

The Comstock Communicator

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



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MORE NEWS

Turn over to read
Center Point
A newsletter about
the Comstock
Community Center



From the Superintendent

Dear Comstock Community,

Winter has arrived. Some of you, like me, may enjoy the quietude and peace brought about by the changing of the seasons.

It's snowing outside? There's nothing like sitting by the fireplace reading a good book with my cats, Cosmo (yes, he's named for the Comstock mascot!) and Dante, curled up by my legs (picture to the right).

Others of you may look forward to joining your children in playing outside, sledding, skiing, or going for a walk all bundled up. In whatever way we choose, we need to find a balance in our lives to reenergize and renew our spirit in these trying times.

May we continue to celebrate our community and deepen our relationships with colleagues, friends, especially our own children and the children in our care.

Take time to reflect and show gratitude by thanking those who make our lives easier. My wish for all of you is to enjoy precious moments in reading a great book with your children. When



children see characters like themselves in a book, they feel a sense of belonging; when they read about others, they develop understanding about the wider world. My family jokes about how I need to expand beyond my focused selection of WWII history books. Maybe I'll try opening new sliding glass doors this winter.

Ask me in January!
Happy Holidays to all!

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes
Superintendent

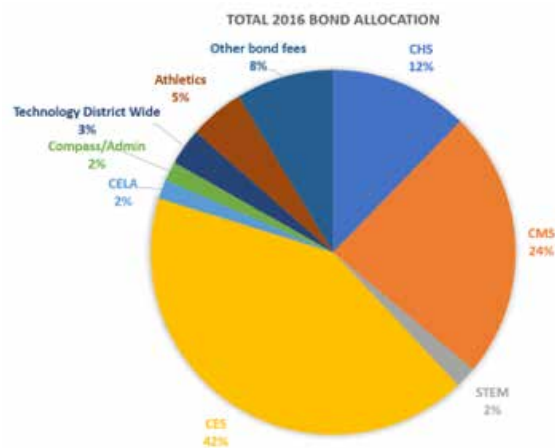
Buildings Updated with 2016 Bond Funds

By Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes, Superintendent

Our Comstock School Board and Superintendent Team firmly believe that ***“Our students and staff deserve to have facilities that meet modern standards.”*** The District's current Strategic Plan (2021-26 - www.ComstockPS.org/StrategicPlan) also targets the modernization of facilities as a high priority.

Fortunately, in 2016, our community heard the Board's appeal for the financial resources to make modernization possible and passed a bond package worth approximately \$40 million. Since that time, the Board has intelligently and strategically targeted those monies toward various bond projects at our schools with the ultimate outcome of having modernized facilities for our students and staff. Here is a pie chart showing the allocation of the 2016 bond funds.

Let's review what our community's collaborative effort has produced with those allocations.



As the chart shows, Comstock Elementary School (CES) received 42 percent of the 2016 bond, or approximately \$16.8 million. By April, 2022, the building will be completely modernized from top to bottom - all new classrooms with

Continued on next page



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

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

QUESTIONS?

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

STORIES OR INFORMATION

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



@ComstockPS

Buildings Updated with 2016 Bond Funds *Continued from previous page*

up-to-date technology, bathrooms, music and art rooms, a multipurpose room, offices, secured entrances, staff lounge, cafeteria, library/media center, playground, parking lot, and roof. Importantly, the building will be fully air conditioned. For all intents and purposes, the building will look, feel, and BE new. It's now an ideal setting for teaching and learning.

Comstock Middle School (CMS) has also undergone tremendous changes. The building received 24 percent of the 2016 bond, or approximately \$10 million. With those funds, we've added a new gym, erected a new electronic marquee, modernized three science rooms, fully rebuilt six rooms along 26th Street, renovated the bathrooms, and added a secured entrance.

The interior has a fresh coat of paint, new ceiling tiles, and new durable carpeting. The exterior has been renovated with new attractive blue metallic paneling covering the gym as well as the north and west sides of the building.

