

# The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL | NORTH ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | GREEN MEADOW ELEMENTARY



## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

From the Superintendent  
**page 2**

School Board Briefs  
**page 3**

Introducing Comstock's New Superintendent  
**page 3**

Kindergarten, Young 5, Pre-K Registration  
**page 4**

School News  
**pages 5-11**

News from the Athletic Dept.  
**page 12**

Comstock Library News  
**pages 13-14**

## MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read  
Center Point*

A newsletter about the Comstock Community Center



# From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

Thank you Comstock! I am retiring after almost 20 years with the district and seven of those as superintendent. This has been the best place I have ever worked.

There is a poignant quote which I feel relates to my career at Comstock Public Schools. It is by Sir Isaac Newton, who said, "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

I know exactly what Newton was saying. All success comes on top of the success of others. The success the district has had in the last seven years is because others came before me and did the heavy lifting to create an environment for success.

I benefitted from working with Dr. Robert Hamet, Dr. Carol Schmidt, Dr. Dave Hutton and Dr. Sandra Standish, all great people and leaders.

Additionally, the leadership of board members was instrumental in any success I have had with the district. I especially appreciate those who have taken the gavel to lead as board presidents. Rick Taylor, Jeff VanGoeve, Jackie Wahl and Dr. Brandy Brown have served tirelessly as board presidents and helped me immensely during my tenure. To all those who shared their leadership and helped me grow as a superintendent, I am eternally grateful.

I would like to recognize two people who made my time as superintendent much easier and more productive than if I had had to do it without them: Faye Goldner and Jill Ansel. Faye has been the superintendent's executive administrative assistant for my entire tenure and has held that role since

Dr. Robert Hamet was superintendent. Her expertise and knowledge helped me immensely. Her grace, poise and professionalism presented the best of the district to everyone inside and outside the district.

Jill Ansel started as the director of curriculum, assessment and instruction at the same time I became superintendent. Her knowledge of instructional practices and passion for helping students grow are awe inspiring. I know I learned so much more from her than she from me that I owe her immensely. With her continuing to lead the district's instructional efforts, Comstock's students are in the best hands possible.

Change is hard for everyone, but change is a part of life. On July 1, 2018, there will be a new superintendent leading the district. I wish my successor, Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes, all the best and will do whatever I can to assist in his transition into his new role.

However, I take great comfort in knowing that Dr. Thoenes will be working with the best staff and administrators in the county. I also know they will have the privilege of serving a great school community with wonderful students and parents.

Finally, I know the hard work of the board will help support them as they lead the district forward. I will go forward with my new adventure with Colt Pride always!

Very Appreciatively,  
Todd D. Mora  
Superintendent



**COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS  
[www.comstockps.org](http://www.comstockps.org)

Todd Mora  
*Superintendent*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brandy Brown, President  
Jeff VanGoeve, Vice-President  
Matthew Schreiner, Secretary  
Pamela Dickinson, Treasurer  
Shirley Amos, Trustee  
Richard Hathaway, Trustee  
Karen Howes, Trustee  
Ken Greenwood, Appointed Treasurer  
Faye Goldner, Appointed Recording Secretary

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by supporting, inspiring, and challenging every person within the school district to reach his/her full potential through education.

## VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be an educational community where every person is empowered to reach his/her full potential.

## 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 Todd Mora at [morat@comstockps.org](mailto:morat@comstockps.org) or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at [phyllisarose@aol.com](mailto:phyllisarose@aol.com).



## SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Become a School Bus Driver! METS, the transportation employer for Comstock Public Schools, is currently hiring school bus drivers for part-time assignments starting at \$14.75 per hour.

No experience is necessary and training will be provided to qualified candidates. Apply today by sending your resume to:  
[recruiting@contractbusdrivers.com](mailto:recruiting@contractbusdrivers.com).

For more information, please call (269) 250-8690,  
or toll free at (888) 996-8586

# Board Names New Superintendent



The Comstock Public Schools Board of Education has hired Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes to become the district's new superintendent, contingent upon contract negotiations.

Dr. Thoenes currently serves as the high school principal at Williamston Community Schools in Williamston, Michigan. He has been in this position for eight years. Additional administrative experience includes: Mt. Pleasant High School principal for five years; Bridgeport Spaulding Middle School assistant principal for three years; and Bowling Green City Schools Junior High principal for four years.

Dr. Thoenes also has classroom experience, and has served in the Peace Corps.

Dr. Brandy Brown, Comstock board president said some of the reasons for Dr. Thoenes' selection as superintendent are his strengths in the areas of instruction and communication, the ability to build a cohesive team, and his background in school improvement.

Dr. Thoenes looks forward to his move into the school district, and to begin working to help improve education for all students. Dr. Thoenes is expected to begin on July 1.



## School Board Candidate Filing Deadline

The annual school election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018. There will be four (4) school board seats on the ballot. All four seats are for four-year terms, January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022.

If you are interested in running for a board seat, you must obtain a petition from the Comstock Township Offices located at 6138 King Highway, Comstock, or, pay a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee. The petitions are available anytime and are due in the township office no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

For more information on how to become a board member, please call Faye Goldner at 250-8907.

