

The Comstock Communicator

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



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MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read
Center Point*

A newsletter about the
Comstock
Community Center

From the Superintendent



Dear Comstock Public Schools Community,

Many parents and students are concerned about how to pay for college. Recently, there have been news reports about students and the amount of student debt they have accumulated in paying for their degrees.

Currently, total student loan debt in the United States is in excess of \$1.2 trillion dollars, according to Chris Denhart, Forbes Magazine staff writer. The average college student will graduate with close to \$27,000 in student loan debt based on Denhart's research. The question then becomes: What can be done to minimize the cost for parents and students?

There is good news. Comstock Public Schools has several options for students to minimize their post-secondary costs. Comstock High School offers on-site dual enrollment courses which are courses for which students get college and high school credit. The courses offered at the high school this fall are:

English 110 – College Writing I
English 160 – College Writing and Research
Psychology 150 – Introduction to Psychology
Business 106 – Excel I
Business 119 – Excel II
Art 103 – Drawing and Composition
Art 105 – Painting I

Accounting 101 – Principles of Accounting I
Business 101 – Business Principles and Practices

The credit hour cost for Western Michigan University is approximately \$350. If a student were to graduate from Comstock Public Schools with 15 credits, the potential tuition savings for them and their parents would be over \$5,200. They would be able to start college as a second semester freshman.

There is also the potential for students to earn enough dual enrollment credits to be able to start college as a second semester sophomore or to earn a two-year associate's degree. The potential savings of leaving high school with an associate's degree could be in excess of \$15,000.

The key to being able to take advantage of the dual enrollment program is planning. Students need to stay on track and be at or above grade level through upper elementary and middle school to ensure they can take full advantage of dual enrollment opportunities.

The College and Career Academy and building principals can help put a college bound plan in place.

If you or your student needs help with college preparation, please contact Ms. Gerielle Stewart, Director of the College and Career Academy at stewartg@comstockps.org or 250-8700.

Todd D. Mora
Superintendent

Comstock Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

December:

- 7 Red Cross Blood Drive - Colt Center - 7 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- 8 Comstock STEM/ Northeast Middle/High School Choir Concert -7p.m., FREE
- 9 Comstock NEMS/High School Holiday Band Concert: 7 p.m. - FREE
- 10 Paramount Charter Academy Christmas Concert - 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Barbershoppers Present: Christmas Show! 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: 269-694-4355.
- 15 West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Concert (includes band, orchestra, choir): 7 p.m., \$3 at the door.

January, 2016:

- 12 Life of a Teen, Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Play - 7 p.m., FREE
- 29-30 Secret Garden, Homeschool Performing Arts: 7 p.m. Matinée (30th) at 3 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472 www.hpami.org

February, 2016:

- 5-6 Secret Garden; Homeschool Performing Arts: 7 p.m., Matinée (Feb. 6) at 3 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472 www.hpami.org.



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS

www.comstockps.org

Todd Mora
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jackie Wahl, President
Mike Hicks, Vice President
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Richard Hathaway, Trustee
Rich House, Trustee
Jason Winters, Trustee

Paula Johnson, *Appointed Treasurer*
Faye Goldner, *Appointed Recording Secretary*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Comstock Public Schools is to provide excellence in education for all students through innovation and creativity

VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be a national leader in quality public education.

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 or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.



CHS Girls Golf Team Has Successful Season

The Comstock High School Girls Golf team finished the season in third place overall in the Kalamazoo Valley Association with Senior Team Captains, Mikala Sims and Abby Schreiner, making the All-KVA Conference first team.

For the third year in a row, the girls also placed in the top five (out of 12 teams) at the Division 4 Regional tournament with Abby Schreiner narrowly missing out on qualifying for the State Finals at MSU.

This year's 2015 varsity roster also included Senior Captain Sara Preston, juniors Lauren Bonds and Leah Petrick and freshman Abby House. Not only did they perform well on the golf course and improve immensely, but their golf etiquette, manners and sportsmanship were outstanding as well. Comstock can be very proud of the way they represented our school and community.

This year's team awards went to Lauren Bonds for most improved. From last season to this season, she improved from 60 last year to 52.75

this season. Freshman Abby House received the Most Improved Player Award, improving from a 120 at the Gull Lake Tournament at Bedford Valley to a 104 at Regionals at Eastern Hills.

Other season highlights included:

*Lauren Bonds placing sixth and medaling at the Kate Kwasny Memorial Tournament; *Mikala Sims shooting a 38 and placing third at the Lake Michigan Catholic KVA Jamboree at Lake Michigan Hills and breaking our school record for lowest 9-hole score;

*Abby Schreiner shooting a 40 and placing first in our dual with Marshall at Eastern Hills which included an Eagle on hole #5.



Girls golf team members are (left to right) Lauren Bonds, Abby House, Abby Schreiner, Sara Preston and Mikala Sims.

It was another great girls golf season. We can't wait for the Fall 2016 golf season. The girls golf team starts training in April, as soon as the snow is gone. Then, the team practices all summer long. If you have any questions about the CHS girls golf program, please contact head coach, Tracy Daniel, at CHS.

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

July 13, 2015

- Superintendent Mora introduced Jason Hall, communications specialist.
- Approved retirement of James Kordupel, high school math teacher.
- Approved Meggan McMurtrie as second grade teacher at North Elementary.
- Approved increasing meal prices in the cafeteria by 10 cents for elementary and secondary lunches.
- Approved purchase of *Modern Chemistry* textbooks from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Ratified an agreement with the Paraprofessional Association for the 2014-15 year.
- Approved the bid from Carrier for the auditorium air conditioning condensing units in the amount of \$65,745.38.

