

# The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL | COMSTOCK ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY



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## MORE NEWS

*Turn over to read  
Center Point*

A newsletter about the  
Comstock  
Community Center



# From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank everyone in our school community for the outstanding start to the school year. Through the amazing efforts of our facilities crew and custodial staff, important construction projects including the reconfiguration were finished and the buildings were clean and ready to go.

Teachers, support staff, and principals then ensured all was ready for students and parents by painting and decorating the buildings, organizing offices, and stocking classrooms full of instructional supplies and materials.

On the first day of school, I visited each of our six buildings (Compass and Comstock High Schools, Comstock Middle School, the Comstock STEM Academy, Comstock Elementary School, and the Comstock Early Learning Academy) and

witnessed firsthand as the educational and instructional process for our students began anew. It was quite a day!

Looking at education initiatives countywide, I want you to be aware of a millage request for Career and Technical Education. Please read the article below so you will be informed when you vote this November.

If you have any questions about these issues or any of our programming for the 2019-20 school year, please feel free to reach out to me either via email, phone call, or personal visit. I can be reached at [thoenesj@comstockps.org](mailto:thoenesj@comstockps.org) or 269-250-8906. I look forward to our conversation!

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes  
Superintendent  
"It's a great day to be a Colt!"

## Career and Technical Education - Kalamazoo County's Challenge

By Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes  
Superintendent

Voters, when you go to the polls on November 5, you will find a millage request from the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). The request is for a millage levy of one mil for 20 years and will be used to redesign the county's Career and Technical Education (CTE) system.

Here are the estimated costs for the homeowner:

- A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$50,000 (approx. market value of \$100,000) would pay \$4.17/month.
- A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approx. market value of \$150,000) would pay \$6.25/month.
- A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 (approx. market value of \$200,000) would pay \$8.33/month.

Why is there a need for this millage? Typically, Michigan's county school systems create collab-

orative agreements and offer CTE courses in a centralized location. The efficiency, efficacy, and synergy of many districts working together allow students the opportunity to take a greater variety of career courses which a single district cannot offer. To ensure students have access to the programming, most districts provide transportation to and from a centralized facility.

Commonly, CTE centers offer coursework covering subjects as diverse as health care, technology, education, manufacturing, construction, automotive, retail, business, and human services. Having served 13 years as a high school principal in two Michigan districts outside of Kalamazoo County, I can speak from first-hand experience the tremendous engagement and positive impact these programs have on students and their futures.

Unfortunately, Kalamazoo County has the dubious distinction of being the only major Michigan metropolitan area lacking centralized CTE programming for high school students. Instead of being in one location, the CTE offerings

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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes  
Superintendent

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Pamela Dickinson, President
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### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Comstock Public Schools is to serve our community by 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 Dr. Jeff Thoenes at [thoenesj@comstockps.org](mailto:thoenesj@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).



@comstockPS

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for our students are scattered throughout the county at various high schools, other public facilities, or private sites.

Due to the distances involved, most students are required to transport themselves to their classes. If they cannot overcome that barrier, students are forced to opt out of CTE courses. When this happens, students must seek other educational coursework which may or may not align with their personal goals or professional aspirations.

Students without their own transportation may take a school bus to Loy Norrix High School and then transfer to another bus to take them to the CTE location. This is inefficient and time consuming causing many kids to not participate or to miss class time at their home school.

Having considered these issues, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) is seeking to substantially redesign the county's CTE system. After almost two years of meetings and discussions involving KRESA administrators, local school superintendents and other educators, business and industry leaders, and community officials, KRESA is seeking voter approval of the millage levy.

If approved, the millage would provide monies for career readiness and exploration instruction for students, state-of-the art CTE equipment and facilities, boost job training experiences in the workplace, and enhance career opportunities for graduates. According to literature provided by KRESA, this millage includes *“developing a centrally located career center for most CTE programs which will substantially improve equitable access for students” across the county. In addition, “public and private partnership opportunities are being cultivated to assist with capital needs.”*

For more information about the KRESA CTE millage, go to [kresaCTE.org](http://kresaCTE.org).

## Register Now for Your GED

Are you looking to get your GED or to complete your high school diploma requirements? You can still register at Comstock Adult Education! Register on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. at Comstock Compass High School, 3010 Gull Road.