## Board Briefs

### REGULAR MEETING

#### February 12, 2018

- Superintendent Mora thanked board members for their service and presented each with a certificate and a Comstock jacket.
- Approved Christopher Gray as the high school science teacher.
- Approved retirement of Superintendent Mora.
- Approved retirement of Mark Nelson, band director.
- Superintendent Mora updated the board on the bond series projects.
- President Brown presented the timeline for the superintendent search. The goal is to have a superintendent by the time Superintendent Mora leaves.

### WORK SESSION

#### February 26, 2018

- Discussed grade configuration for NEMS and whether the fifth grades should be moved back to the elementary buildings.
- Discussed which firm to contract with for the superintendent search.

### SPECIAL MEETING

#### March 6, 2018

- Three firms presented information to the Board about what they offer during a superintendent search.

- Board discussed the pros and cons of each firm's presentation.
- A motion to contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards was defeated.

### REGULAR MEETING

#### March 12, 2018

- Jimmie Cotter, post secondary dean, presented information on post secondary initiatives and the status of each.
- Jill Ansel, curriculum director, and Chris Chopp, STEM Academy director, presented the background and timeline for Project Based Learning (PBL).
- Approved Rich House for golf coaching position.
- Approved the annual Cedar Point trip on June 12 for NEMS students. The trip rewards students for their positive actions and behaviors.
- Approved Series II Bond.
- Vice-President VanGoeye announced the timeline for the interview process for the superintendent search.

### WORK SESSION

#### March 26, 2018

- Approved Jennifer Kramer as North Elementary special education resource room teacher.
- Discussed Project Based Learning and how to move forward with it.

- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the Comstock Education Association.

### REGULAR MEETING

#### April 9, 2018

- Parent Saralyn Brown shared concerns about playground conditions at the STEM Academy.
- Discussed moving replacement of the playground up to next school year.
- Approved tenure for following teachers:
  - Kimberly Beeke, high school social studies teacher
  - Julie Davis, high school science teacher
  - Julie Knieling, Green Meadow/North Elementary art teacher
  - Karyn Medendorp, STEM Academy science teacher
  - Tatum O'Dell, Green Meadow physical education teacher
  - Kimberly Sandefur, STEM Academy fourth grade teacher
  - Maren Tillman, STEM Academy fifth grade teacher
- Approved retirement request of Jim MacKenzie, high school special education teacher.
- Approved the 2018 School Building and Site Bonds Bond Authorizing Resolution.



## CCA Deans to Meet with All Students

The CCA Deans have begun their district-wide K-12 Educational Development Plan (EDP) meetings. An EDP is an online document that shows a student's education and career goals from year to year.

The deans meet individually with every K-12 student in the district to complete their EDPs. These personal interactions allow the deans to have an active role in each and every student's educational journey.

For younger students, an EDP is a great way to show and track the changes in their yearly goals, interests, and academic successes/struggles. For older students, EDPs allow them to identify career goals and plan for the transition from high school to post-secondary education.

### Comstock Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

#### June:

- 2: Traci Phelps Dance Studios  
Performance: 2-5:30 p.m. Call Studio for details/tickets.
- 4: Junior Night CHS students-Colt Center-6 p.m.
- 5: STEM Middle School Awards  
Night-5-6 p.m.-Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- 6: Comstock NEMS Awards Program:  
7 p.m.-Doors open at 6:15 p.m.
- 10: Erin Quinn Irish Dancers: 2 p.m.  
Tickets at the door
- 18-22: Homeschool Performing Arts  
Drama camp. Look online at [hpami.org](http://hpami.org) for registration and details.

#### July:

- 13-15;
- 20-22: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; Center Stage Theater - 7:30 p.m. Matinéés only on July 15 and July 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets at the door or call 269-348-SHOW.

## Kindergarten, Young 5's, Pre-school Now Enrolling




Kindergarten Round-Up is in full swing! If your child will be 5 on or before September 1, please call 269-250-8960 for an enrollment packet or more information.



Comstock Public Schools is excited to announce Young-5's is enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year. There is limited room, so apply TODAY. Please call 269-250-8960 for more information and an enrollment packet.



Will your child be turning three or four in 2018? It is time to enroll them in preschool. There are many programs in the area and KRESA will be happy to help you find the one for you. 

Please call 269-250-9333 for more information!



**These programs fill up quickly, so call now!** 



## Comstock High School

# High School Celebrates Seniors' Future Plans

The high school recently celebrated the fourth annual Decision Day where seniors are recognized for their post-secondary plans.

The event highlighted the fact that Comstock's seniors have been offered \$2.9 million in free financial aid from the federal government and from the 226 institutions to which they've applied.

This year's seniors will be attending 16 different educational institutions to pursue either associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees or certificates while others will be entering the workforce with fulltime jobs at Mann+Hummel and Red Line Manufacturing, for example.

"Our seniors need to be recognized for the post secondary plans they've made," said Jimmie Cotter, post-secondary dean. "This is a culmination of their hard work over the last four years, and it recognizes the dedication of teachers and staff who helped cultivate their growth."

The event is also important for underclassmen who can see opportunities that they might be able to take advantage of when they become seniors.

