS
 - Thomas Pritt - PE Teacher, CMS
 - Lea Martin - Spanish Teacher, CMS/CHS
 - Stephanie Johnson - District Psychologist
- Approved adopting the current COVID-19 mask proposal and to give Superintendent Thoenes the authority to make changes based on Health Department and CDC recommendations.
- Approved the contract with the Comstock Educational Professional Administrative Assistants' Association.

CNA Graduate Starts Pen Pal Program for Nursing Home

Having witnessed first-hand the loneliness of nursing home residents during his certified nursing assistant (CNA) training, Daaren Bukhari, a 2020 graduate of Comstock's CNA program, has created a pen pal program for residents of the Alamo Nursing Home.

After graduation, Daaren began pre-med training at Michigan State University where he became chair of a service project committee. He and his fellow medical students had seen the isolation the pandemic created for nursing home residents and they decided to do something about it.

So, Daaren contacted Alamo Nursing Home where he had done his clinical experience while a CNA student at Comstock and received permission to begin the program.

"Working at a nursing home was one step in the act of being able to help these people, but I wanted to do more, so I began this project," said Daaren.

en. "The smallest form of human connection can go such a long way for these people, and I wanted to do the best I could because human connection is most important for these people at this time of their lives."

Alamo Nursing Home resident, Renee Uitto, who has a degree in journalism from Oakland University, is enjoying emails with her pen pal. She says she has found the pen pal program to be a perfect fit for her.

Also participating in the program is medical student, Kayla Kreder, who hopes the program will help lift the residents' spirits.

"I hoped that this project would not only result in meaningful connections, but also give residents the chance to share some words of wisdom to college students," she said. "When everything is so negative, handwritten letters can offer a comforting escape from COVID-19."

Former Board Member Recognized for Service

Longtime board member, Shirley Amos, was honored for serving more than eight years on the School Board. At a recent Board meeting, she was given an engraved glass bowl as a token of her

service and dedication.

Mrs. Amos resigned from the Board in December, 2020, to spend more time with her family.

Comstock High School

Kate Kwasny Memorial Receives Upgrade

The Kate Kwasny Memorial Bench just outside the entrance of the Colt Center received an upgrade recently as part of the beautification of the front entrance of the high school. Maintenance worker Brad Hoercher installed a small brick border around the site to keep the rocks contained. Then, he also added more rock.

The memorial is in honor of Kate Kwasny who

taught business and technology classes at the high school. She died in an auto accident in June, 2007, at the age of 23.

She had dreamed from an early age of becoming a teacher. The Kate Kwasny Memorial Scholarship is given each year to a senior pursuing a degree in education.

CPS Helps Feed the Community

The District's food service team continues to provide nourishment for hungry families by preparing meals and sponsoring "Meet Up and Eat Up" gatherings.

CPS also supports Loaves and Fishes, a local charitable organization that provides food for those in need.

Compass High School

CNA Program Receives Grant

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program has received a \$1,500 grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KCF) to purchase new mannequins. The mannequins will be used to simulate the health, first aid, and emergency needs of patients that nursing assistants often encounter on the job.

The program's coordinator is Sue Lytwyn, RN.



Community Auditorium Events

October:

22-24 "Moana Jr." Center Stage
Theater Fall Show-7:30 p.m.
Matinee only on the October 24
at 2 p.m. Tickets: at the door or
call:
269-348-SHOW.

November :

16 Kalamazoo Christian Middle
School Choir Concert: 7:00 p.m.
Free.
20 HPA 2nd Stage - "Aladdin Jr."
Shows: 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Tickets: hpami.org or at the door.

Comstock Middle

Students Explore Science in Summer Camp

Middle school students explored various areas of science through hands-on learning in this year's Summer Camp.

In the first week, students learned about engineering and design standards by planning, building, testing, and designing a mini golf course.

The next week, they became crime scene investigators and solved a crime that was committed in the science lab. They solved it by completing a blood splatter experiment that they designed, analyzing hair samples, and examining fingerprints.