We also constructed a new parking lot near the main entrance to the building to maximize convenience while also separating the flow of traffic to enhance safety for all students, families, and staff. Importantly, next summer, the district plans on

using approximately \$2 million from its federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) allocation to fully install air conditioning. By the start of the 2022-23 school year, just like CES, CMS will look and feel like a new school.

Comstock High School was the next biggest benefactor and received 12 percent of the 2016 bond, or approximately \$4.8 million. These monies provided new athletic locker rooms and offices, and a new gated access loop and loading dock at the back of the building for deliveries. The District also added a secured entrance, remodeled the front offices and the teacher work room, renovated both student and staff bathrooms, and added new flooring to the cafeteria.

In contrast, the district could only afford to allocate 2 percent or approximately \$800,000 each to the Comstock Early Learning Academy (CELA), the STEM Academy, and the Compass High School and Administration building (COM/ADM). At CELA, the district added a secured entrance and remodeled some of the front office, renovated bathrooms, and made a series of smaller interior improvements. At STEM, the district only added a secured entrance, renovated

bathrooms, and remodeled some of the front office.

At COM/ADM, the District added a secured entrance, renovated bathrooms, installed new flooring, painted the exterior, and resurfaced the parking lot and bus loop. To cover the costs of future needs at these buildings such as new carpeting, windows, and exterior doors, the District plans on investing portions of its annual 2019 Sinking Fund allotment. The District also anticipates using federal ESSER funds next summer to install air conditioning at Compass High School at an estimated cost of \$750,000.

While we've made substantial progress, the journey to renovate and modernize the district's facilities is not over. We still have much to accomplish and there are unmet critical infrastructure needs.

However, for now, I wish to thank our community for the funding that made these projects possible, our Board for their support and vision, as well as our Facilities Crew led by Facilities Director Sean Gillette, and partners GMB Architects and Miller Davis Construction Management. Without the combined efforts and synergy of these groups, none of these improvements would have been possible.

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2021

- Accepted the Resignation of Tatum O'Dell, PE Teacher, CES.
- Approved hiring Heather Cram, functional teacher, CES.
- Moved into closed session to discuss attorney letter and contract with paraprofessionals.
- Approved amended Comstock Paraprofessional Association negotiated contract.

REGULAR MEETING

September 27, 2021

- Accepted the resignation of Michelle Coash, GED/Alternative Education Teacher, Compass.
- Approved hiring:
 - Katelyn Kabongo, Functional teacher, CES
 - Danielle Perez - Third grade teacher, CES
- Approved the CES furniture bid.
- Discussed the Kalamazoo County Commissioner's masking-in-school policy and requested the Superintendent write a letter stating the District's opposition.

REGULAR MEETING

October 11, 2021

- Recognized students and staff of the month:
 - Mackenzie Smith (CELA Student, ECSE Program)
 - Bethany Jones (CELA Teacher)
 - Ayden Lewis (Elementary, fifth grade)
 - Naomi Collier (STEM Academy, sixth grade)
 - Brayden Huizer (Middle School, seventh grade)
 - La'Kario White (High School, twelfth grade)
 - Margarito Delgadillo (Compass, 12th Grade)
 - Hunter Davis (Virtual Academy, fourth grade)
- Heard a presentation by Cara Weiler and Stephanie Brown from KRESA about the Stryker Johnson Grant to focus on hiring staff members who will coordinate family involvement and provide therapy to the highest need students.