"The underclassmen will hear their peers proclaim their commitment to two and four year schools, public and private institutions and regional apprenticeships," said Cotter.

Decision Day is inspired by the NCAA's National Signing Day and is designed to reinforce that excellence in the classroom should be given as much pomp and circumstance as that given to athletes, said Cotter. NCAA's National Signing Day is when high school seniors sign a letter of intent to play sports at a specific college. Traditionally, players participate in press



Clockwise from top: High School students gather on the stage in the auditorium to celebrate Decision Day. Students who have committed to Michigan State are Kyle Moore, Daryn Dratt, Jada Rose, Seth Ansel, Wyschell Wicker, and Travis Neal. Alyssa Loucks celebrates her acceptance into the University of Michigan. Victor Plascencia is heading to Kalamazoo College.

conferences to announce their intentions.

The goal of the high school's Decision Day is to mimic this excitement for all seniors preparing to enter college, trade school, or military service.



## CHS Senior Graduates from Early Middle College



Miranda Cannon

The College & Career Academy is proud to announce that Miranda Cannon will be the high school's first student to graduate from the Early/Middle College Program. Miranda graduated from Kalamazoo Community College in May with an associate of arts degree in elementary education. Miranda plans to transfer to Western Michigan University to complete a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education.

The Early/Middle College program allows students to earn an associate's degree or a certificate along with their high school diploma. It also allows students to save money since the college costs are paid by the school district.

Students interested in the program should contact their high school counselor.

COMSTOCK  
Public Schools





Comstock High School

## Girls Tennis Team Celebrates Senior Night



The girls tennis team celebrated senior night at the end of the school year. During the event, seniors are presented with flowers and gifts from the team. The coach of the team is Charlene Dailey.

In this photo, Italian exchange student, Virginia Grattapaglia, accepts gifts from her teammates.

Bill and Amanda Otto hosted Virginia this school year. Their daughter, Emmalee, is also on the tennis team.

## Students Color Easter Eggs for the VFW



Left to Right: Coloring Easter eggs are Seth Boland, Kami Littlejohn, Shawn Cosby, Thomas Duncan, Alex Salas.

Comstock High School helped VFW Post 6252 by coloring Easter Eggs for their annual Easter Egg Hunt.

## High School Students Stage a Walk-In



Students staged a walk-in in the high school auditorium in remembrance of the victims of the high school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

While other high schools were staging walkouts in the spring to remember the victims of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, Comstock's students staged a walk-in. Dressed in orange, the designated color for the national event, students marched into the auditorium.

"We really wanted to address the issues of school shootings and how we as a group can help put an end to violence in our schools," said junior Emily Hainer, organizer of the event.

Participation was totally voluntary so organizers were surprised at the number of students who participated. Students gave speeches, read poems, and answered questions.

"It was quite incredible to see all of the students so interested in what was said, and the amount of respect they showed every single one of the speakers," said Emily.

Statistics on school shootings and the desire to protect children were discussed.

"Gun violence in our schools needs to stop," said Emily during the event. "Students should not have to come to school and cower in fear wondering if they will be the next victims of this heartless crime. I am fed up with being told that we have the power to make a change, but are shut down because we don't know enough, or we're too young. Well, guess what? You, me, all of us have the power to change things. We are the future, and I want our future to come, without losing any more lives to gun violence."

Also speaking at the event was Kalamazoo County Commissioner, Tracy Hall, who told students about ways to get involved in the government.

Students appreciate Principal Gerielle Stewart for allowing this event to take place and thank staff members for always keeping the students safe.

Compass High School

## Compass Book Club Enjoys "Ready Player One"

Members of the Compass Book Club recently read "Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline, and then went to see the movie which was released earlier this year.

This science fiction novel takes place in the 2040s where people escape their dystopian world through a virtual reality simulator, OASIS, whose creator said an Easter egg was inside the simulator and whoever found it would inherit his fortune. So a teenager, Wade Watts, sets out to find it.

While reading the book, Michele Coash, a Book Club advisor taught students about games such as Dungeons and Dragons and Pac-Man to give students a better understanding of the book and the many references to the 1980s.

After reading the book and seeing the movie, Book Club member, Beretta Tomky, said, "The movie was based on the book, but there were many changes."

She loved the movie and the book because they were both so detailed and realistic.

"The characters also had a sense of humor, which made the movie even better," she said. "I enjoyed the book, but the jokes were easier to get in the movie because they weren't all from the 1980's."

Compass High School provided money for the students to see the movie and have a snack and a drink at Kalamazoo 10.



## Compass High School

## Compass Students Write Children's Books

Compass students in Chris Coash's English 11 class recently wrote and illustrated their own children's books. Then, two of the students, Taylor Grays and Yanique Hunter, read their books to children in the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP).

Before writing their own books, students studied various examples of children's literature such as Dr. Seuss and "how-to" books for children. The students' original book topics included the solar system, how to make authentic Mexican tacos, friendship, family vacations, and a trip to the moon in magic boots.

Taylor Grays wrote about a girl who got her favorite teddy bear on her sixth birthday. It was a magical bear, said Taylor, and the little girl took it with her everywhere. However, one day, evil twins stole it so she and her best friend set out to find the bear before it was too late.