REGULAR MEETING

August 10, 2015

- Approved resignations of Bonnie Mastromatteo, Karen Hall, Pamela Gernaat, Katie Smith, and Caleb Fisher.
- Approved Alyssa Lawton for the part-time English position at the high school.
- Approved Ryan Warner for the high school math teacher position.
- Approved Ashley Hufnagel for the Green Meadow Tech Teaching position.

- Approved Amy Stacy as second grade teacher at Green Meadow.
- Approved the seventh grade social studies textbook from Cengage Learning.

SPECIAL MEETING

August 24, 2015

- Approved Justin Pence as a science teacher at the high school.
- Approved Kevin Faraci as fourth grade teacher at North Elementary.
- Approved Nathaniel Runyon as a science teacher at NEMS.
- Approved Randy Burgen as eighth grade volleyball coach.
- Approved the resignation of Anthony Warmington, high school special education teacher.
- Approved dispensing merit pay out of Title II funds to reward high quality instructional staff.

REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2015

- Approved Kelsey Cooper as freshman volleyball coach.
- Approved Sarah Silverman as teacher for the high school special education resource room.
- Approved Sarah Taylor as the NEMS math intervention teacher.

- Approved Kate Appel as first grade teacher at North Elementary.
- Approved a purchase agreement with Fifth Third Bank for the purchase of buses.
- Ratified a two-year agreement with the bus drivers with the same financial costs and no base increase.

REGULAR MEETING

September 28, 2015

- Approved Justin Pence as high school boys golf coach.
- Approved Nate Militzer as eighth grade boys basketball coach.
- Board president Jackie Wahl reported on the work of the facilities committee. Major issues identified in the buildings are air quality, building security, and items affecting quality of instruction. Superintendent Mora will be contacting a polling organization to survey the community about what is important to them.
- Superintendent Mora reported it will cost about \$350,000 to abate the asbestos in the ACLC. The board will be moving forward with a plan to send out a request for proposal (RFP) regarding the demolition of the building. They will also be exploring the possibility of selling the property.
- Trustee Hathaway shared why he would like to see an electronic sign at the STEM Academy.

Comstock High School

College and Career Academy Hosts College Events

During the first annual College Awareness Month this fall, College and Career Academy (CCA) Deans visited all of the schools to host various college-themed events.

During the first week of the month, the elementary schools and middle school participated in a college door decorating competition. Students researched a college and then decorated their classroom door with their chosen college. This was designed to make students aware of the various college options in Michigan.

The winners of the competition were Mrs. Anderson's second grade class at STEM, Ms. Walsh's eighth grade class and Ms. Norton's eighth grade class at NEMS, and Mrs. Boris's kindergarten class at Green Meadow.

The next week, the CCA deans visited the first grade classes for a getting-to-know-your-mascots activity. Students were given coloring books with information about Michigan State, the University of Michigan, Western Michigan University and Hope College. Students learned small facts about each of the schools and colored the mascots.

Next, the deans visited the STEM Academy after school and hosted various events including mascot coloring pages, college match up, college bingo and college trivia.

The CCA deans also participated in Math/Technology/Game night at the high school. Students from North Elementary and the STEM Academy were invited to participate. We hosted two games, College Twister and College Hangman. There were also stations with College and Career themed activities.

To conclude college awareness month, the deans visited each of the schools with Buster the Bronco from Western Michigan University to encourage students to work hard and dream big.

We look forward to College Awareness Month next year and hope to encourage even more participation.



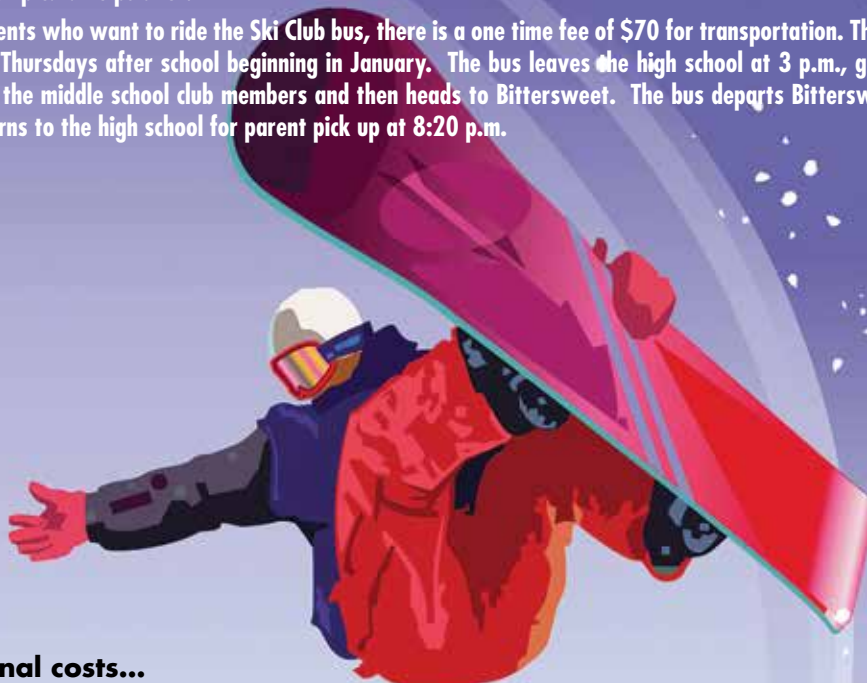
Buster the Bronco from Western Michigan University visited classrooms to encourage students to work hard and dream big.

CHS Ski Club 2015-16

How the ski & snowboard club works...

First, members buy a Bittersweet Card for \$16. They show this card at the window at Bittersweet every time they go. This gives them a large reduction off their lift ticket and equipment rental (if they need equipment). So the membership card helps a lot.