In the third week, students learned about the power of hydrogen (pH) by making "magic potions." After learning about pH, acids, and bases, students created magic potions and predicted what color each potion would turn when an indicator was added.

In the final week, students again took on the role of engineers by designing and building carnival games and activities. They were prepared to host a Summer Camp Carnival for all students in grades K-5, but unfortunately the carnival was cancelled due to a power outage.

A lot of creativity was explored, new friendships made, and excitement for learning was ignited during Summer Learning Camp 2021.

A special thank you to the Kalamazoo Public Library for partnering with STEM science teacher, Karyn Medendorp, and donating 170 books for the summer learners.

Congratulations, Retirees!

- Shirley Amos, Board Member, 8 years
- Stacy Costello, 25 Years
- Mary Jane Craves, 23.5 Years
- Brenda Diebler, 22 Years
- Ann Juzwiak, 32 Years
- David Kramer, 21.5 Years
- Nancy Prullage, 4.5 Years
- Lisa VanDyken, 23 Years
- Shannon Wonnacott, 23.5 Years
- Laurie Anderson, 25 Years
- Lisa Mitchell, 21 Years
- Wendy Shreve, 30 Years



Maddy Grodi, Wes Slaughter and Elana Rupe show off their final design.



Sarina Livingstone tests her prototype and collects data.



Tyshawn Rials shows off his golf course.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Teacher Graduates from National Program

STEM Academy teacher, Drew Perkowski, recently graduated from the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Teacher Academy in which teachers from all over the country participated.

The Academy is a week-long program offering teachers from across the U.S. a unique professional development experience designed to build and sustain a culture of STEM teaching and learning.

The program is an off-shoot of Samsung Electronics America's national Solve for Tomorrow STEM contest for students in sixth through twelfth grades. According to the Samsung website, the teacher program "is intended to provide a long-term collaboration and professional development platform specifically for the unsung hero-teachers who empower and mentor school-aged scientists."



Drew Perkowski (third from the left) poses with other teachers at the Solve For Tomorrow Teacher Academy: Jonathan Harvey, teacher at Cavallini Middle School in Upper Saddle River, NJ; Mark Schnably, teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Winston-Salem, NC; and Kevin Lay, teacher at Owensville High School in Owensville, MO.

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITY NEEDS COMMUNITY FORUMS

October 13 — 6 p.m. — In Person at Comstock Elementary

October 19 — 7 p.m. — Online Meeting via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/aef-hgfq-qtt>

CONNECT
WITH
COMSTOCK



Welcome, New Staff Members



Jesseca Duffy

Jesseca Duffy's middle school teacher encouraged her to pursue a career in education. So, after graduating from Streetsboro High School in Streetsboro, Ohio, she majored in middle childhood education with concentrations in math and social studies, earning a degree from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

The teacher who encouraged her was Mr. Brock, her seventh grade social studies teacher.

"He always made learning fun," she said. "Then I got the opportunity in high school to be his teacher aide, where he taught me a lot about the teaching side of education. Once I graduated from college, I was hired at my alma mater and got to be his colleague where he continued to mentor me."

Before coming to Comstock, she taught at Streetsboro Middle School and then moved to South Asheboro Middle School in Asheboro, North Carolina. This year she's teaching eighth grade social studies at the middle school along with one class of College Career Academics (CCA), an introductory class into options after high school.

"What I enjoy about teaching is that every day is new," she said. "Things are always changing and keeping me on my toes."

The effects of the pandemic have made it hard to integrate students back into the classroom after months of learning in a virtual setting, she said.

She and her husband, Tyler, were married this past June in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. They moved to the Kalamazoo area for his job. He is a value stream manager at Parker Hannifin.

They enjoy walking and hiking with their dogs, Peaches and Fiona, who are "very spoiled," she said. Her leisure time activities include woodworking, crafting, and exploring new places.



Izzy Longo

Hating school when she was growing up led Izzy Longo to a career in education. She didn't learn in the traditional way, she said, so she "wanted to be there for students who do not learn in a conventional way and adapt lessons to help them understand concepts."

So, she is the new special education teacher at Compass High School. A 2016 graduate of Troy Athens High School in Troy, Michigan, she graduated from Western Michigan University this year.