When Taylor read her book to the children, she had an amazing time.

"They were laughing and asking questions," she said. "I enjoyed making the kids happy. I also hope they enjoyed it as much as I did. We have been invited back, so we must have done a pretty good job. I would love to read to them again."



Taylor Grays and Yanique Hunter read their children's books to students in the Great Start Readiness Program.

## Northeast Middle School

## Sixth Graders Explore Global Markets

Sixth grade students in Ms. O'Brien's and Mrs. Morgan's Social Studies classes recently participated in Junior Achievement's JA Global Marketplace Program. The program provided practical information about what makes international trade work and how it affects students' daily lives.

Lessons were taught in six sessions. Some of the lessons included concepts regarding: Trade Barriers/World Trade Organization; Corporate Franchises/Cultural Understanding; and Exchange Rates. Students received a free CD-ROM, which included games and other tutorials to reinforce classroom lessons.

JA Global Marketplace was designed to align lessons with sixth grade content standards, world geography, and other social studies disciplines.

Ms. O'Brien wishes to thank Vito Vallella for 13 years of volunteering in her classroom. Mrs. Morgan thanks Heather Phillips, CPA, for her third year of helping with the program at NEMS.



Discussing a case set before the World Trade Organization are sixth graders Londyn Ray, Stephanie Maurer, Javion McCoy, Caleb Againeses, and Jasmine Babcock. The students were participating in the JA Global Marketplace Program.

## Adult Ed Offers Summer Math Class

Are you working toward completing your GED? Are you having difficulties with the math test? If so, join the Comstock Adult Education Summer Math Class for full-class instruction and individual help.

This is a crash course in topics ranging from fractions to geometry. Each day will include review, new instruction, and independent practice time. Students will also have extra practice available to take home.

The class runs Monday-Friday, July 5-30, 9-11:30 a.m. It will be held at Comstock Compass High School. Those students who pass a practice test will take the math GED test on July 31.

A \$50 class fee includes the cost of one GED test.

Call 269-250-8930 for more information.





Northeast Middle School

## Giant Map Helps Students with Geography of North America



Students learn about North American geography with the help of the Giant Map on loan from the Michigan Geographic Alliance.

A giant map of North America on loan from the Michigan Geographic Alliance helped NEMS students study North American geography.

The giant map took up about half of the library. Classes took turns visiting the library and engaging in a variety of activities. Students had to locate cities, find co-ordinates, and participate in relay races. Eighth grade students played a mean game of “Simon Says.”

Students also answered questions such as: Where would you visit in North America? What are the latitude and longitude of Kalamazoo? Where do you find Tegucigalpa?

Parents and family members experienced the map at the “NEMS In Your Neighborhood” evening.



## National Junior Honor Society Inducts New Members



The NEMS National Junior Honor Society recently inducted 15 new members.

The new members are:

Alexis Baker  
Austin Block-Carmean  
Sophia Congdon  
Jada Cook  
Sha'Mya Duff

Tyrrell Garner  
Sahara Keith  
Carmel Luwara  
Tysen Moser  
Deepkumar Patel

Feney Patel  
Vraj Patel  
Sylvia Richards  
Mylene Tshibingu  
Jordan Wright

Current members who were inducted last year are:

Nyaira Ballinger  
Drew Hattan  
Ethan Hood  
Samiyah Jones  
Amy Li

Gary Li  
Francisco Lopez  
Xandra Mielke  
Laci Murdock  
Caleigh Nichols

Israel Patterson  
Bryce Plane  
Madison Riggins  
Brooklyn Velasquez

To be invited to join the Honor Society, students must meet certain criteria. Seventh, eighth and second semester sixth grade students who carry a 3.5 cumulative GPA (or higher) are eligible to apply in the second semester of the school year.

Congratulations to all the new members!

North Elementary

## North Students Study Yoga

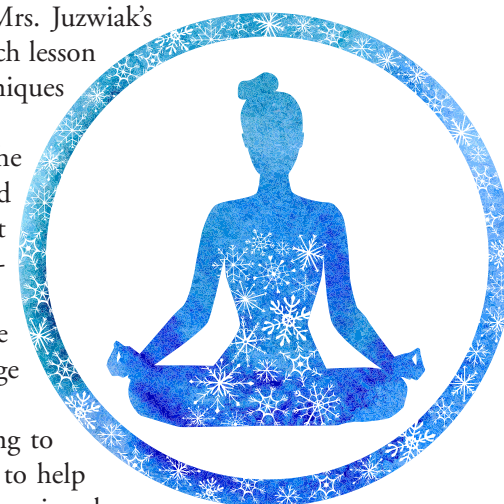
First and second grade students in Miss Appel's and Mrs. Juzwiak's classes studied mindfulness and basic yoga this spring. Each lesson focused on centering themselves and understanding techniques of breathing as a calming tool during their daily lives.

Social worker, Rida Jones, led the lessons and engaged the students in expanding their abilities to calm themselves and regulate their emotions. Students were encouraged to sit with the group and participate as much as they were comfortable in doing so.