For students who want to ride the Ski Club bus, there is a one time fee of \$70 for transportation. This pays for seven trips on Thursdays after school beginning in January. The bus leaves the high school at 3 p.m., goes to NEMS and picks up the middle school club members and then heads to Bittersweet. The bus departs Bittersweet at 7:45 p.m. and returns to the high school for parent pick up at 8:20 p.m.



Seasonal costs...

Membership card (pay one time) = \$16 (Due on 12/4)

Lift ticket = 7 x \$16 = \$112 (Pay \$16 each time you go, no pre-pay)

Equipment rental (skis/snb 7 x \$16 = \$112)

(Pay \$16 each time you go, no pre-pay)

Bus = \$70 (Pays for 7 trips) (Due on 12/4)

TOTALS FOR SEASON:

\$294 for season (if renting skis & riding bus) (\$112+\$112+\$70=\$294)

\$294 for season (if renting snowboard & riding bus) (same as above)

\$182 for season (if already have equipment & riding bus) (\$112+\$70=\$182)

\$128 for season (if have equipment & driving on own) (\$112+\$16=\$128)

What to get in to Coach Daniel at Comstock High School-ASAP....

Please place the following in an envelope with your name on it:

- 1) Bittersweet Waiver with \$16 (Check to "BITTERSWEET SKI RESORT")
*Bittersweet Waivers must be picked up at the High School office.
Waivers can also be downloaded from the "SKIBITTERSWEET" website.
- 2) Bus Money \$70 (Check payable to "Comstock Ski Club")

**Payment is due
Friday, December 4**

Comstock High School

Mr. VanNiman Wins 'Laugh at the Staff' Competition

Social studies teacher, Mr. Paul VanNiman, won the "Laugh at the Staff" fundraiser sponsored by the National Honor Society during Homecoming Week.

Created to help fund Literacy Night at Green Meadow and North Elementaries, this fundraiser involved students putting money into jars labeled with teachers' names. Students put money into the jar of the teacher they most wanted to win the contest.

Winning with over \$200 in donations, Mr. VanNiman had to lip sync Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" in front of the entire school. His performance was a crowd-pleaser, with many of the students on their feet and cheering.

The National Honor Society is grateful to everyone who participated in making this event a success by raising over \$400.

Seniors Apply to Colleges during Application Week

During College Application Week (CAW), hosted by Comstock High School, 95 of 96 graduating seniors completed and submitted at least one post-secondary application.

CAW gave students the opportunity to meet with a counselor regardless of where they were in the college application process.

Students were also walked through the process of applying for a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID, a crucial element in the financial aid process.

Although College Application Week 2015 was a step in the right direction, there is still much to be done. Now that we have positive momentum rolling, it is now time to address the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and scholarship processes, as well as continue to help our undecided students determine which path best fits their aspirations.

A big thanks to The Learning Network and the College and Career Action Network (CACAN) for their help throughout CAW, as well as the rest of the year.

Father/Daughter Winter Dance

Girls of any age with their Fathers!
A grand night of Dancing, Games, Movie and Food!

Saturday, February 13, 2016
at Comstock High School

Dancing and games from 6-8 p.m.
Pizza and refreshments served from 6-7 p.m.
Movie to be played in the auditorium from 7-8:30 p.m.

\$20/couple and \$5/extra daughter
Professional photographs available at an extra charge beginning at 5:30 p.m.

More information – Call Shirley or Justin at 250-8711

Advance registration highly recommended to help us get an accurate count for food.

Father / Daughter Dance Registration Form

Return by mail to:
Comstock High School
Attn: Justin Ansel
2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Names _____
Daughter _____
Phone _____ Daughter's Current Grade _____
School _____

Please make checks payable to: Comstock High School
Pre-registered names will be at the registration table.
No tickets will be sent!

****In the case of inclement weather, cancellations will be on TV.*

Comstock High School

Students Create 3D Projects in Design Class

Chess sets with themes such as Star Wars and architecture were created by high school students in the 3D Design class this fall.

In projects such as these, the students are learning job skills for the 21st century. They use their skills in art, math, and technology as they learn the process of 3D printing.

First, students learn to program in openSCAD, a parametric constructive solid geometry programming language.

Then, they begin each project by creating 3D models using a variety of software tools. They must include many design constraints in their art work to allow for the limitation of the printers.

Next, they generate tools paths for the 3D printer which requires a working knowledge of different plastic melting temps, filament sizes, and many other mechanical parameters such as extrusion speed and layer heights. Finally, they print their creations on the 3D printers and perform any post printing assembly or support removal clean up needed.

Other projects include creating 3D printed photographic lithopanes using digital photo editing software and Thingiverse, modifying prosthetic fingers using tinkercad, 3D scanning everyday objects using smart phones and 123d Catch and meshmixer, just to name a few.



Nate Saokho, Luca Gardner, Sage Stephenson, and Joshua Sager play chess with sets they designed and printed.

Students Climb Stairs to Remember 9/11 Victims

Remembering the nearly 3,000 victims of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, 65 Comstock students participated in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Wings Stadium on September 11.

The students, along with firefighters from Comstock, Battle Creek, Detroit, Oshtemo, Portage, Pavilion, Kalamazoo Township, the City of Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Gobles, Jackson, and Sault Ste. Marie climbed 110 flights of stairs, representing each flight the firefighters climbed to try to save the lives of those who were still in the towers.

The climbers took on the stairs in groups of five to six, representing the platoons of firefighters who enter a building at the same time.

Comstock High School senior, Peter Morrison, said, "Climbing the stairs made me realize that I was a part of a community greater than my school."

Junior Miranda Cannon, said, "Seeing so many people come out to support the victims of 9/11 really opened my eyes to the impact that this event has on our society."