She double-majored in elementary education and special education with a focus on emotional impairments and learning disabilities.

"I wanted to be there for students who think and process information differently and help them learn what works best for them," she said of her career choice.

Her high school orchestra teacher, Mr. Benes, influenced her in several ways.

"He always encouraged me to think outside the box and utilized movement and repetition to help me study for other classes, not just his," she said. "He really showed me what it meant to care about people and live as though you are always working, teaching, and caring."

Now that she's a teacher herself, those little "A-Ha" moments as students finally understand a concept make teaching enjoyable for her.

"I also love when I am able to teach social/emotional lessons and life skills to help prepare my students for after high school," she said.

With the impact of the pandemic, some things about teaching are hard today.

"I think the hardest thing about teaching today is the unfamiliarity school has become," she said. "Last year was challenging for both students and teachers. Returning in person, we are expecting to go back as we were, but that is not possible."

"We are still wearing masks, using technology in the classroom differently, and keeping socially distant from others. This new normal of what education has become for both teachers and students has been the hardest thing to wrap my head around."

Providing relaxation for her outside the classroom is spending time with her sister and brother-in-law's four children: Henry, 12; John, 10; Peter, 8; and Francies, 6.

She also enjoys cooking, hiking, and playing music.



Maggie MacGirr

Wanting to inspire the next generation of artists, Maggie MacGirr, became an art teacher and is teaching art at the elementary school this year.

"We are all capable of creativity," she said.

A graduate of Frankfort High School and Western Michigan University where she majored in art education, Ms. MacGirr did her student teaching last school year in Comstock at the STEM Academy, middle school and high school.

Getting students to focus is the hardest part of teaching today, but there's still a lot to enjoy about the job.

"I enjoy getting students to use materials they haven't seen or used before," she said. "They get so excited and love to experiment."

Her band teacher, Mr. Wilson, was influential in her life.

"He believed in us and held us to a high standard," she said.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading as well as drawing in her sketchbook and playing with her 14-year-old cat, Schnauzzy.



Abigail Schreiner

Returning to her alma mater to teach science at Compass High School is first year teacher, Abigail Schreiner, who majored in secondary education for integrated science at Saginaw Valley State University. Her career choice was influenced by her participation in the Teacher Academy Education for Employment (EFE).

Of her decision to go into education, she said, "I love to learn and instill a love of learning into

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

In an effort to ensure that all our families receive communications about their students, we are asking everyone to make sure we have up-to-date contact information.

Please log on to the Infinite Campus Portal and fill out the Online Registration to verify that we have all of the correct information for your students. This year this is also available from the Parent Portal App.

Please go to the Portal and log in. Select "MORE" from the menu, and then Online Registration on the left. Please follow the prompts. It will look like a new registration, but it is just to make sure everything is correct in our system. You just need one per family.

If you need a portal account, please contact us.

Infinite Campus has two apps to help you and your students stay up-to-date with grades and missing assignments.

Go to the App Store and search for "Campus Portal." There are two apps: one for students and one for parents. Make sure you select the correct one. When you launch the app, it will ask you to pick your state and school district.

Once you're signed in, you will see announcements as they are posted. If you enable push notifications, you can see assignments as soon as they are graded, and any that are missed. You can also see if your student was marked absent or tardy.

It's easy to schedule conferences and contact teachers quickly, or to see your student's EDP.

When making choices about how you wish to be contacted, go to the website, log in to Infinite Campus and indicate your preferences.

If you don't have a portal account, we're happy to get you connected. Please contact us.

Comstock Elementary

Open House Features Popsicles

"Popsicles on the Playground" was the theme of Comstock Elementary's back-to-school open house, held outdoors just before the opening of school. Superintendent Jeff Thoenes, teachers, and staff greeted families and students.

The families explored the playground, met the teachers, took "insta" pictures, and visited with friends. Students were excited to meet their teachers and play on the playground. And they got to eat popsicles, too.



Lluvia P. and her mom enjoy the open house.



Superintendent Thoenes gets into the spirit of the evening by having his picture taken.