For the second half of their weekly lesson, students were instructed in basic yoga moves by Chelsie Taylor, a College and Career Academy Dean from the high school.

The students enjoyed practicing their moves and adding to their collection of yoga poses. All the poses are designed to help the students center themselves, focus on their bodies, and remain calm.

This program has helped the students regulate themselves during the day when their emotions begin to escalate or distract from them giving their personal best in the classroom.





## STEM Academy

## STEM Students Practice for 5K Race



Coaches and Runners gather together before the practice 5K.

STEM Academy runners from the Let Me Run, Heart & Sole, and Girls on the Run teams joined forces this spring to practice for their big 5K run. Supported by their coaches and family members, 65 runners took to the streets of the neighborhood to run.

Cheered on by friends and family, they took their final victory lap on the running path created by the STEM Academy Parent Teacher Group.

Let Me Run is an after-school running program for boys in grades 4-6. This year, 13 boys ran a 5K in May at River Oaks Park. Special thanks go out to the coaches: Principal Chris Chopp, Fred Keister, and David Kohler.

Heart & Sole is an after-school extension of the Girls on the Run program. It is for girls in grades

6-8. This year, 11 girls ran the 5K in May in downtown Kalamazoo. Thanks go out to our coaches: Mrs. Tennant, Mrs. Roys, and Mrs. Medendorp.

Girls on the Run is an after-school program for girls in grades 3-5. This year, 29 girls from two teams ran the 5K in downtown Kalamazoo. Thanks to our coaches: Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Berg, Erin DeLoof, Era Odom, and Becky Clark.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this day a huge success!

This was STEM Academy's largest season yet. If you would like to volunteer next season, or have additional questions about any of these running programs, including how to start one at your school, please contact Ms. Sandefur, program liaison, at [sandefurk@comstockps.org](mailto:sandefurk@comstockps.org).

## STEM Academy Students Study the Heart



Kayla Berg and Amelia Hall study the parts of the heart.



Raegan VanSparrentak and Arianna Shannon check blood pressure with a blood pressure cuff.

Eighth grade students in the STEM Academy's principles of biomedical studies class learned all about the heart this spring.

First, they learned about blood flow and the anatomy of the heart. This led into studying heart rate and blood pressure.

Students designed, planned, and carried out their own experiments on heart rate with the assistance of STEM Academy fifth graders.

Then, the eighth graders learned about blood pressure ranges and practiced taking their own blood pressure and comparing it to healthy ranges. Students also learned about biotechnology procedures that help treat heart disease and lifestyle choices which can prevent it.





STEM Academy

# STEM Students Grow, Identify Bacteria

STEM Academy eighth graders in honors biology recently grew various microorganisms and learned how to identify them. Assisting them were Pfizer employees, Cathy Shinabarger and Josh Pohl.

Ms. Shinabarger taught the students how to gather different microorganisms from various surfaces around the school and then how to grow them in the science lab. Students also learned how to streak a plate for bacterial isolation, which means to spread the bacteria around a petri dish so only one colony grows.

Once the microorganisms grew, students used aseptic techniques to keep everything sterile and then put some of their bacteria on a slide for Gram staining, a microbiology technique used to identify different types of bacteria.

Students also tested which cleaning products kill the most bacteria. Students then looked at individual bacteria cells to identify the bacteria by color, red meaning the bacteria are Gram negative, and purple indicating the bacteria are Gram positive.

The students also had fun practicing how to dress for a sterile lab. Thanks to our Pfizer partners for an unforgettable experience.



Clockwise from above: Comstock STEM Academy's class of 2018 in sterile dress. Gianna Nathaniel Gram stains her bacteria. Arianna Shannon displays the microorganisms found on the teacher's iPad.

# STEM Students “Stuff the Tent” for Pretty Lake Vacation Camp

The STEM Academy Student Council teamed up with Pretty Lake Vacation Camp (PLVC) to participate in the PLVC “In Tents Event.” STEM students could bring in a donated item from PLVC’s Top 12 Most Wanted Items list. In exchange, they earned a dress-down day. The student body came together and collected 446 items, as well as \$109 used to purchase more items for the camp.

Pretty Lake Vacation Camp is located in Mattawan and provides a week-long camp experience for students in Kalamazoo County. Camp is free and all supplies are provided to each camper through generous donations and supply drives, such as this one.

For more information on Pretty Lake Vacation Camp, including volunteering, donating, or registering your child for camp go to <https://www.prettylakecamp.org/>



Student Council members present the donated items to Pretty Lake Executive Director, Eric Wimbley (back row, left). Student council members are (back row) Emily Greenhalgh, Anna Schreiner, Mikie Perez, Will Meeus; (middle row) Kimberly Sandefur, Student Council advisor; Hayleigh Rinehart, Ava Schreiner, Madeleine Phillips, James Bogema, Landon Hofacre, and (front row) Julia McCreath, and Connor Hui-Wee.



## Hazardous Weather Communications



With hazardous weather conditions just around the corner, Comstock Public Schools is encouraging all parents to talk with their children about the possibility of school closing due to bad weather. In the event that school must be closed early on any given day, please have a plan developed with your children so they arrive home safely.