For more information, please please call 269-250-8930

# Notification of Compliance: The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986

*Note: We are publishing this notice again since the phone number in the previous edition was incorrect.*

The Comstock School District has completed an asbestos inspection and management plan in compliance with the Federal and State AHERA laws. Individual building survey reports and management plans are available for public inspection in the main office of each building during regular business hours. A complete report for the entire Comstock district is available for inspection in the Administration offices. For more information, contact the Superintendent's Office at 269-250-8907.

## Blood Drives Scheduled

Comstock High School's National Honor Society is hosting blood drives during the 2019-20 school year. Money earned from these blood drives will be used for the Leader In Me Scholarship for a student from the graduating class of 2020.

These blood drives will be held in the Colt Center at Comstock High School from 8 a.m. to

2 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, December 16  
Wednesday, March 25

If you would like to schedule a time to donate, or have further questions, please e-mail Colleen Grueter.

## Board Briefs

### REGULAR MEETING

#### July 22, 2019

- Approved hiring Heidi Anson, Great Start Readiness Program teacher at CELA.
- Approved resignation of Ken Greenwood, director of finance.
- Superintendent Thoenes announced that Bill Disch, retired finance director for the Mattawan Public Schools, will be the interim finance director until a new director is hired.
- Superintendent Thoenes announced that Don Sovey, hiring consultant, is seeking applicants for the finance director position. It is hoped the new director will be in place by the beginning of October.
- Elected Trustee Matt Schreiner as treasurer of the school board.
- Approved a request by Justin Ansel, athletic director, for the boys soccer team to attend an overnight soccer camp at Ft. Custer in Augusta.

### REGULAR MEETING

#### August 12, 2019

- Approved hiring the following new teachers:
  - Kim Simonds, CMS resource room teacher
  - Anneliese Stephens, CES special education teacher
- Approved the following resignations:
  - Sarah DeLange, speech pathologist
  - Mary Herman, fifth grade elementary teacher

- Melanie Miles, elementary special education teacher

- Jennifer Snead, third grade elementary teacher

- Superintendent Thoenes reviewed the summer celebrations and highlighted areas of improvement.
- Superintendent Thoenes updated the board on the hiring process for the finance director position.
- The Board discussed how to move forward on setting the superintendent's goals and objectives.
- Moved into closed session to discuss negotiations with the Comstock Education Association (Section 8c) and also Attorney-Client Privileged Communication (Section 8h).

### SPECIAL MEETING

#### August 19, 2019

- Approved a bid from Bailey Excavation in the amount of \$97,700 for the STEM Academy site improvement project.

### SPECIAL MEETING

#### August 24, 2019

- Debbie Stair, Michigan Association of School Boards facilitator guided the Board in a discussion of the results of their self-assessment.
- Ms. Stair led the board in a team building session and training on how to work more efficiently together as a board.

# Welcome, New Staff Members



## Heidi Anson

Heidi Anson is bringing 28 years of experience in education to her new position teaching in the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) at

Comstock's Early Learning Academy (CELA). She graduated from Western Michigan University in 1990 with elementary group minors. In 2015, she received a master's degree in practices of teaching early childhood with a special education endorsement.

Her educational experience includes teaching at Kalamazoo County Head Start, KRESA Head Start, and at the Barry Intermediate School District for GSRP.

Working with young children is what she really enjoys.

"I enjoy their innocence and how each day is filled with laughter, joy, and curious minds exploring and asking some pretty funny questions at times," she said.

One incident she recalled is when she was telling the children that parents have jobs but that their job as students was coming to school and learning.

However, a little boy piped up and said, "Ms. Anson, This isn't a job. You have to go to McDonald's to work."

These young children are also her inspiration as she challenges their minds and sees their growth throughout the year.

"The best thing is to see a light bulb go on in a child who has been practicing a task and then finally accomplishes the goal," she said.

But there are also challenges working with some children in this age group.

"The hardest thing about being a teacher today is working with challenging behaviors because it can be difficult to figure out why the behavior is happening and what positive behavior support will work to help the student be successful," she said.

In her free time, Ms. Anson enjoys walking, binge watching TV shows, and being with family and friends.

She has two sons, Hunter, 20, who is

attending KVCC, and Tucker, 19, who is attending MSU.



## Amy Bottema

Amy Bottema, new teacher at Comstock Elementary School, credits her fourth grade teacher at Gull Road Elementary, Mrs. Schrock, for her decision to become a teacher.

"Every day she would come to the classroom always excited about teaching and she made learning fun," said Mrs. Bottema. "She is the person that I would say to myself, I want to do what she does and be a teacher just like her. It wasn't a job for her. It was a passion and she enjoyed it."