REGULAR MEETING

October 25, 2021

- Recognized the following staff members for years of service:
 - Kimberly Adams (High School, Social Studies & Language Arts Teacher)
 - Cathy Buscher (Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher)

- Elizabeth Kimmer (Elementary School, Librarian)
- Dawn Krasts (Compass, Social Studies Teacher)
- Karen Vetter (Middle School, Parapro)

25 Years of Service

- Wendy Miller (High School, Social Studies Teacher)
- Mark Shenefield (High School, Science Teacher)
- Virginia Vrooman (Elementary School, Title I Parapro)

30 Years of Service

- Rida Jones (Middle/High School, Social Worker)

35 Years of Service

- Mary Amsbury (STEM Academy, PE Teacher)
- Patricia Anderson (Speech & Language Pathologist)
- Linda Grogg (High School, Administrative Assistant)
- Approved hiring Brett Vaughn as a fourth grade teacher in the elementary school.
- Approved lawn care and snow removal bid.
- Set dates for special board meetings to align with the upcoming bond calendar. The dates are as follows:
 - Monday, December 20, 9 a.m. (changed from 6 p.m.)
 - Thursday, December 30, 9 a.m., Board Room
 - Monday, January 31, 2023, 6 p.m., Board Room
- Created and appointed members to the following committees:
 - Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
 - Academic Performance

Facilities Committee Considers Future Projects

By Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes, Superintendent

Starting in December 2020, a group of local parents, community members, and other District stakeholders formed the Facilities Review Committee (FRC). Led by a seven-member executive board composed of two co-chairs, a secretary/recorder, and four trustees, the FRC was charged by the Board of Education with conducting a full evaluation of the District's infrastructure. This deep and extensive evaluation was to determine the current condition of our school buildings, identify potential needs or improvements, and then prioritize possible projects for future renovation.

After nearly 12 months, the work of the FRC has exceeded expectations. Escorted by members of the District's administrative team as well as representatives from both Miller Davis Construction and GMB Architecture, the 30+ member committee toured all six of the District's schools to see firsthand the condition of the buildings and teaching spaces. As a direct follow up to these tours, the FRC helped to create lists of potential projects and ascertained their estimated costs.

Given the amount of renovation and investment of the 2016 bond monies at Comstock Elementary and Middle Schools, and the current condition of the Comstock Early Learning Academy and the Compass High School/ Administration building, the FRC turned its attention to the status of the two remaining school buildings in the district - Comstock High School and the STEM Academy. After a deeper dive into Comstock High School campus which includes the high school as well as the Comstock Community Auditorium, and the Robert Hamet Athletic Complex, the FRC compiled a master list of potential renovations and repairs along with the current cost estimates for those projects. Note: This list is not prioritized or ordered in any particular way.

Comstock High School

Air handling units (eligible for ESSER 3 funds)	\$637,800
New piping (eligible for ESSER 3 funds)	\$379,600
HVAC (eligible for ESSER 3 funds)	\$2,657,200
New hallway radiant heaters (eligible for ESSER 3 funds)	\$76,000
Replace acoustical ceilings	\$1,518,100
Replace second floor windows	\$234,400
Remodel band room: expand storage, remove risers, add bathrooms	\$784,400
Remodel the kitchen and food service areas	\$2,248,800
Replace elevator in existing shaft	\$183,800
Replace lighting	\$2,756,800
Repaint interior	\$674,200
Replace 10 drinking fountains	\$66,900
Remodel woodshop and update equipment	\$898,100
Replace classroom carpet	\$292,800
Convert and modernize 3 science rooms into 2	\$926,200
Reroof building	\$2,400,000
Subtotal	\$16,735,100

Comstock Community Auditorium

New interior doors and locks in existing frames	\$147,300
New LVT flooring in Colt Center	\$67,900

Renovate the kitchenette	\$65,200
Scene shop 1,500 sq ft addition	\$478,300
Subtotal	\$758,700

Robert Hamet Athletic Complex

Football artificial turf	\$1,747,300
Track repairs, surface, perimeter concrete and fencing	\$517,200
Tennis courts - 6 total	\$1,131,200
Improve softball and baseball field drainage and irrigation	\$205,000
Replace west property line fencing	\$84,100
Subtotal	\$3,684,800

Current Total Estimated Project Costs

	\$21,178,600
Amount eligible for the use of federal ESSER3 funds	\$3,750,600
Total remaining costs	\$17,428,000

Additionally, the FRC wants the public to know that these cost estimates do not include removal of hazardous materials that may be present. Furthermore, this is a preliminary construction cost analysis. The unit prices used in this study are based upon historical cost data from similar projects. Actual costs for this specific project will vary and are affected by several factors such as scope of work, specified quality level, design details, weather and economic conditions at the time of bidding and construction.