Every effort is made to make a decision to close school by 5 a.m. and to notify the news media immediately. However, the district has no control over how quickly the information is disseminated by the media.

Below is a list of the multiple ways you can be notified of early closings, or school closings:

You may sign-up to follow Tweets at <https://twitter.com/ComstockPS> regarding school closings or go to our website at [www.comstockps.org](http://www.comstockps.org).

Make sure your Infinite Campus portal is current with correct contact information in order to receive ShoutPoint notification.

For the latest school closings, turn your radio or television to the following stations:

### CALL LETTERS

98.5 FM, 96.5 FM (WNWN, WFAT)

100.9 FM (WQXC)

903 AM, 1400 AM (WBCK, WRCC)

106.5 FM, 590 AM, 1470 AM (WQLR, WKZO, WQSN)

107.7 FM, 103.3 FM (WRKR, WKFR)

TV 3 WWMT-TV

TV 8 WOOD-TV

TV 4 WOTV

### Green Meadow Elementary

## Superintendent Mora Visits Third Graders



Superintendent Mora speaks to students about their suggestions for Green Meadow when he visited Mrs. McVerry's third grade class.

Superintendent Mora recently visited Mrs. McVerry's third grade class to discuss their suggestions for the school.

He heard ideas ranging from cooking classes, more recess, classroom pets, beanbags for chairs, additional mentors, and more.

The visit was the result of a student-written letter with a suggestion for the school which

Superintendent Mora had received. When he found out that all the students had written opinion essays, he set aside time to meet with the entire class.

All the students shared their suggestions and why those suggestions were win/win situations.

The students loved meeting with Mr. Mora and the Sweetwater donut holes he brought, too.

## Teacher Receives Grant from Rena Brooks

Karen Cleveland, Green Meadow second grade teacher, has been awarded a grant from the Rena Brooks Foundation for purchasing reading games.

Mrs. Brooks, who taught at Green Meadow teacher for 32 years, presented the award to Mrs. Cleveland at a staff meeting.

Mrs. Brooks was excited to visit Green Meadow and see how the building has changed. Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Brooks talked about the importance of literacy and how the games purchased will be an asset to reading instruction.

The Rena H. Brooks Excellence in Early Education Award gives one \$500 grant each year to a teacher in early education. Information about the application process can be found on the school's website, [comstockps.org](http://comstockps.org).



Second grade teacher, Karen Cleveland, accepts a grant award from Rena Brooks, retired Green Meadow teacher and founder of the Rena Brooks Excellence in Early Education Foundation.

# Comstock Sports News

## 2018-19 High School & Middle School Physicals

Physicals for the 2018-19 school year will be offered on Tuesday, July 31, at Comstock High School from 6-7 p.m. The cost will be \$20. All Comstock students in seventh through twelfth grades planning on playing a fall sport must have a physical dated after April 15, 2018, on file with the athletic office before they can participate in practice or games.

## Stadium Reserved Seating

Reserved seating will be offered for the 2018-19 school year. The first home varsity football game kicks off at 7 p.m. on August 30 vs Brandywine. We have two options this year. A regular seat for the year is \$5 and we now also have a seat with a back rest that is \$10 a seat for the year.

The proceeds will be used to help fund the 2019 Hall of Fame Banquet and Awards. Please support Comstock Athletics and our Hall of Fame Banquet by purchasing a reserved seat through the athletic office at 250-8711.

## Season Pass Workers Needed

We are starting to coordinate workers for next school year right now. If you would like to work at athletic events for a family pass, please contact the athletic office. Some of the job duties include ticket taking, running the clock, keeping the scorebook, announcing and timing for track meets.

We have a free lifetime pass for all our senior citizens. If you senior citizens would still like to help out at our athletic events, we would love to have you here, but it is not required. Please give us a call at 269-250-8711 to let us know if you are interested in working.

## Hall of Fame Nominations

The Comstock Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for the 2019 induction. Nominations must be received by the athletic director by November 1 to be included in the process for the 2019 induction.

A nomination form can be found online at [www.comstockps.org/halloffame](http://www.comstockps.org/halloffame). Please call Justin Ansel with any questions at 269-250-8711.

## High School Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for the fall high school sports season will begin on August 6 for football and August 8 for volleyball, girls golf, boys soccer, sideline cheer and cross country. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at [comstockcolts.org](http://comstockcolts.org). Every athlete must have a physical dated after April 15, 2018, to participate.

## NEMS Fall Sports Start Dates

Practice for NEMS volleyball, soccer and cross country can begin the week of August 20. Start times will be listed on the athletic website at [comstockcolts.org](http://comstockcolts.org).

## Comstock Seniors Playing College Sports

Congratulations to Destin Foy. Destin earned the opportunity to play college football at Adrian. Great job on an awesome high school career and good luck in college!

## Stampede Basketball

### Third-Sixth Grade Boys & Third-Eighth Grade Girls

Tryouts for the 2018-19 Comstock Stampede basketball third-eighth grade girls and third-sixth grade boys are tentatively scheduled on Sunday, September 30, and are specifically for kids attending Comstock Public Schools. We will send out more information to all the kids after school starts.