So, after graduating from Comstock, Mrs. Bottema attended Western Michigan University and began her teaching career, teaching for five years at Forest Academy and then for one year at Paramount Charter Academy.

As a teacher, she enjoys building relationship with students, families, and the community.

"I enjoy teaching because students come to class enthusiastic about learning and have fun doing it," she said. "I wake up every morning knowing that I'm making an impact on each student."

Those same students inspire her each day as she witnesses their curiosity about new topics.

"Good questions and healthy discussions lead to better learning," she said.

The challenge for her as a teacher is to instill personal responsibility in students.

"I can provide lots of opportunities, but sometimes, students have outside factors that keep them from trying their best or becoming interested in the subject matter," she said.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family. Every Sunday night, you'll find them having a family game night of playing board games.

"I also enjoy running," she said. "I find that running clears my head and I like to run at least three times per week."

She and her husband, Matt, have two children, James, 12, and Olivia, 9. Matt is self-employed as a driver/salesperson for Little Debbie Snacks.



## Amy Eckles

Amy Eckles, a graduate of Mattawan High School and Western Michigan University, is a new special education teacher at Comstock Elementary.

At Western, she received a bachelor's degree in special education: cognitive impairments. She has also earned a master's degree in teaching from Western.

"I chose this field because I had a wonderful experience working with students with special needs," she said of her career choice.

That wonderful experience occurred in high school.

"I worked with students with special needs during their meal manners class and it was a favorite part of my day," she said.

Her third grade teacher, Mrs. Towers, was especially influential in her life.

"She worked with me during school and tutored me after school to ensure my success," she said.

While this is her first year at Comstock, she has been teaching for ten years.

She started her career in Benton Harbor working with students in kindergarten through seventh grade. After that, she taught in grades kindergarten through second for seven years in the Lakeview School District in Battle Creek.

Spending time with her husband and their two dogs is what she enjoys in her free time.



## Steve Edison

With experience in the business world and in public service, Steve Edison has been named the district's director of finance.

A native of East Grand Rapids, he attended the University of Virginia

# Welcome, New Staff Members

in Charlottesville, earning a degree in commerce. He then earned his CPA license, and began working with the accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, in Grand Rapids. Then he spent 17 years working with two manufacturing companies.

His interest in business stems from the fact that he comes from a family of road builders who owned their own business. He had planned to come home to Michigan to work in the family business but the business was sold while he was in college.

"I've always enjoyed the operational side of businesses and organizations," he said. "I kept pursuing that desire."

During his career, Mr. Edison has also been involved in public service positions in East Grand Rapids. He was the mayor for four years, city commissioner for 10 years, and then school board member for over eight years.

Mr. Edison is excited about transitioning into the school finance position.

"Making this transition helps me to merge my public service life with my financial career," he said. "Instead of competing against each other for my time, it will allow me to focus on the one. I've done a lot of community service but it's been in conflict with my business management and operational side of my professional career."

He plans to get involved with the Comstock community and to attend extracurricular activities.

"I enjoy those and want as much as possible to become embedded in the community and things that are going on with the schools," he said.

Two strengths he feels he brings to the finance position are his ability to communicate with different departments to build budgets and to report on financial information in a way that's understandable for everybody.

"I'm very transparent," he said. "I like people to know as much as possible. It's important that people know how the district is doing and have somebody that they are comfortable with to talk to about what's going on. I'm

going to let them know and be honest about how things are and what our trajectory is."

School districts today face a couple of challenges, he said. One is not being able to control the revenues from the state and the other is not knowing what the school count is going to be.

"Those are the two biggest things, figuring out what the political atmosphere is in Lansing and what we're going to get on a per pupil funding basis," he said. "Off of that, we can drive everything else or we need to find alternative revenue sources as well."

On the personal side, Mr. Edison and his wife, Monica, have two daughters. Monica is an administrative assistant with BDR Homebuilders in Grand Rapids. Their oldest daughter, Maggie teaches freshman and sophomore math at East Grand Rapids High School. Their other daughter, Grace, is a special education teacher near Indianapolis, Indiana.

In his free time, he enjoys watching college and professional sports, taking long walks, and watching movies - especially romantic comedies and action movies like the James Bond series.

"I'm looking forward to becoming part of the Comstock community and helping the district move forward," he said.