Comstock High School students cannot wait to return next year to continue our support for the victims of 9/11 and their families.



Mother/Son Bowling Event

Boys of any age with their Mothers!
A grand night of Bowling, Pizza and Fun!

Saturday, February 6, 2015 - 6 to 8 p.m.

Eastland Bowl
\$23/couple and \$7/extra son

Includes two hours of bowling,
shoe rental, pizza and cookies.

More information – Call Shirley or Justin at 250-8711
Registration/Money due by Wednesday, February 3.
We have to cap at 148 people.

Mother/Son Bowling Registration Form

Return by mail to
Comstock High School
Attn: Justin Ansel
2107 N. 26th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Mother's name _____

Son/Son's name & grade _____

Address _____

Phone _____ School _____

Bumpers needed: Yes or No (circle one)

If you wish to bowl with another family, check in together day of event.

Please make checks payable to: Comstock Athletics
Pre-registered names will be at the registration table.

No tickets will be sent!

***In the case of inclement weather, cancellations will be on TV.

Comstock High School

CHS Students Visit Central Michigan

Twenty high school students visited Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant to learn about the school. At CMU, they received CMU swag bags filled with fact sheets, scholarship information and a lanyard.

They listened to the Director of Admissions talk about what CMU has to offer. Following a question-and-answer session, the students toured the campus with a CMU student ambassador. They visited classrooms, the library, a dorm and then ate lunch in one of the dining halls.

CHS students said the experience was extremely beneficial to their college search and decision making process.



CHS students show off the CMU bags they received on a visit to the Mount Pleasant college campus.

CHS Band Performs at Invitational



The Comstock High School Band of Blue participated in the Battle Creek Marching Invitational sponsored by Battle Creek Central High School this fall. Their show entitled "Disney Bound," features popular Disney tunes including Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah, Can You Feel the Love Tonight, and the main theme from Pirates of the Caribbean.

Congratulations, Band of Blue, on another very honorable performance with many great compliments from the clinicians.

Band of Blue to Perform at Disney World

The CHS Band of Blue will be performing in the Electro-Light Parade at Disney World's Magic Kingdom theme park, on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. The band was chosen for this honor based on their audition videos.

The Board of Education has authorized the band to travel March 21-26, 2016. Band students have been fund-raising since the sixth grade in anticipation of this exciting experience.

Best wishes Band of Blue!

Community Basketball tournament

*Compass High School
3010 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49004*

Doors open @ 4:30 p.m

Registration due upon entrance



salvation of streets
Facebook



salvationofstreets
INSTAGRAM



@of_streets
TWITTER

SALVATION OF STREETS PRESENTS

Friday
December
4th

5pm-8pm
2015

Males



4th ANNUAL
BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT

FROM
MENACE SOCIETY
TO
MINISTRY SOCIETY

Hosted By: Roderick Carson



#4THANNUAL

Ages 15-19

FREE EVENT

FREE FOOD

CONTACT

info@salvationofstreets.com

INFORMATION

Calling all

Ballers

on the basketball court!

www.salvationofstreets.com



Northeast Middle School

Students Represent NEMS in Writing Contest

Nine eighth graders have been selected by their writing teacher, Brooke Chamberlin, to represent NEMS in the annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. The students are Carolina Ballesteros, Devonne Cash, Nicole Dankert, Sage Decamp, Pa Nee Hang, Dominik Matthews, Kelsey Militzer, Zoe Vandrey, and Kelci Wilson-Abrams.

Three of these students' essays will be chosen to advance to the next level of the competition.

The America & Me Essay Contest, which has been in existence since 1968, encourages eighth graders to write about their personal heroes. For this year's contest, students were asked to write about "My Personal Michigan Hero."

Students whose essays make it to the state level can win prizes including certificates, plaques, medallions and cash awards of \$1,000. The top 10 writers will visit the State Capitol where they will meet with government leaders. They will also be special guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game and will have lunch aboard the Michigan Princess Riverboat on the Grand River.



America and Me essay finalists are (top row, left to right) Kelci Wilson-Abrams, Kelsey Militzer, Dominik Matthews, Devonne Cash and (bottom row, left to right) Pa Nee Hang, Nicole Dankert, Carolina Ballesteros, and Zoe Vandrey. Not pictured: Sage Decamp

Comstock Public Schools 2015-2016 School Calendar

Dec. 21 – Jan. 1	WINTER RECESS		No Students / No Teachers
January 26	High School Exams		Half Day H.S. Full Day Students K-8
January 27	High School Exams		Half Day H.S. Full Day Students K-8
January 28	High School Exams		Half Day H.S. Full Day Students K-8
January 29	Professional Development AM ~ K-12 END OF 1ST SEMESTER Records P.M. ~ K-12		No Students K-12
February 26	Mid-Winter Break		No Students / No Teachers
March 21	Elementary Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 22	Middle School /High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 23	Elementary Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 24	Middle School / High School Conferences	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Full Day Students K-12
March 25	Professional Development A.M. ~ K-12		No Students K-12 No Teachers PM
April 1 – 8	SPRING BREAK		No Students – No Teachers
May 30	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE		No Students / No Staff

Northeast Middle School

Capture the Flag Teaches Students About American Revolution



Dominique Hines, the captain for the British team, surrenders his flag and allows Jacob Wells, playing George Washington, to win the Revolutionary War.

Playing Capture the Flag, eighth graders in Ms. Norton's U.S. History classes re-enacted events that took place during the American Revolution.

The 155 eighth graders from five different classes participated in six rounds of the game. The activity was scripted with certain aspects of the traditional game where two teams each have a flag or other marker and the object is to capture the other team's flag, located at the team's base, and bring it safely back to their own base. Enemy players can be "tagged" by players in their home territory; these players are then out of that round until the next round starts.