Mr. Tenant, Mrs. McNutt, Mrs. Moore, and Mrs. Eckles talked to the parents about the upcoming year.

Continued from page 8

the kids I teach."

Her high school biology teacher, Lacey Ramsey, also had a great influence on her.

"She taught me what it meant to be a caring teacher and how to get kids to fall in love with learning," said Miss Schreiner.

An enjoyable part of teaching for her is having meaningful conversations with students and watching them grow.

"The hardest thing is getting kids engaged after being online and being at home," she said.

Her other responsibilities at Comstock include coaching the varsity girls golf team and the color

guard squad. She is also assistant coach with the varsity softball team.

Comstock is home for her entire family, including her siblings who are students in the District and her parents who are heavily involved in the community.

"My fiance and I actually met at Comstock High School and after college moved back to the District where we bought our first home," she said.

When not working, she enjoys hanging out with her family and friends and playing with her dog, Kyo.

More new teachers will be featured in upcoming issues.

Sports News

High School Fall Awards Banquet

The high school fall awards banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Middle School Fall Awards Banquet

The middle school fall awards banquet will be held on Wednesday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school gym.

Physicals

A reminder to all parents that it is an MHSAA requirement that each student athlete have a physical on file with the athletic department to be eligible to participate in athletics for Comstock. The physical has to be dated after April 15, 2021, to cover your son/daughter for the entire 2021-22 year. Please give Justin Ansel in the athletic department a call if you have any questions. His number is 269-250-8711.

Winter Sport Start Dates

- Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Boys Basketball – Monday, October 25
- High School Girls Basketball and High School Competitive Cheer – November 8
- High School Boys Basketball, High school Wrestling and
- High School Bowling – November 15.
- Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Girls Basketball, Middle School Wrestling and Middle School Competitive Cheer – Tuesday, January 4 (Tentative Date)

Please call the Athletic Department with any questions.

High School Winter Sports Parent Meeting

Each winter program will hold a separate winter sports parent meeting this year. Dates and times will be shared after initial start dates. We look forward to seeing you there if your son or daughter is participating in a winter sport.

Hall of Fame Induction

This is your last chance to nominate someone for the 2022 Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame. Please fill out the Hall of Fame nomination form on the next page and return it to the athletic office by Thanksgiving. The Hall of Fame board will be meeting after Thanksgiving to decide upon the 2022 Induction Class.

Tri-Athletes Honored at Luncheon



Teams competing at the summer triathlete event were (front row) Summer Beavers, Kyla Owens, Coach Jason Hayes, Anna Putti, Maya DeYoung-Foster, Owen Drake and (back row) MacKenzie Bowers, Elijah Cote, Coach Justin Ansel, Matt Searles, Keyondra Burns

Comstock's tri-athletes were honored at a luncheon this summer hosted by Justin Ansel, athletic director; Jason Hayes, coach; and Jill Ansel, assistant superintendent.

Students formed two teams - Ansel's Animals and Hayes' Hammers - with themed t-shirts to

compete in several fun events, competitions, and relays. They were then treated to lunch in the Colt Center.

Tri-athletes participated in sports through three seasons - fall, winter, and spring - during the 2020-2021 school year.

Virtual Academy Enrollment Increases

Due in part to the coronavirus pandemic, but also to the attraction of self-paced and individualized learning, the Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy (CVA) is, once again, experiencing increased interest in and enrollments from the greater Kalamazoo community.

Led by Principal Pam Dudley, the program offers devices and hot spots to students, a drop-in lab located at 3010 Gull Road, and academic support at the lab. If interested in learning more about the CVA, contact Principal Pam Dudley at pamela.dudley@comstockps.org.