## Morgan Fleming

First year teacher, Morgan Fleming, won't soon forget her first day of teaching. That's because a student threw up in her classroom at Comstock

Elementary.

Despite that inauspicious beginning, she's looking forward to building relationships with her students this year as a music teacher.

She is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a degree in music education.

Inspiring her to do what she does each day are the mentors she's had.

"I have seen the difference they have made in the lives of children and I desire to have the

same impact," she said.

As a new teacher, she knows that the difficult thing about being a teacher is maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Relaxing with friends is one way of doing that.

"Maintaining personal relationships is very important to a healthy work-life balance," she said.

She also enjoys listening to music and watching movies. Her boyfriend is an audio engineer and freelance musician in Kalamazoo.



## Angie Hovda

Having worked in manufacturing and office management for several years, Angie Hovda decided she wanted to do something more meaningful.

She had also done some substitute teaching so when her children were in high school, she went back to college to get her teacher certification.

"I was fortunate to have the support of my children and extended family in order to achieve my professional goals," she said.

One of her professors at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Keith Kroll, also helped her along this new career path.

"He challenged me and helped me to believe in myself," she said.

She graduated last December from Western Michigan University with a major in English and a minor in history. She is teaching English 9 and drama this year at the high school.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to teach and learn within Comstock Public Schools," she said, noting that she has had great support from the administration and staff.

Ms. Hovda has two adult children, Grace, a freshman at KVCC, and a son Jacob, who is in the army in North Carolina. She travels to North Carolina whenever possible to see her son and her granddaughter, Willow, who is five months old.

She enjoys cooking and working out.

# Welcome, New Staff Members

Her life partner, Curtis, owns a local tree service. A native of Battle Creek, she is a graduate of Lakeview High School. She has lived in Portage for 19 years.



## **Kami (Hemler) Medema**

Twenty years after graduating from Comstock High School, Kami (Hemler) Medema is back in the district as a fifth grade teacher at Comstock

Elementary.

In the intervening years, she graduated from KVCC and Western Michigan University. Over the course of 13 years, she taught at Oakland Academy in Portage and then at Forest Academy in Kalamazoo before coming to Comstock. Her third grade teacher, Mrs. Stuekey at Chief Joseph Elementary School in Great Falls, Montana, influenced her to become a teacher.

“Her nurturing ways and creativeness stuck with me throughout my school years,” she said.

As a teacher, she enjoys making a difference in students’ lives and helping them become lifelong learners.

For example, she recalls a student who was having trouble with math so she offered to give him more help after school. So, he stayed after school each day to do his homework with her help.

“At the end of the year, he felt confident in math and you could see it in his face when he took the end of the year NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) tests,” she said.

The hardest thing about teaching today is not being able to help students outside of school and not knowing if they will eat dinner or have a bed to sleep in, she said.

Mrs. Medema’s husband, Tim, is the general manager at Dunham’s Sports in Portage. They have two children, Dylan, 15, and Tanner, 5. Dylan is a sophomore at Parchment High School where he plays football, wrestling, and baseball. Tanner, a kindergartner, enjoys Flag Football.

“As a family we enjoy spending time together,” she said. “We make time to eat dinner together most nights of the week.”

She and her family enjoy traveling to different zoos and attending baseball games. She also still plays slow-pitch softball.



## **Kim Simonds**

Teaching in the resource room at the middle school this year is Kim Simonds, a native of Battle Creek. After graduating from Climax-Scotts High School, she

attended Calvin College to major in special education.

“I always wanted to work with children with special needs,” she said.

Prior to coming to Comstock, she taught at Lakeview School District in Battle Creek and at Kellogg Community College where she still teaches a class or two each semester.

As a teacher, she enjoys seeing students learn and grow, socially and academically. The most difficult part of teaching is dealing with disrespectful students and knowing that not all students are getting what they need, she said.

She enjoys doing counted cross-stitch, crafting, reading, and trying new recipes.

Her husband, Steve, works for the Department of Defense. They have two children, Emily, 24, who is a registered nurse at Metro Hospital in Grand Rapids; and Zachary, 20, who works for a landscaping business.



## **Anneliese Stephens**

Anneliese Stephens’ childhood dream was to play ice hockey in the National Hockey League. Today, she is a teacher starting her first year at

Comstock Elementary.

The hockey dream lives on, however, because she’s been playing in a women’s hockey league for eight years on two different teams

in the Kalamazoo Adult Hockey League.