The version the eighth grade students performed was changed to reflect the situation they were reenacting. The object of this exercise was to have the students spread out and to capture the flags from either the British or American armies.

A third team, the French, joined the American team after a few rounds had been played.

Participating in this hands-on exercise gave students a new perspective on the American Revolution. Reading about an incident that took place in 1776 has new meaning for the students after participating in this event.

Students, Staff Participate in Mini Maker Faires

Comstock sixth, seventh and eighth graders and staff members recently participated in a Mini Maker Faire at the Portage Barnes and Noble, an event sponsored by Make: Magazine and Barnes and Noble.

Comstock students ran several of the activities for younger kids. At the Make and Collaborate tables, they helped other kids build catapults, race cars, and other fun items. At the Make Workspace tables, our students demonstrated some amazing tech toys so visitors could get a chance to see them in action.

Comstock Schools also had its own tables where our students displayed their robotics and 3D printing projects and spoke to the public about the great learning opportunities that are happening here.

Our staff also brought several 3D printers so people could see them in action. They gave away over 200 individually printed 3D flowers to passersby. The plastic needed to make this possible was donated by staff member, Mark Peeters.

All day long Comstock teachers, Kayrn Medendrop, Patty Pobuda, Richard Gibson, Kim Sandefur and Mark Peeters, answered questions and coordinated the small army of student volunteers.

On the Meet the Maker stage, Comstock STEM Academy fourth grade teacher, Kim Sandefur, and Comstock Technology Director, Mark Peeters, talked about the innovative 3D printing curriculum developed by Comstock Public Schools.

The Mini Maker Faire at the Portage Barnes and



Sevenths grader, Skylar George, and math teacher, Patty Pobuda, show off their robots at the Mini Maker Faire.



Comstock third graders, Avery Schreiner and Madilyn Hosbein, enjoy the Mini Maker Faire.

Noble was one of over 650 faires held at Barnes and Noble locations around the country.

North Elementary

First Day Shoe Fund Gets Students Off on Right Foot



The 230 North students receiving new shoes from the First Day Shoe Fund were excited to get their new shoes at the beginning of the school year.

First Day Shoe Fund is a not-for-profit organization which provides a new pair of athletic shoes to students each year. Any child who qualifies for the free/reduced lunch pro-

gram can request a pair of shoes.

This year, the program was expanded to include students from pre-kindergarten through the fourth grade.

First Day Shoe Fund receives donations to purchase new athletic type shoes for the qualifying students.

For more information about the program, go to www.firstdayshoefund.org.

North Receives Gift of New Playground Balls

Northeastern Baptist Church recently donated six new basketballs and 12 new playground balls to North Elementary.

Before this, students only had a few worn and leaking balls for their basketball and other games during recess.

Given only 15 minutes a day to enjoy some outdoor play, North Elementary students want to cram in as much fun as possible. With the new balls, that's much easier to do.

We are very thankful for our friends at Northeastern for raising the fun level at lunch recess.

Right: Fidel Ramos with the balls which are now ready for the playground.



Coffee Cart Gives Students Work Experience

Every Friday, staff at North Elementary enjoy coffee, cocoa, or tea offered by Ms. Shepard's resource room students. Students set up their coffee carts with creamers and sugar before beginning delivery.

Wearing aprons and their official Coffee Cart name tags, they greet teachers, take orders, and collect money.

The menu features local coffee from Water Street Coffee, hot cocoa, and tea. Teachers are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups.

Students are taking pride in their new job as baristas. However, they aren't just delivering drinks. In addition, they are getting hands-on experience with job skills, social skills, and the joy of seeing hard work appreciated firsthand.

A generous donation from Water Street Coffee has made this service possible.



Sho' Maria Brown, Jamal Alexander, Marlee Cannon, and Olivia Miskowski get ready for Coffee Cart!

North Holds Book Fair

Second grader Audris Warden attended our first of the year Scholastic Book Fair during conferences and asked if he and his family could also purchase a book for the classroom. This was a wonderful idea and what a way to say, "Thank you," to Mrs. McMurtrie.

Audris, not only are you helping to build the classroom library, but you're sharing with all the other students. Thank you, Audris, and to your family for your generous donation to room 100.

We will also be holding two more book fairs: March 21- March 24 our famous BOGO Book fair will be held May 16- May 20.

Make sure to stop by and start reading!

Mrs. Meggan McMurtrie, second grade teacher, with Audris Warden.



North Elementary

Families Play with Math, Technology

Families from North and the STEM Academy "played" with math and technology during the annual Math and Technology Night at the high school. With a theme of "Family Game Night," the evening featured puzzles and games arranged by teachers, staff, and members of the high school's National Honor Society.

North's Parent/Teacher Group provided the decorations, creating a fun and upbeat atmosphere.

The goal of the evening was for students and their families to see how math is not only fun but is also a part of everyday life.

Check out North Elementary's webpage, Facebook and Twitter for more pictures.



Amiyah, Anayah, and Kailionna Jackson and their cousin, Ava, enjoy Math Fact Twister.

North Teacher Receives Grant

Fourth grade teacher, Kevin Faraci, has received a \$1500 grant from the Fetzer Institute. The money will be used to purchase Chromebooks to help students who might not otherwise have access to technology.



Fetzer Institute

Green Meadow Elementary

Green Meadow's Science Club Begins Third Year

Green Meadow's Science Exploration and Discovery Club began its third year with nine teams of four students each working through science-related projects.

This year for the first time, the club has more boys than girls. In the past, girls made up about 60 percent of the club membership, but now they number only 40 percent of the club. Also, third graders make up about 40 percent of the membership.