At 73 years of age, Comstock STEM Academy's building is the District's oldest facility. Originally opened in 1949 as East Elementary School, the school predominantly housed a traditional elementary program, kindergarten through fifth grade, for 64 years until the fall of 2013 when the building became the Comstock STEM Academy. To obtain an appreciation for the age and condition of the building, the FRC toured the school extensively several times. Given the extreme age of the building, its worn condition, and the current repurposed use of the traditional elementary building as a modern science, technology, engineering, and math teaching and learning location, the FRC identified three potential options for the future of the facility.

Renovate the current building and add a new middle school wing - This option keeps the STEM Academy at its current location and renovates the interior and exterior spaces in similar fashion to what the district has done with Comstock Elementary School. In addition, to properly modernize and transform the original elementary school into a building serving students in grades 6-8, this option adds a middle school wing and STEM-focused instructional spaces. Current estimated cost - \$20 million

Build a new K-8 building - This option keeps the STEM Academy at its current campus but would result in an entirely new building. Students would stay in the current building during construction and then move to the new building when completed. The district would then tear down the existing building to make space for parking and a bus loop. Current estimated cost - \$23-24 million

Relocate and conjoin the STEM Academy with Comstock Middle School - This option moves the STEM Academy's entire program to the middle school's campus. The STEM elementary program would remain sep-

Continued on next page

Facilities Committee Considers Future Projects *Continued from previous page*

arate and distinct with its own parking, entrance, administration, facilities, and playgrounds. The STEM middle school program would also remain separate and distinct, but could conjoin or unify certain elective instructional programming with CMS such as middle school band, choir, world language, art, and physical education. The district would repurpose the current STEM Academy campus; current ideas include converting the playgrounds to the District's soccer facility, creating outdoor and environmental learning spaces for use by the entire district, and/or adding solar energy fields. Current estimated cost: \$22 million.

Throughout November, the FRC continued analyzing information and data about our facilities. Importantly, the district is using a professional polling company that will collect the insights and preferences of likely voters regarding the issues detailed in this article.

Ultimately, the FRC will present its findings and make a recommendation to the Comstock Board of Education at the December 13 regular Board meeting starting at 6 p.m. The Board is then expected to decide whether or not to seek a new bond to finance a portion of these facility improvements at a special Board meeting set for Monday, December 20, at 9 a.m.

Improvements Scheduled for Athletic Complex



Plans are in the works for a remodeled entrance and construction of a completely new restroom facility for the Robert P. Hamet Athletic Complex. A committee consisting of representatives of the district, GMB Architecture, and Miller Davis Construction has been meeting for several months to design the projects.

Construction will begin in late spring, 2022,

and continue throughout the summer with the much needed renovations to be ready for the fall athletic season.

Funding for these facility improvements is from the 2016 Bond. Comstock Public Schools is grateful to the community for its continuing financial support.

CPS, Loaves & Fishes Feed the Hungry

In its continuing partnership with Loaves & Fishes, a local organization dedicated to feeding the hungry, the District is using the middle school's new parking lot and bus loop as a food distribution point once a month.

In a recent week this fall, 84 households and 299 individuals received food. In October, 79 households totaling 236 individuals were served. In September, Loaves & Fishes provided food

for 75 households containing 260 individuals.

Comstock Middle School teacher, Todd Ide, has been instrumental in forging this partnership with Loaves & Fishes.

For more information about Loaves & Fishes or to donate to their efforts, go to their website at kzoolf.org.

Contestant with Comstock Ties Wins CBS's Big Brother

Xavier Prather, son of Comstock's Technology Director Rick Prather, won CBS's Big Brother and the grand prize of \$750,000.