A graduate of Western Michigan University with a major in special education: cognitive impairment and learning disabilities, she taught for the last five years in Van Buren County. She has also taught in the Paw Paw Public Schools. She started her career as a middle school special education teacher and then taught fifth grade and special education in later elementary.

As a teacher, she especially enjoys watching her students progress with their own unique skills and abilities. That applies to extracurricular activities, too, such as Girls on the Run, which she used to coach.

“Seeing the girls outside of the classroom and interacting with them in a mentoring position was amazing,” she said. “As the season progressed, I witnessed what amazing leaders the girls were becoming in their respective classrooms.”

Her inspiration comes from all her students - past, present, and future.

“They inspire me every day to show up and provide the best environment in which to learn,” she said.

A challenge to her as a teacher today is the deprofessionalization of teaching.

“When I was growing up, teachers were revered and respected by the communities and government,” she said. “Within the past ten years, funding for education has been slashed, teachers are scrutinized harshly, and it is only hurting our children and the future of our world.”

Outside of work, she enjoys not only ice hockey but also running, gardening, playing sports, and reading.

She and her fiancé, Bronson Wolfe, met in a literacy class in 2012 and just got engaged this summer at Tahquamenon Falls. Bronson teaches first grade in Mattawan.



# Board Looks Forward to New School Year

By Pamela Dickinson, School Board President

Every new school year brings with it a sense of excitement for what the future will hold, and this school year is no exception. I look forward to this school year with anticipation and great expectation for another year of learning and achievement in the classrooms as well as the athletic fields and performance stages.

The Board of Education is the educational policy-making body of the school district and has a duty and responsibility to our community.

We board members are passionate about education and take our positions very seriously as we are approving budgets, constructing and maintaining facilities, hiring and evaluating the superintendent, and ensuring the safety and security of all students.

The Board of Education as well as our Superintendent, administrators and staff all embrace the shared vision of structure, accountability, advocacy and unity that is needed to provide educational programs and services that will promote excellence in student academic achievement.

## The Band of Blue Has Busy Summer

The Band of Blue started the summer with leadership training. Drum Major Jesse Sivley and Colorguard Captain Nikki Dankert attended the Central Michigan University Marching Camp.

They had a week full of rehearsals and classes geared towards student leadership and the development of excellence. This camp takes a tremendous amount of work, and the Band of Blue truly appreciates their time and effort.

In addition, Horn Sergeant Jeme Richards and Woodwind Sergeant Zoe Vandrey attended the Servium Leadership Academy hosted by Western Michigan University.

They spent three days training in both the practical and philosophical skills necessary to become an effective student leader. Their work has already paid off in so many ways at band camp and in the first few days of school.

Finally, the entire Band of Blue came together for a week for the annual Band Camp. They worked with staff to learn and perfect their show for this season, *Awesome Remix*, a collection of songs honoring Stan Lee and the Marvel series he created.

Students rehearsed from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily in the scorching heat to get ready for their first performance, which happened before school even started this year.

They ended the week with an epic water balloon fight and made great progress towards their goals for 2019.



*The entire Band of Blue at Band Camp 2019.*



*Band members enjoy a water balloon fight at Band Camp.*



*Zoe Vandrey and Jeme Richards at Servium.*



*Jesse Sivley and Nikki Dankert at CMU.*

## College Visits Scheduled

Several college representatives will be visiting the high school in the coming weeks. During these visits students can learn about a college directly from the admissions counselor who serves our geographic area.

While these are great opportunities for underclassmen to learn about wide varieties of schools and options they have upon graduation, it's also a great chance for seniors to meet the professionals who directly view their applications.

If you have any questions about upcoming college visits, or any other post-secondary plans, reach out to Jimmie Cotter at the College & Career Academy.

### *Upcoming College Visits:*

October 3, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**University of Michigan**

October 8, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**Grand Valley State University**

October 14, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**Davenport University**

October 17, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**Kalamazoo Valley Community College**

October 21, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**Saginaw Valley State University**

October 24, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**Lake Superior State University**

October 25, 2019 - 10:49 a.m. (7th Hour)

**Michigan Tech University**

Also note these important dates:

October 1, 2019 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**FAFSA Completion Night**

October 14, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

**College Night at KVCC**

Open to the general public. We will have a bus from Comstock High School to KVCC. Permission slips available from Mr. Cotter.

October 15, 2019 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**FAFSA Completion Night**

October 23, 2019 - 6-7:30 p.m.