Contact Information

Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy
Pam Dudley, Principal
3010 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
Telephone: 269-250-8949
pamela.dudley@comstockps.org



COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL Nomination

Name of Nominee _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____
 High School Attended _____ Year of Graduation _____
 College Attended (If Applicable) _____ Year of Graduation _____

of Varsity Letters - Boys Sports

_____ Football _____ Soccer
 _____ Tennis _____ X Country
 _____ Basketball _____ Wrestling
 _____ Bowling _____ Baseball
 _____ Track _____ Golf
 _____ Swimming _____ Hockey

of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

_____ Volleyball _____ Golf
 _____ X Country _____ Sideline Cheer
 _____ Basketball _____ Competitive Cheer
 _____ Bowling _____ Softball
 _____ Track _____ Tennis
 _____ Soccer _____ Swimming



PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Special Comstock Athletic Awards (MVP, MIP, All Conference, All State, Coach of the Year, etc.)
2. Career Highlights (Most points in game, Most goals in game, etc.)
3. College Athletic Achievements (If Applicable)
4. Athletic Involvement after H.S. and College (Professional, Officiating, Coaching, etc.)
5. Please list any other information which would be helpful to the committee.

TEAM Nomination - (Must have contact information for all team members to be considered.)

Year _____ Sport _____ Coach _____

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Names of Team Members
2. Special Team Accomplishments (Championships, Records, etc)
3. Please list any other information which would be helpful to the committee.

INDIVIDUAL or TEAM Nominated By:

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

*Please mail this form to: Justin Ansel, Director of Athletics,
 Comstock High School, 2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048*

2021-22 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

October 7	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
October 29	DPPD	8:00-3:00	No Students
November 16	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
November 18	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
November 19	Half Day Students K-12		Half Day Students/Teachers
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Recess		No Students/Teachers
December 2	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 9	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 20-31	Winter Recess		
January 18-20, 2022	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students/Teachers
January 21, 2022	PD AM/K-12-Records Day PM (End of 1st Sem.)		No Students
February 22, 2022	CHS Conferences		
February 24-25, 2022	Mid-Winter Break		No Students/Teachers
March 3, 2022	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
March 15, 2022	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 17, 2022	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 18, 2022	DPPD	8:00-3:00	No Students
March 25-April 1, 2022	Spring Break		No Students/ No Teachers
May 5, 2022	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 12, 2022	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day		No Students/No Staff
June 6,7,8, 2022	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students and Teachers K-12
June 8, 2022	Last Half Day for Students/Records Day PM		Half Day Students AM/ Staff Records Day PM

Comstock Township Library Events

Comstock Library is FINE FREE! The library does not charge fines for overdue materials, with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads. Also, all outstanding overdue fines have been cleared. If you have long-overdue library items, you can bring them back without penalty.

Curbside service is still available! Call us at 269-345-0136 to place an order or place holds through the online catalog and call us after you receive notice that your holds have arrived. If you do not wish to enter the library, ring the library's doorbell when you come to get your items or call us from the parking lot and we'll bring them out to you checked out and ready to go.

Did you know you can check out magazines, including the most current issues? Stop by the front desk for available issues to check out and enjoy at home.

If you do not have a library card, and do not want to come into the library to get one, sign up for a temporary card that will allow you to access our digital materials. Visit <https://www.comstock-library.org> to fill out an application form.

Visit our website for information on services and events. On our website, you can also sign up for our e-Newsletter to stay current with all the latest library news and events.

Adult Events

**Until further notice, ALL indoor programs will require participants ages three and older to wear a mask.*

Spooky Treats & How to Make Them - Online - October 4 – November 1. Join the Comstock Township Library and local artist and librarian Lissa Greene to learn how to make spooky treats, including “spooky spider web,” “Frankenstein pudding,” “toasted marshmallow cupcake,” and “pumpkin patch brownies.” This is a prerecorded video and will be available until November 1.

In-Person Adult Craft: Paint Scrape Canvas - Wednesday, October 13, at 5:30 p.m. Scrape a canvas with dots of paint to create a beautiful piece of art! Registration is required for this free

event and begins October 4 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under “Upcoming Events.” You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

In-Person Adult Craft: DIY Reed Diffuser - Wednesday, November 10, at 5:30 p.m. Marry a carrier and essential oil for a fantastic aromatic addition to any room. Registration is required for this free event and begins November 1 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under “Upcoming Events.” You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

In-Person Adult Craft: Embroidered Holiday Cards – Thursday, November 4, at 6 p.m. Create something unique and join us for Embroidered Holiday Cards. You will learn the basics of embroidery on paper and create a one-of-a-kind holiday art card that your recipient can treasure, or you can save it for yourself and decorate your home with it every year. Come with a design idea in mind, or use one of our provided templates. Necessary supplies will be provided (needle, thread, cards and envelopes) but you can further accentuate your card at home with glitter, ribbon, washi tape, decorative paper, and more. Registration is required for this free event and begins October 19. Space is limited.