The hit show, which is in its 23rd season, follows a group of 16 contestants living together in a house outfitted with dozens of high-definition

cameras and microphones recording their every move, 24 hours a day. Each week, the house guests vote someone out of the house. At the end, the last remaining house guest receives the grand prize.

Bus Drivers Honored



Mr. John, who drives the bus for Compass High School, smiles after he received his gift from Principal Jay Birchmeier.

The District recently honored its bus drivers on National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. CPS Transportation Supervisor Christy Sliger gave each driver a commemorative pen which says, "School Bus Drivers - Going the Extra Mile for Kids!"

The STEM Academy gave each driver a survival/goodie bag containing Cherry Coke Zero™, cookies, chips, notepaper, root beer drink mix, flavored crackers, and most important of all, chocolate.

The School Board and the Superintendent Team provided two dozen Sweetwater's donuts for the drivers. Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes took the baked treats to the transportation office that morning and thanked the drivers as they started their day.

District Buses Pass Inspection

Each year, the Michigan State Police inspect every school bus in the state to ensure the buses are safe and secure. For three years in a row, Comstock's Transportation Department has achieved a perfect score with all 28 of our buses receiving a "green" tag for their operating condition. No demerits were given regarding required paperwork and documentation; not one of the buses received a "yellow" (warning) or "red" (disallowed) tag.

Congratulations to Transportation Supervisor Christy Sliger, Lead Mechanic Gordy Waterman, Router Chantle Pelletier and all of our drivers.

First Class Graduates from Health Care Program



New health care grads Kaela Goulette-Blank, Brianna Harrison, Kiya Butler, and Kawyie Cooper pose with YOU (Youth Opportunities Unlimited) Sponsor Lisa Smith (center).

Four students have graduated from the new CNA Health Care Worker Program. The graduates are Brianna Harrison, Kaela Goulette-Blank, Kiya Butler and Kawyie Cooper.

They completed the 40-hour program as a career pathway to the Certified Nurse Aide Program. Instructors in the program are Sue Lytwyn, RN, and Cindy Carroll, RN.

Staff Recognized for Years of Service

The Board of Education recently honored staff members for their continual years of service to Comstock Public Schools. The following staff members received recognition:

20 Years of Service - Kim Adams, Cathy Buscher, Emmy Kimmer, Dawn Krasts, and Karen Vetter

25 Years of Service - Wendy Miller, Mark Shenefield, and Virginia Vrooman

30 Years of Service - Rida Jones

35 Years of Service - Mary Amsbury, Patty Anderson, and Linda Grogg

2021-22 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

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

September and October Students of the Month

Students of the Month are picked at the building level for their outstanding scholarship and citizenship. They were honored at a school board meeting where each one received a certificate, a Comstock t-shirt, and a Comstock magnet.

September honorees were:

STEM Academy - Naomi Collier, 6th grade
 CELA - Mackenzie Smith
 CES - Ayden Lewis, 5th grade
 Middle School - Brayden Huizar, 7th grade
 High School - La'Kario White, senior
 Compass High School - Margarito Delgadillo, senior
 Virtual Academy - Hunter Davis, 4th grade

October honorees were:
 CELA - Madisyn Crawford
 CES - Channing Harp, 5th grade
 CMS - Cayla Nash, 7th grade
 STEM Academy - Winston Greve, 4th grade
 CHS - Deepkumar Patel, junior
 Compass - Eli Briley, senior
 Virtual Academy - Steven Leppen, junior

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

If you need a portal account, please contact us.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comstock High School

Students Earn Dual Enrollment Credits

Seventy-nine students are enrolled in the dual-enrollment program through Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

In this program, juniors and seniors can earn a combined 350 college credits at no cost to them or their families.

The high school is also hosting two KVCC classes: Sociology 103 - Contemporary Social Problems and English 110 - College Writing. Three additional KVCC classes will be held at the high school during the second semester.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Does Global Read Aloud

Some STEM Academy classes have been participating in the Global Read Aloud. This is a program where students all around the world read the same book at the same time based on their grade level. The goal of the program is to make connections with other classes using tools such as Google meets, Flipgrid, Padlet, postcards, and more.