**Scholarship Night**

## Comstock High School

## College Cash Campaign Helps Seniors Secure Financial Aid

The Comstock College and Career Academy (CCA) has kicked off its participation in the state-wide College Cash Campaign which aims to help 2020 graduates to secure all the financial aid for which they are eligible.

Each year the CCA hosts multiple workshops to help students and their families navigate the financial aid process through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

FAFSA opens on October 1, so the CCA has scheduled the first two workshops of the year for October 1 and October 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. They will be held in the CHS Media Center.

FAFSA is an incredibly vital step all seniors should take in their senior year, but it can be a tricky thing to navigate for families who haven't been through the process. To combat this barrier, the CCA partners with professionals from Western Michigan University's Financial Aid Department to ease the process.

Families are encouraged to have the following materials on hand to ensure FAFSA completion:

2018 W2s

2018 Federal Tax Returns

Social Security Numbers of student and guardians

Additionally, the CCA partners with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to host an annual Scholarship Night. The Foundation awards over \$1 million in scholarships to students in Kalamazoo County each year. During this session students and guardians can learn about local, state and national scholarships, and discuss tips and best practices in the scholarship hunt. This event is set for Wednesday, October 23, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Comstock High School.

Through last year's College Cash Campaign, members of the Class of 2019 secured \$1.5 million in free financial aid to attend their respective institutions.

This year we hope to eclipse that mark! If you want to learn more about the FAFSA, College Cash Campaign, or post secondary planning in general, please feel free to reach out to CCA Post Secondary Dean Jimmie Cotter at [cotterj@comstockps.org](mailto:cotterj@comstockps.org).

## Compass High School

## Compass Receives Fetzer Grant for Bus Passes

Compass High School recently received a one-year, \$2500 grant from the Fetzer Institute Advisory Committee. The money is being used to provide provide students with Metro Transit tokens.

Students within the district are given bus tokens while those who live outside the district must apply, said Julie Sorenson, school counselor who wrote the grant.

With the bus tokens, students will have more opportunities to participate in after-school activi-

ties such as tutoring, sports, and after-school jobs.

All these things can build positive self-esteem so they will complete more classes and ultimately graduate from high school, said Ms. Sorenson.

"The students were overwhelmed with joy when they found out that transportation would not be an obstacle for them," she said.

Compass High School is grateful to the Fetzer Institute for their generous donation.



# NEMS Transformed into Comstock Elementary

The staff of Comstock Elementary School transformed the former Northeast Middle School into a learning place for elementary students. Teachers and staff painted, unpacked, and worked some more to make learning spaces for younger students.

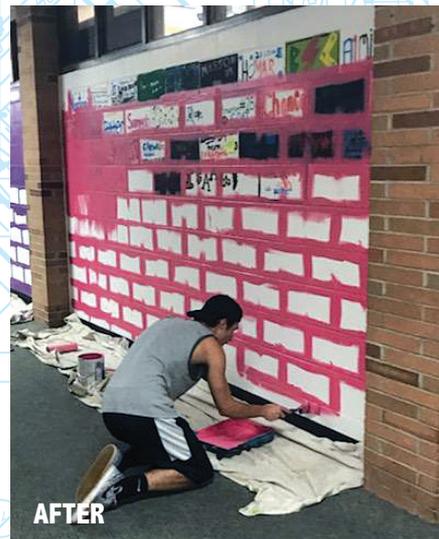
A special thanks goes out to the whole football team! The football players helped with painting, moving, and so much more.



The staff at Comstock Elementary transformed the old middle school into an elementary school.



Miss Baylerian's room on the second floor was very plain and crowded. She transformed it with lots of color and organization.



The Football team came and moved furniture and boxes all over the building. They also painted many of the walls bright colors.



Mrs. Laning's room was transformed from a science lab into a colorful classroom for kindergartners.



The Title I room will be home to intervention groups of students who need extra help in either math or reading. Before its transformation it was a Living Skills Lab.

# Athletic Department News

## High School and Middle School Fall Awards Banquet

The high school fall awards banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. This is also the awards banquet night for middle school volleyball, middle school cross country, and middle school soccer.

## Physicals

A reminder to all parents that it is an MHSAA requirement that each student athlete have a physical on file with the athletic department to be eligible to participate in athletics for Comstock. The physical has to be dated after April 15, 2019, to cover your son/daughter for the entire 2019-20 year. Please give Justin Ansel in the athletic department a call at 269-250-8711 if you have any questions.