Session I for girls is the Rising Stars season which begins playing games mid October. Session I for boys is the Sharp Shooter season which begins playing games the beginning of November. All fall sports being played are a priority and until the fall season is over, kids try to make the basketball practices when they can. There will be a charge for Session I this year along with the cost of a uniform.

It is a great program to learn a lot about basketball and we hope we see a lot of kids from Comstock participating. The CYB basketball program will not take place this year so this is the only opportunity for fall/winter basketball at Comstock.

If you have any questions, please give Justin Ansel a call at 250-8711.

## 2017-18 All State Athletes

Congratulations to Daisy Ansel for making four different All State Teams this year in basketball. She made First Team All State for the Associated Press and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. She made Second Team All State for the Detroit News and was Third Team All State for the Detroit Free Press.

Daisy Ansel was named to four different All-State Teams in basketball.



# Comstock Public Schools 2017-2018 School Calendar

June 8	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)	Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
June 11	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)	Half Day Students & Teachers K-12
June 12	<b>LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS</b> (High School Exams) Teachers' Records Day P.M.	Half Day Students K-12 Last Day for Teachers



# Comstock Township Library Events

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

We now have Hoopla! Inquire at the adult reference desk or visit our website for more information. Hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. We have hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from, with more being added daily. Hoopla is like having your public library at your fingertips. Anytime. Anywhere,” <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>

**Saturday, June 9, 2018: Community Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Start planning now to participate in or attend the Community Yard Sale hosted on the Library grounds! Sellers may purchase a 10x10 space for \$5, due at registration. To reserve your space, please stop by the library. Tables, chairs and change are not available; you must bring your own. \*Multiple spaces may be purchased for a larger sales area\* No food items, please. 30 spaces available. Spaces are not available inside the library. It is the vendor's choice to set up if weather is not good.

**Libraries Rock! Summer Reading Program for Adults** (must be 18 or older to participate). Registration begins Monday, June 11, at the adult reference desk; however, you may not report the books you have read or listened to until June 18. Fill out a form for each Comstock Township Library book you have read or listened to between June 11 to August 11 and enter to win prizes. The grand prize will be an Apple Watch. The winning name will be drawn on August 13. For further details, call 345-0136.

**Ask-A-Lawyer, Thursday, June 14, 6-8 p.m.** Join Robert Reilman to get your legal questions answered. This program is free. Sign up at the adult reference desk. Your legal questions will be answered in the order you arrive, but you must register. Call 345-0136 for more information.

**Adult Craft: Independence Day Ribbon Flag, Wednesday, June 27, 5:30 p.m.** Make a wall or door hanging out of ribbons and lace to celebrate Independence Day! Registration is required for this free event and begins at the reference desk on June 11. Space is limited. Call 345-0136 for more information.

**Adult Craft: Abstract Painting, Wednesday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.** Paint and take home a canvas to cheer up your walls! Registration is required for this free event and begins at the reference desk on July 2. Space is limited. Call 345-0136 for more information.

## EVENTS IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

**Do you need volunteer hours for next year?** Teen volunteers are very important to the success of our Summer Reading Program and we appreciate all the hard work they do. We need volunteers for correcting worksheets, redeeming prizes, and assisting with programs and parties! Volunteer applications are available at the Young People's desk and on our website. Applications will not be accepted after Friday, July 15. You must be going into sixth through twelfth grades to volunteer.

- Volunteer Orientation: Saturday, June 9, at 11 a.m. or Tuesday, June 12, 7 p.m.
- Volunteer Thank-You Pizza Party: Wednesday, August 15, 5 p.m.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Reading this summer can earn you small prizes in our weekly drawings, and chances for larger prizes at the end of the reading program. You will also earn tickets for our Summer Reading Party on August 11. The more you read, the more tickets you will earn to use at the party.

**DROP-IN STORYTIME: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Ages 1-5.** Join us for a half hour of stories, songs, games, and parachute play. No registration is necessary for this free event.

**1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: Ongoing. Pre-Kindergarten.** Children may participate until they begin kindergarten. Children will win a prize from our treasure chest for every 50 books read, up to 1000 books. Stop by the Young People's desk to pick up a tracking sheet.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Wednesday, June 13, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. All ages.** Get a free bowl of ice cream with toppings of your choice for showing your library card! Don't have a library card? Register for one at the event and still receive a free bowl of ice cream!

**READING CLUB: Grades Pre-Kindergarten—6th.** Earn treats and tickets for the Summer Reading Party in August by completing worksheets all summer! For every five reading comprehension worksheets turned in with a score of 80% or higher, you will earn two scoops of ice cream with toppings and a ticket to spend at the Summer Reading Party. Correcting skill sheets takes time, so please do not plan to turn them in and get the reward the same day. Please check the next time you visit the library to see if you have earned your treat. Each child is limited to one bowl of ice cream per day. Alternative prizes may be available for children with food allergies.

## CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, for the Independence Day Holiday.

**BENJAMMIN EDUCATIONAL MUSIC: Friday, June 22, 10:30 a.m. All ages.** Jammin with BenJammin Gauthier gives kids a chance to move, play and sing along with Educational Music. Songs like “The Safety Belt Song,” “Keep in Shape,” and “Dream, Love, Live,” will teach your kids about health, safety, respect, and science—all while having so much fun they won't even realize they are learning!