Mrs. Swinehart's third graders read *Dragons in a Bag*. They listened to the author read one of the chapters to them and participated in a Google meet to discuss the book with another third grade class from North Carolina.

Ms. Skalski's and Mrs. Tillman's fifth-grade classes read the book *The Jumbies*. They made a connection with a class in Chicago through Flipgrid, a program where students record themselves answering questions or introducing themselves and then other students are able to reply with videos of their own.

Mrs. Tennant's middle schoolers read *The Barren Grounds*. They enjoyed making and sending postcards all over the world. Postcards were sent to schools in the US, Canada, New Zealand, and India. They are anxiously awaiting to hear back from students in these schools.

The middle schoolers also participated in a global Kahoot game. The game consists of comprehension questions from the chapters that were read that week.

Compass High School

Compass Students Visit Church Garden



As a part of Compass High School's new Service Day Wednesdays, students toured the Sunnyside Methodist Church's community garden near the school on Gull Road. The church has a long tradition of planting this garden.

According to the church's website, the garden is a collaborative ministry of Sunnyside United Methodist Church, Fresh Fire African Methodist Episcopal Church, volunteers and members of the community. "Its purpose is to connect east side Kalamazoo neighbors to the earth, to local food, and to each other," says the website. "Through hands-on education, children and adults learn organic gardening techniques, connecting them in a meaningful way to the earth and increasing access to nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables."

"The garden is available for all. The community is encouraged to come and harvest food as they need it. The garden is also a place of respite and rest. Individuals and families are welcome to come sit, walk around, meditate, reflect, or play on the playground."

STEM Academy Receives High Ranking

The STEM Academy has placed among the top 30 percent of elementary and middle schools in Michigan, making it both a U.S. News Best Elementary School and a Best Middle School.

The rankings are done by U.S. News. This is the first year that U. S. News has ranked public elementary and middle schools. The District received the news from Mark W. White, vice-president of the U.S. News & World Report.

It is unusual for a school to received both elementary and middle school rankings according to Mr. White who said, "Of the 80,000 U.S. public elementary and middle schools that were evaluated by U.S. News, barely 1,000 earned both awards."

The rankings are based on students' performance on mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments, reports U.S. News.

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Receives \$5,000 Grant

STEM Academy physical education teacher, Mary Amsbury, has secured a \$5,000 2021-22 Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness grant.

According to the grant, *This resource provides schools with heart rate monitors and tools that allow students to track their moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) in a real-time data collection system. The monitors provide PE teachers with objective data to help them build or maintain a quality PE program that meets national and state standards and benchmarks.*

Ms. Amsbury will use the grant's 30 monitors and related equipment with third through eighth-grade students during her PE classes.

Comstock Elementary

CES Assistant Principal Hosts Support Group

Courtney Boyce, assistant principal at the elementary school, hosts a support group for girls without mothers.

The group of eight to 10 girls meets weekly to enjoy discussion and activities.

Sometimes the activity involves art work which Ms. Boyce displays on the wall of her office.

"This is another prime example of how the administration and staff of Comstock Public Schools meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students each and every day," said Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Thoenes.



Comstock Middle

Slinkies Teach Science of Light

A toy invented in 1943 is teaching today's students about light waves. The Slinky, invented by naval engineer Richard James when he was trying to develop springs that could stabilize instruments on rough seas, became an instant hit with 400 toys selling out in 90 minutes.

Today, middle school science teacher Michael Batsie is using the Slinky to teach sixth graders about the properties of light. To show the properties of a wave, Mr. Batsie had students use giant Slinkies in class to create various size waves, showing how waves can be larger or smaller, faster or slower, and have different properties.

The students also talked about the similarities and differences among AM and FM radio waves, XM, microwaves, visible light, ultraviolet light, and even the difference between the 4G and 5G networks.