## High School Winter Sports Parent Meeting

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

## Winter Sport Start Dates

- Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Boys Basketball – Monday, October 21
- High School Girls Basketball and Competitive Cheer – November 11
- High School Boys Basketball, Wrestling, and Bowling – November 18
- Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Girls Basketball and Middle School Wrestling – Tuesday, January 7, tentative. Please call the athletic department with any questions.

## Hall of Fame Induction

This is your last chance to nominate someone for the 2020 Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame. Please fill out the Hall of Fame nomination form located in this issue and return it to the athletic office by Thanksgiving. The Hall of Fame board will be meeting after Thanksgiving to decide upon the 2020 Induction Class.



# 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

# of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

\_\_\_\_ Football    \_\_\_\_ Soccer  
 \_\_\_\_ Tennis    \_\_\_\_ X-Country  
 \_\_\_\_ Basketball    \_\_\_\_ Wrestling  
 \_\_\_\_ Bowling    \_\_\_\_ Baseball  
 \_\_\_\_ Track    \_\_\_\_ Golf  
 \_\_\_\_ Swimming    \_\_\_\_ Hockey

\_\_\_\_ 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 HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

## Boys Varsity Basketball

Tue, Dec 10	@ Vicksburg High School	7:15 PM
Fri, Dec 13	Buchanan HS	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Brandywine High School	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 7	Allegan Public Schools	7:15 PM
Wed, Jan 8	Saugatuck High School	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	@ Kalamazoo Christian HS	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 17	Berrien Springs HS	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 24	@ Bridgman Public Schools	7:15 PM
Tue, Jan 28	Olivet	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	Parchment High School	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 4	@ Hastings High School	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 7	@ Buchanan HS	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 11	Gobles High School	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 14	Brandywine High School	7:30 PM

Tue, Feb 18	@ Constantine High School	6:30 PM
Fri, Feb 21	@ Berrien Springs HS	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 25	Paw Paw	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 28	Bridgman Public Schools	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 3	Gull Lake High School	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 5	@ Parchment High School	7:30 PM

## Girls Varsity Basketball

Tue, Dec 3	Vicksburg High School	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 6	@ Parchment High School	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 13	Buchanan HS	6:00 PM
Fri, Dec 20	@ Brandywine High School	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 7	@ Allegan Public Schools	5:30 PM
Wed, Jan 8	@ Saugatuck High School	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 14	Kalamazoo Christian HS	6:30 PM

Fri, Jan 17	Berrien Springs HS	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 21	@ Portage Northern	5:45 PM
Thu, Jan 23	@ Bridgman Public Schools	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 28	@ Olivet	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 31	Parchment High School	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 4	Harper Creek High School	6:30 PM
Fri, Feb 7	@ Buchanan HS	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 11	@ Gobles High School	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 14	Brandywine High School	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 18	Constantine High School	6:30 PM
Thu, Feb 20	@ Berrien Springs HS	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 25	Paw Paw	6:00 PM
Fri, Feb 28	Bridgman Public Schools	6:00 PM

# Comstock Township Library Events

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

**Crafting Your Resume with Google:** Wednesday, October 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop in and learn how to store and create cover letters and resumes using Google! The Comstock Township Library has been awarded a grant and will participate in Libraries Lead with Digital Skills, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Public Library Association (PLA), sponsored by Grow With Google, the tech company's economic opportunity initiative. Comstock Township Library will use the funding to offer a drop-in program on October 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. to teach our community how to "craft" a resume with the useful tools Google has to offer. Please call 345-0136 for further details.

Welcome the season and join **Paranormal Michigan on Wednesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m.** as they present a multimedia production on several area hauntings along with an E.V.P. (electronic voice phenomenon) and videos captured during their investigations. Registration is required for this free event. Register on our website. Go to "Programs" and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 269-345-0136.

**Adult Craft: Monday, October 28, at 5:30 p.m. Autumn Air Fresheners.** Make your house smell like you've been baking all day or like a crisp fall day. These easy, heavenly air fresheners will relax you, and maybe make you a little hungry. Registration is required for this free event and begins October 14

on our website. Go to "Programs" and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 269-345-0136. Space is limited.

**Ask-A-Lawyer: Wednesday, November 13, Noon-2 p.m.** Join Robert Reilman to get your legal questions answered. This program is free and sign-ups begin on Monday, October 28, on our website. Go to "Programs" and it will be under "Upcoming Events." Your legal questions will be answered in the order you arrive, but you must register. Call 269-345-0136 for more information.