Adult Pop-up Crafts:

Styrofoam Chalk-Painted Pumpkin - Week of October 25.

Pine Cone Gnome Ornament - Week of November 22.

Youth Events

**Until further notice, ALL indoor programs will require participants ages three and older to wear a mask.*

Storytimes are back! Our weekly in-person storytimes have returned. Our schedule is:

Monday - 10:30 a.m. - Preschool Storytime

Tuesday - 10:30 a.m. - Wee Ones Storytime (0-24 months)

Wednesday - 10:30 a.m. - Toddler Storytime

Thursday - 10:30 a.m. - Musical Mayhem Storytime

Thursday - 1 p.m. - STEAM Storytime (Registration required)

CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSURES FOR OCT. & NOV.

November 11, Veterans Day

November 24, the day before Thanksgiving, closing early at 5 p.m.

November 25, Thanksgiving

**Siblings are welcome at every storytime, but only registered children will be able to participate in STEAM Storytime activities.*

Drop-in Youth Gaming, every Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Teen Advisory Group, Join other local teens to plan fun events and earn volunteer hours. October dates TBD**.

October Monthly Kids Craft: Spooky Ceramics – October 8 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Join us and paint some spooky/Halloween-themed ceramics. Registration required.

After-Hours Teen “Haunted Library” - Friday, October 22, from 6-8 p.m. For our Teen Advisory Group members. Teens who join us for a T.A.G. planning meeting in September or October may attend.

Trick or Treat at the Library! October 25 – 30, during open hours. Open to all kids and teens. Come trick-or-treat with us in the Youth Department. Our librarians are excited to see your spooky costumes and give you lots and lots of candy and goodies. Drop in anytime the library is open. (Note: Storytime attendees will trick-or-treat after their storytime session.)

Paws and Pages: Read with a Therapy Dog! Read stories one-on-one with one of our therapy dog friends. October and November dates TBD**.

Teen Advisory Group! November dates TBD**

Comstock Township Library Events (Cont.)

November Monthly Kids Craft: Spooky Ceramics – November craft TBD**. Registration required.

**All events/programs subject to change.*

*** Check our online Events calendar for the latest information.*

Sign up for our quarterly e-Newsletter on our website: www.comstocklibrary.org

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/comstocktownshiplibrary

Follow us on Instagram @comstocktownshiplibrary or visit our online calendar for more information regarding programs: comstocklibrary.evanced.info/signup



We have Homebound Library Services! Please call the library for information.



Wi-Fi is available in the library. You may also ask about checking out one of our mobile hotspots.



We have fax, photocopy, and scanning services available.



Download free audiobooks, ebooks, music, and video from home through our digital services, Hoopla and Overdrive (Libby). Go to <https://www.comstocklibrary.org/ebooks.asp> for a complete list of all our available digital materials.



Are you interested in FREE training as a Healthcare Worker with employers who are ready to hire you?

These jobs are in demand, and the pay is great!

The training at Comstock Community Education is Monday - Friday from 8am to 12pm.

When you finish training, you will receive assistance with job placement, and there is an opportunity for you to continue into **FREE** training as a Certified Nurse Aide.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 24 and live in Kalamazoo County, contact Lisa Smith at:

Lisa.Smith@KRESA.org or 269-775-1664

If you are above age 24, the \$750 tuition may be covered. Please contact Lisa using the contact information above, or contact Kelly in the Compass High School office at:

Kelly.Noteboom@ComstockPS.org or 269-250-8930

*Please pass this information along to friends and family who might be interested.
We look forward to hearing from you!*

HAPPY
Thanksgiving