**NELSON'S WILDLIFE SAFARI-ANIMALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD: Thursday, July 12, 6:30 p.m. All ages.** Wildlife Safari brings the magic and adventure of animals to us for a truly unique hands-on experience! You will see and touch creatures both great and small from around the world through the Adventure Story Presentation. Don't miss it!

**KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICAL STORY BOOK AND INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO: Thursday, July 26, 11 a.m. All ages.** Perfect for younger children, this program presents favorite storybooks illustrated with great music by KSO's Burdick-Thorne String Quartet. Each program includes a craft activity, a narrated telling of the story with music, and interactive learning led by the musicians.

**SUMMER READING PARTY: Saturday, August 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All ages.** Rain or shine! Weather permitting, we will have the inflatable slide, bouncer, and obstacle course outside the library grounds. Inside the library you can trade in your reading tickets for ice cream, popcorn, crafts, games, and other small prizes. Extra tickets are available for purchase at 25 cents each.

**CRAFT DAYS: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m. All ages.** Join us for a different craft each week! Crafts are suited for children ages 3 and up. Children under 5 need to have an adult helper with them. Registration is required for these free events and **first priority will be given to those registered and participating in our Summer Reading Program.** Space is limited. Craft sessions are as follows:

- Monday, June 18, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, June 19, 7 p.m.: **Paint a Miniature Bird Bath.** Registration begins Monday, June 11.
- Monday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, June 26, 7 p.m.: **Create a DIY Slap Bracelet.** Registration begins Monday, June 18.
- Monday, July 2, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.: **Decorate a Treasure Chest.** Registration begins Monday, June 25.
- LIBRARY CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JULY 4
- Monday, July 9, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.;

## Comstock Township Library Events *(continued)*

**Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m.: Create a Musical Instrument.** Registration begins Monday, July 2.

• **Monday, July 16, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, July 17, 7 p.m.: Create a Summer "Snow" Globe.** Registration begins Monday, July 9.

• **Monday, July 23, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, July 24, 7 p.m. Decorate a Wooden Shark.** Registration begins Monday, July 16.

• **Monday, July 30, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, July 31, 7 p.m.: Paint a Toolbox.** Registration begins Monday, July 23.

**STEM WEDNESDAYS: Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. All ages.** Join us for a different STEM activity every week! We will explore science and engineering activities. Legos will be placed on display. Registration is required for these free events and **first priority will be given to those registered and participating in our Summer Reading Program.** These projects are appropriate for school-aged kids, so children under 5 will need an adult helper. Space is limited. Science themes are as follows:

• **Wednesday, June 20, 1:30 p.m.: Build a Confetti Cannon.** Registration begins Monday, June 11.

• **Wednesday, June 27, 1:30 p.m.: Make Edible Slime!** Registration begins Monday, June 18.

• **Wednesday, July 11, 1:30 p.m.: Build a Moving Noodle Robot.** Registration begins Monday, July 2.

• **Wednesday, July 18, 1:30 p.m.: Make an Apple Volcano.** Registration begins Monday, July 9.

• **Wednesday, July 25, 1:30 p.m.: Help Humpty Dumpty.** Registration begins Monday, July 16.

• **Wednesday, August 1, 1:30 p.m.: Popsicle Stick Harmonica.** Registration begins Monday, July 23.

**TEEN TIME: Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. Grades 6-12.** Join us for different crafts and activities every Thursday. Registration is required for these free events and **first priority will be given to those registered and participating in our Summer Reading Program.** Teen Time activities are as follows:

• **Thursday, June 21, 1:30 p.m.: Decorate a Photo Pillow.** Registration begins Monday, June 11.

• **Thursday, June 28, 1:30 p.m.: Design a String Art Project.** Registration begins Monday, June 18.

• **Thursday, July 5, 1:30 p.m.: Create a Record Clock.** Registration begins Monday, June 25.

• **Thursday, July 12, 1:30 p.m.: Will it Waffle?.** Registration begins Monday, July 2.

• **Thursday, July 19, 1:30 p.m.: Paint an Aztec Sun Plaque.** Registration begins Monday, July 9.

• **Thursday, July 26, 1:30 p.m.: Make Candy Sushi.** Registration begins Monday, July 16.

• **Thursday, August 2, 1:30 p.m.: Decorate a Cigar Box.** Registration begins Monday, July 23.



Call the library to make sure we are open if there is inclement weather.



We now have tutor rooms and Wi-Fi available! Call 345-0136 for more information.



We now have a fax service! Must use credit or debit card to send.



### Now Available

OverDrive! Download free audiobooks and e-books from home using your computer, MP3 player, e-book reader, and other compatible devices. Check out our OVERDRIVE eBooks and audiobooks! <https://smdl.overdrive.com/>



### Computer Help

Have a question about the computer? Would you like to learn how to use the computer? Please call 345-0136 to set up a block of time for one-on-one help. Must be a library cardholder.



### Need Resume Help?

Please call to schedule an appointment or visit the adult reference desk to do so. We will help you write a cover letter or resume, or just proofread one you already have. Call 345-0136 for further information. Must be a library cardholder.