Middle School students use Slinky toys to study wave motion in Mr. Batsie's science class.

CES Cafeteria Opens



Students and staff eat lunch time for the first time in CES's new cafeteria.

Elementary students ate in their new cafeteria for the first time in November. The week before the opening, teachers discussed with students the expectations about eating in the new cafeteria.

On the day of the opening, everyone was excited about more lunch choices and going through the line.

Students did a great job following the expectations. The CES staff and students appreciate the cafeteria reopening and the cafeteria staff's hard work getting lunch in the cafeteria started up again.

Comstock Elementary

WMU Hockey Team Visits CES



Members of the Western Michigan University hockey team recently visited Comstock Elementary School to read to students in various grades. The players encouraged students to set reading goals for themselves, stick to their goals, and the net result would be academic success.

Elementary Students Receive New Shoes

Students at Comstock Elementary School recently received brand new shoes from the First Day Shoe Fund (FDSF), a local organization dedicated to providing new athletic shoes to needy students in elementary schools in Kalamazoo County.

Representatives from FDSF and eight parent volunteers distributed the shoes during a two-day event in the school's new multi-purpose room.

Parent volunteers who helped out were Jason Knight, Brooke Pillars, Maranda Vitale, Mikelle Newnum, Sumairah Khan, Natasha Maxon, Adilene Alcaraz, and Micah Makoni.



CES Receives \$14,000 for Arts Education



Comstock Elementary School has been awarded \$14,000 to fund its Leading Education through the Arts & Discovery (LEAD) Project. The Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs awarded the money based on a grant proposal written by Shawn McMeekan, the school's Aesthetic Education Coordinator, and Kevin Dodd, director of Education for the Arts (EFA) Aesthetic Education program.

The LEAD Project makes it possible for each of the school's classroom teachers to team with professional teaching artists (theater, visual arts, and dance) from the community for four units of instruction in the arts this year. Each unit will provide students with six lessons to prepare them to view and appreciate a quality work of art being presented in the community.

Students will engage in the art form themselves and be asked to make the same kinds of decisions the professional artists would have made when creating their own work of art. These experiences will build each student's capacity for appreciating the arts and the impact they can have on our community.

The students have already completed their first unit, which prepared them to see the Kalamazoo Institute of Art's guest exhibit "Reforestation of the Imagination." The remaining three units will prepare students to see the dance presentations "What Do You Do With an Idea" by Inlet Dance Theatre of Ohio and "Old World New" by local Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers and The Red Sea Pedestrians; the stage shows "Jabari Dreams of Freedom" by Nambi E. Kelley and "Doodle POP" by BRUSH Theatre; and the exhibit "Unveiling American Genius" at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

This project is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.



Teaching artist, Mary Whalen, leads a group of Miss Buscher's kindergarteners in describing, analyzing, and interpreting a work of art from the KIA's exhibit "Reforestation of the Imagination."

CES Hosts Game Night, Book Fair

Over 160 people attended Comstock Elementary School's Family Game Night and Book Fair this fall.

Families tried out lots of games and then chose a "forever game" to take home. There were many different board games and card games to choose from.

Mrs. Moore was impressed with how siblings used "rock, paper, scissors" to decide which game to take home. Over 45 games were sent home with families and everyone sounded excited to try them out.

The Book Fair, the first in-person Book Fair since 2019, was also held that same night. Students were very excited to see all the books. Families were very supportive of student book choices.

It was great to see most families rounded up the cost of their books to donate their change to the library for more books. Over \$500 in sales and donations were raised for the CES Library.

Miss Kimmer is so thankful that CES families love to read.



Brady and Ashlyn Buell were excited to take home "Guess Who?"



Miss Kimmer and Mrs. Lamp were very busy at the Book Fair.



The concession stand was manned by Mrs. Cram, Mrs. Caswell and Mrs. Flegal.



Ava Lee was so excited to find her favorite singer has a book.



Mrs. Moore and Mrs. McNutt handed out all kinds of games to families to take home.