**Adult Craft: Wednesday, November 13, at 5:30 p.m. Jingle Bell Snowflake Door Hanger.** Make a door hanger out of jingle bells, snowflakes, ribbon, and other festive décor to ring in the holiday season. Registration is required for this free event and begins on October 28 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 269-345-0136. Space is limited.

**Adult Craft: Monday, November 25, at 5:30 p.m. Spa Duo.** Does winter dry out your skin? Could you use some self-care? Feel rejuvenated, or pamper a friend, with a homemade body scrub and foot soak. Registration is required for this free event and begins November 11 on our website. Go to "Programs" and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 269-345-0136. Space is limited.

## CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Monday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day. The library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, and remain closed on Thursday, November 28, for Thanksgiving.

Join the Comstock Township Library on Saturday, December 7, from 1 - 3 p.m. for our annual **Holiday Open House**. Enjoy holiday cookies, cider, a performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Jazz Trio, meet Mrs. Claus, make a children's craft, play children's games, decorate sugar cookies, and see live reindeer. The reindeer will be outside, so, please dress warmly. Please bring your camera, as pictures with Mrs. Claus and the reindeer will be allowed.

**Adult Craft: Wednesday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m. Mason Jar Luminaries.** Add a little extra glow to your holiday season this year. So pretty, so easy, and made from items you probably already have around the house, Mason jar luminaries are sure to brighten up your Winter Wonderland. Registration is required for this free event and begins December 4 on our website. Go to "Programs" and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 269-345-0136. Space is limited.

*(Continued on next page)*

# Comstock Township Library Events *(Continued)*

## YOUTH DEPARTMENT

**STORYTIMES:** Ages 0-6. Storytimes include a half hour of stories, songs, rhymes and other early literacy activities. Each story time is tailored to a specific age group but younger or older siblings are always encouraged to attend as well. Each storytime is followed by a sensory playtime that lasts around 20 minutes. Please note: Storytimes will break the week of October 20.

Mondays: 10:30-11:15 a.m. - Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m. - Wee Ones Storytime

Wednesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m. - Toddler Storytime

Thursdays: 10:30-11 a.m. **NEW** Musical Mayhem

Thursdays: 1-1:45 p.m. - Preschool S.T.E.A.M

**(Registration required)**

**\*NEW\* Musical Mayhem:** Ages 0-6. Get ready to wiggle and rock with fun action songs, musical instruments, parachute time and a short story. Parents and siblings are encouraged to join in! This is a drop in program every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. during storytime sessions.

## 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:

Reading to your children at a young age is the single most important thing you can do to help your children become successful readers as they get older. Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents to read 1,000 books to their young children before they begin kindergarten. All children can participate until they enter kindergarten. Pick up your tracking sheet at the Youth Desk today!

## Frozen Party: Saturday, November 23, from 1 - 3

**p.m.** Start practicing your best version of "Let It Go" for the new release of Frozen 2! All ages are invited to play games, make crafts, eat treats and hear stories from Princess Elsa herself! No registration required.

## T(w)een Drop in Video Gaming: Wednesdays

**October 9, and November 20, at 3:30 p.m.** Drop by and test your gaming skills on various Nintendo Switch games. Open to ages 11 and up or sixth through twelfth grades.

**T(w)een Haunted Library: Tuesday, October 15, at 7 p.m.** Learn to make (and try!) disgusting Halloween snacks and work on a creepy spell book or Franken-Toy. Using old stuffed animals, dolls, and figurines, you can make your own haunted toy come to life. The library will supply some toys but feel free to bring your own, too. Registration required. Open to ages 11 and up or sixth through twelfth grades

**Fall Fest: Saturday, October 26, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Come dressed in your Halloween Costume for our fifth annual autumn party for all ages! Enjoy games, crafts, fall snacks, and a spooky magic show by magician, Jeff Wawrzaszek. No registration required.

**T(w)een Drop-in Volunteer Hours.** Need volunteer hours during the school year? Our teen volunteer program is super flexible and works around your busy school schedule. Drop in to talk to Miss Traci or Miss Liz and we'll get you started with a volunteer application

**T(w)een Bob Ross Paint Along: Tuesday, November 12, at 7 p.m.** Do Bob Ross and his happy-little-accidents make you, well - happy? All teens are invited to paint along as we follow the master himself in creating our own works of art. Registration required. Open to ages 11 and up or sixth through twelfth grades



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.