Dr. Richard Hathaway, club coordinator, and all the mentors, look at these young, active and inquisitive minds and help them become curious about the world around them, motivating them to do better in their classes and exposing them to new areas and even creating interest in future careers.

The young scientists are also given opportunities to earn various recognitions including a team leader award which is consistent with the Green Meadow "Leader In Me" initiative, a program designed to encourage all students to find the leader in themselves. Also, young scientists who work together as a team can earn special awards for following good scientific practices, teamwork and creative exploration.

The club operates with community volunteers, high school student volunteers, teachers, the principal and the superintendent all pitching in.



Science Club members with their certificates are John Thomas, Aiden Vasquez, Isaiah Ballinger, Lizbet Lopez, Brandon Ramirez, Alexys Jordan, and Abella Smith.

The major funding for the club comes from the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, business supporters such as Julianna's Restaurant and private donations. To date, the Club and the Science Exploration and Discovery Center at Green Meadow Elementary have purchased all equipment and supplies without using any district resources.

If you have questions about the Green Meadow Science Exploration and Discovery Club, or if you would like to visit the Center for Leadership in Science Exploration and Discovery or if maybe you

are considering becoming a club mentor or a club sponsor you may contact:

Susan Caswell, Principal
Green Meadow Elementary
Caswells@Comstockps.org
269-250-8960

OR

Dr. Richard Hathaway
Science Club Coordinator
Richard.Hathaway@wmich.edu
269-330-1915

Green Meadow Students Build Catapults for Science Club

Members of Green Meadow's Science Exploration and Discovery Club started the new school year by building table-top catapults.

The catapults engaged students in an individual design and build project they could take home and share with their parents and siblings while getting excited about learning how things work.

Students learned how to assemble projects made of wood and then learned valuable lessons in testing and measurement.

The catapults were designed to provide "adjustment features" so that experimental testing would lead to discoveries about the relationship of the adjustable features to travel distance for the thrown object. The students learned to use tape measures, angle finders, spring-force gauges, electronic balances, and hand tools.

After completing their catapults, students tested and recorded data relating launch distance to arm launch angle, arm stop angle, number of turns of their torsion spring and the related bucket launch force.

The project, which took three club meetings to complete, culminated with a launch where students competed with their club mates to establish superiority in launch distance.

All the young scientists and their mentors had fun with the catapult project. The young scientists are so impressive with their enthusiasm, interest and determination. All the club mentors agree that these students are fun to work with, appreciative of the opportunity and very respectful.

Special thanks are in order for those who helped in this project. Forty separate kits were put together with wooden elements machined by mentor James Eldred in H & S Prototype facilities. Lowe's Home Improvement, 5108 South Westnedge, assisted with materials to help make the project financially viable.

Dr. Richard Hathaway, club coordinator, created the project using some online ideas combined with some original concepts to create a small Medieval style catapult.



Sahara Keith works on her catapult.

Students will next move to a civil engineering design and build project. Club members will build and test a small bridge with the goal of helping the young engineers understand how loads are distributed in a structure. Students will choose to build either a spaghetti and marshmallow bridge or a balsa wood bridge. They will then compete for maximum load capacity in each class of bridge.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

The 2016 Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 30, at the WMU Fetzer Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. and the induction to follow at 7 p.m.

Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$25. Come support these great Comstock alumni and coaches and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 25.

Father Daughter Dance

The father daughter dance is Saturday, February 13, from 6-8 p.m. at Comstock High School. Pictures can be taken at 5:30 p.m. and food will be served from 6-7 p.m. We will also show a movie in the auditorium from 7-8:30 p.m. Please return the registration form on page 5 by February 10 to help us get an accurate count for food. Please call Justin Ansel at 269-250-8711 for more information.

Comstock Youth Basketball

The deadline to sign up for CYB basketball was November 27. This is a youth basketball program for first through sixth grade boys and girls. If somehow you missed the registration and are interested in getting your son or daughter involved, please call Anna Meulenberg-Munn at 744-8339 to check on availability.



Cross Country State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Tra'Von Blakely, Tajah Thomas and Callie James in Cross Country. Tra'Von, Tajah and Callie competed in the state finals cross country meet where they finished 114th, 133rd, and 149th overall. We're very proud of their efforts.

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

Comstock Township Library Events

Adult Department Events

Roll Call: Highlighting Our Local Veterans. The Comstock Township Library is looking for local veterans. As part of our Local History Room, each month we would like to highlight the service of one veteran and also display memorabilia of service (if provided). If you are interested in, please contact Gregory Hatch at (269)345-0136 or greg@comstocklibrary.org.

Join the Comstock Township Library on **Saturday, December 5, from 1 - 3 p.m.** for our annual **Holiday Open House**. Meet local author Bonnie Jo Campbell, enjoy holiday cookies, cider, a performance by the musical duo, Catbird, meet Mrs. Claus, make a children's craft, play children's games, and see live reindeer. The reindeer will be outside, so, please dress warmly. Please bring your camera, as pictures with Bonnie Jo Campbell, Mrs. Claus, and the reindeer will be allowed. Free!

Adult Craft: Wednesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. DIY Plate Clock. Make and decorate your own clock with a ceramic plate and other embellishments. Sign-ups for this free craft begin on Monday, November 30, at the adult reference desk. Space is limited.

We want your family history to add to our Local History Collection. Put your family's name in perpetual history in our collection. In an effort to bring more attention to the Comstock Township Library's local history room and historical resources, the Information Services Department will be collecting "family stories" throughout the upcoming fall and winter months. The library will release announcements this fall via online – on the website and on Facebook – and print media – in "Paginations" and in "The Comstock Communicator" – to encourage library patrons who have grown up and lived in Comstock Township for many years, or who have Comstock Township residents in their family, to participate. Participants will be asked to bring in personal items or personal recollections about historical Comstock either for donation or reproduction. Items include things like old school yearbooks and publications, family Bibles, photographs of buildings and locations around Comstock, military papers, and other community photographs or publications. Once items have been collected or

reproduced, they will be combined into a community display and will be open to the public. Contact Beth or Rachael at 345-0136.

QUILTFEST: Comstock Township Library is hosting a showcase for local quilters and their wonderfully creative and colorful quilts February 18-20, 2016. Quilters are invited to register for this event January 25-February 13 in person or by calling the library. Space is limited, one quilt per person please. A People's choice award will be given and a door prize given, chosen from the People's Choice ballots.

Volunteers are needed to assist in set up and "quilt sit". Your help would be greatly appreciated. Just give us a call at 345-0136 or come sign up at the library. Various time slots are available.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-8:15 p.m. - View Quilts 7-7:30 p.m. - Bernina Sewing Center and Quilt Shop will demonstrate how to add texture to your quilting with Texture Magic. Items will be available for purchase.

Friday: 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. - View Quilts

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - View Quilts
10 a.m.-3 p.m. - Drop in craft
(all ages): design a paper quilt block
3-3:30 p.m. - Quilter reception:
Meet the quilters

Events in the Young People's Department

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, December 5, 1-3 p.m., all ages. Meet local author Bonnie Jo Campbell, enjoy holiday cookies, cider, a performance by the musical duo, Catbird, meet Mrs. Claus, make a children's craft, play children's games, and see live reindeer. The reindeer will be outside, so please dress warmly. Please bring your camera, as pictures with Bonnie Jo Campbell, Mrs. Claus, and the reindeer will be allowed. Free!

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: Pre-Kindergarten. On behalf of the 1000 Books before Kindergarten Foundation, Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents and caregivers to read 1000 books to their young children and earn prizes along the way. Any child can participate until s/he enters kindergarten. Stop by the Young People's desk to register and pick up a tracking sheet. **Registration is ongoing!**

CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25. The library will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, and be closed on Friday, January 1, 2016. *Please call the library before traveling in inclement weather.

STORYTIME: Ages 1-5. Registration for the Winter Storytime sessions begins the week of January 4. Register your child for a 45-minute session which includes 30 minutes of stories, songs, and other activities followed by a short craft. Storytimes will begin the week of January 11 and run through April 28. Storytime sessions are as follows:

Mondays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
2-3 year olds
Tuesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
1-2 year olds
Wednesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
3-5 year olds
Thursdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
3-5 year olds

STORYTIME WITH MRS. CLAU: Tuesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m., and Wednesday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m., ages 2-5. Registration is required for this event and class size is limited. Registration began November 30. These story times include a craft and treats. Bring your camera for a picture with Mrs. Claus after the session.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CRAFT: Saturday, December 12, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., all ages. Decorate a milk carton gingerbread house with candies and frosting. We will provide all the supplies! Children under the age of 5 must have an adult to help them; Registration is required for this free craft and began November 30.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: Grades 6-12. Earn community service hours by recommending and helping to plan teen programming events for you and your friends, suggesting items for the young adult collection, and more! Registration is required and begins the Monday before the event. Meeting times are as follows:

Friday, December 4, 4 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, November 30.)

Friday, January 15, 4-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, January 11.)

SATURDAY STORYTIMES: Ages 1-5. Can't make it to Storytimes during the week? Join us for

Comstock Township Library Events *(continued)*

a Saturday storytime session! No registration is necessary for this drop-in session which includes 30 minutes of stories, music, and parachute play. Saturday Storytimes will be on the following dates:

Saturday, January 16, 10:30-11 a.m.

LIVIA THE LIBRARY DOG: All ages. Practice your reading skills to a certified therapy dog! Kids can choose whatever book they'd like to read to the therapy dog. Registration is required and begins the week before this free event. Livia will be at the library on the following dates:

Saturday, January 16, 10:30-11 a.m.

(Registration begins Monday, January 11.)

LEGO CLUB: All ages. Use your imagination to build a Lego creation for us to display in the youth area of the library! We will provide a variety of Legos including Duplo Legos for younger participants. Meeting times are as follows:

Friday, January 22, 3:30-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, January 18.)

BEAR BINGO: Monday, January 25 through Friday, March 25. Grades Pre-K through 6th. Pick up your BINGO card at the Young People's Desk. Cross off activities as you go and when you complete five in a row, bring your card in to be stamped and receive a prize from the treasure chest. Complete all activities on your card to be entered for a prize drawing on March 28. Materials must be from the Comstock Library. Grand prize will be a \$25 gift certificate to Build-a-Bear!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS: Grades 4-12. Battle of the Books is a nationwide program in which kids form teams, read a set list of books, and compete against each other to see which team knows the most about the books they have read. Teams consist of four to six members and can be any combination of 4th through 12th graders. This program is open to 4th through 12th grade Comstock Library users.

Registration is required for this free program and begins Monday, January 25. Registration ends Friday, February 26. For more information on the program, please attend the kick-off meeting on Monday, January 25, 6-7 p.m. The official Battle of the Books will be held Saturday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. at the Comstock Township Library.

DROP-IN WINTER BLUES CRAFTS: Friday, January 29, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., all ages. No registration is required for this free drop-in session. Choose three crafts from a variety of previously offered crafts. Quantities and styles may be limited.

FOR EVERYONE!

WE HAVE eBOOKS! Call us for more information! 345-0136.

The library now has a Cricut Expression available for patron use. You must be 18 years or older or with a parent or guardian to use and must provide your own cardstock. Please call 345-0136 for further information.

Would you like to learn how to research genealogy using Ancestry Library Edition? Please call the library 345-0136 to set up an appointment with a librarian.



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.



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.



Comstock High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Tuesday	12/08	Vicksburg High School	Away	7:15 PM
Friday	12/11	Berrien Springs HS	Home	7:15 PM
Tuesday	12/15	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	12/18	Buchanan HS	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/05	Kalamazoo Christian HS	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	01/08	Parchment	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/12	Bronson JR/SR HS	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	01/15	Bridgman Public Schools	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/19	Schoolcraft High School	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	01/22	Brandywine High School	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/26	Cassopolis High School	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	01/29	Berrien Springs HS	Away	7:15 PM
Tuesday	02/02	Allegan Public Schools	Home	7:15 PM
Friday	02/05	Buchanan HS	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	02/09	Hackett Catholic Central	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	02/12	Parchment	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	02/16	Paw Paw	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	02/19	Bridgman Public Schools	Home	7:30 PM
Thursday	02/25	Brandywine High School	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	03/01	Plainwell Schools	Away	7:15 PM
Monday	03/07	MHSAA District Quarter Comstock High School	OPEN DATE	Home TBA
Wednesday	03/09	MHSAA District Semi Comstock High School	OPEN DATE	Home TBA
Friday	03/11	MHSAA District Final Comstock High School	OPEN DATE	Home TBA

Girls Varsity Basketball

Tuesday	12/01	Vicksburg High School	Home	7:15 PM
Friday	12/04	Brandywine High School	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	12/11	Berrien Springs HS	Home	5:45 PM
Tuesday	12/15	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	12/18	Buchanan HS	Home	6:00 PM
Tuesday	01/05	Kalamazoo Christian HS	Home	7:30 PM
Friday	01/08	Parchment	Home	6:00 PM
Tuesday	01/12	Bronson JR/SR HS	Away	7:30 PM
Thursday	01/14	Bridgman Public Schools	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/19	Schoolcraft High School	Home	7:30 PM
Thursday	01/21	Brandywine High School	Home	7:30 PM
Tuesday	01/26	Coloma High School	Away	7:00 PM
Friday	01/29	Berrien Springs HS	Away	5:45 PM
Tuesday	02/02	Allegan Public Schools	Away	6:30 PM

Thursday	02/04	Buchanan HS	Away	7:30 PM
Tuesday	02/09	Hackett Catholic Central	Away	7:30 PM
Friday	02/12	Parchment	Away	6:00 PM
Wednesday	02/17	Harper Creek High School	Home	7:15 PM
Friday	02/19	Bridgman Public Schools	Home	6:00 PM
Tuesday	02/23	Paw Paw	Away	7:15 PM

Boys Varsity Wrestling

Saturday	12/12	Napoleon Invitational	Away	9:30 AM
Wednesday	12/16	Parchment Quad vs Mendon & WP	Away	6:00 PM
Saturday	12/19	Gull Lake Invitational	Away	9:30 AM
Wednesday	12/30	Comstock V Individual Tournament	Home	9:30 AM
Wednesday	01/06	Brandywine Quad vs NB & Brandy	Away	6:00 PM
Saturday	01/09	Parchment Super Dual	Away	9:00 AM
Wednesday	01/13	Bronson Quad vs Bronson & Colon	Away	6:00 PM
Saturday	01/16	West Ottawa Invitational	Away	9:30 AM
Wednesday	01/20	Comstock Quad vs Buchanan & RV	Home	6:00 PM
Saturday	01/23	Comstock V Team Tournament	Home	9:30 AM
Wednesday	01/27	Cassopolis Quad vs Cass & BS	Away	6:00 PM
Friday	01/29	Comstock V Individual Tournament	Home	4:00 PM
Wednesday	02/03	Comstock Tri vs Parch & Vicks	Home	6:00 PM
Saturday	02/06	BCS Conference Meet - Brandywine	Away	TBA

Boys/Girls Varsity Bowling

Wednesday	12/09	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	12/14	Kalamazoo Christian H.S. (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Wednesday	12/16	Coloma High School	Away	4:00 PM
Wednesday	01/06	Schoolcraft High School (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	01/11	Parchment	Away	4:00 PM
Wednesday	01/13	Bronson JR/SR HS (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	01/18	Hackett Catholic Central (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Wednesday	01/20	Galesburg-Augusta HS (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	01/25	Kalamazoo Christian HS	Away	4:00 PM
Wednesday	01/27	Coloma High School (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	02/01	Schoolcraft High School	Away	4:00 PM
Wednesday	02/03	Parchment (Eastland Bowl)	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	02/08	Bronson JR/SR HS	Away	4:00 PM
Wednesday	02/10	Hackett Catholic Central	Away	4:00 PM
Friday	02/19	KVA Conference Tournament - G-A	Away	TBA
Friday	02/26	MHSAA Bowling Regional - Team	Away	TBA
Saturday	02/27	MHSAA Bowling Regional - Individual	Away	TBA

Girls Varsity Competitive Cheer

Saturday	12/19	Gobles Holiday Cheer Bash	Away	10:00 AM
Wednesday	01/13	Comstock Jamboree	Home	6:00 PM
Saturday	01/16	Gull Lake Invitational	Away	1:00 PM
Friday	01/22	Comstock Stampede Showdown	Home	6:00 PM
Tuesday	01/26	Berrien Springs Jamboree	Away	6:00 PM
Saturday	01/30	Sturgis Invitational	Away	10:00 AM
Tuesday	02/02	Bronson Jamboree at MS Gym	Away	6:00 PM
Saturday	02/13	BCS Conference Meet - Buchanan	Away	TBA
Wednesday	02/17	Vicksburg Invitational	Away	6:00 PM