Halloween Parade Returns

The Elementary School's annual Halloween Parade returned in person this year following last year's virtual parade of photos.

Students and teachers dressed up. Families lined the bus loop to see all the wonderful costumes, characters, and some dance moves, too. Later that same day, the high school's National Honor Society and teachers launched a Trunk o' Treat evening. There were many fancy trunks and many treats to be had. It was a grand day of fun and family!



Students were greeted with a Jurassic Hug on the day of the Parade.



Mrs. Caswell and Mrs. Boyce, the Skeleton Rex, started off the parade.



Mr. James let families know when the end was near.



Mr. Grinch and Ms. Cindy-Lou Who (Mr. and Mrs. Boyce) greeted students.

NHS, Comstock Elementary Host "Trunk or Treat"



CPS Communications Specialist Jason Hall hands out candy at his LEGO-themed trunk.

For Halloween, the CHS National Honor Society and CES staff hosted the annual "Trunk or Treat" event. Members of the NHS and CES staff backed their vehicles up against the bus loop producing a perfect venue for families and their children to walk by and see all of the costumed characters.

Each car's trunk or hatch had a themed, decorated display. Lines were so long at one point that families filled the entire bus loop sidewalk!



CES Principal Susan Caswell (left), Assistant Principal Courtney Boyce (as Cindy Loo Who), and her husband, Alex ("The Grinch"), have fun at the Trunk or Treat.

Comstock Elementary

Kindergarteners Learn About Pumpkins

Claudia Richards', Allison Laning's, and Cathy Buscher's kindergarten classes studied pumpkins in their science classes this fall. Students explored pumpkins by cutting them in half, measuring them, counting the seeds, and learning the parts of a pumpkin.



Comstock Early Learning Academy

Mandarin Class Returns to CELA



Ruyuan Yang teaches Mandarin to students at the Early Learning Academy.

After a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, classes in the Mandarin language and culture have returned to the Early Learning Academy.

Joining the staff this year to teach the class is Ruyuan Yang.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

CELA Staff Member of the Month



Bethany Jones was recently named CELA Staff Member of the Month. Here she is with Board Treasurer Paul Lamphear (left) and CELA Principal Meadow Nuyen (right).

CELA Staff Member Earns Credentials



Miss Ciara Smith has earned her Child Development Associate Credential, the most widely known and valued credential in early childhood education.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Heather Cram

Heather Cram's high school experience as a teacher's aide in a special education classroom led to a career in special education and to Comstock Elementary School where she is teaching in a K-5 functional classroom.

But it was also her lifelong dream to be a teacher.

"I remember sitting with my dad in fourth grade talking about the best colleges for teachers," she said. "It wasn't until high school that I decided upon special education as my focus."

As a student at Michigan Center High School in Michigan Center, Michigan, she was an aide in Mrs. Cutshaw's special education classroom. It was then she realized her passion for supporting special students in the school setting.

Another influential teacher in her life was her high school band teacher, Mrs. Beilfuss.

"She taught me to create a classroom family," she said. "In my high school of less than 400 students, we had over 100 students in our band each year. We all called her 'Mom' and knew she would be there for us, whatever the need."

After graduating from Michigan Center High School, Mrs. Cram earned a bachelor's degree in special education, cognitive impairments at Central Michigan University.

She later earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Arizona State University.

"I wanted to be able to support special education classroom and related service staff in a more official role," she said of earning her master's degree. "I was able to use this for two years as the student support coordinator in Tempe, Arizona."

Mrs. Cram has 15 years of teaching experience. She taught at Harper Creek High School in Battle Creek, and then eight years in Arizona, and five years at WoodsEdge Learning Center in Portage.

As a teacher, she loves watching students make progress and have success, especially when they've been told previously that they

would not be able to do so.

Mrs. Cram is married to Michael, who is an elementary art teacher in Portage. They have two sons, Brandyn, 12, and Charlie, 4. They recently celebrated their sixteenth wedding anniversary.

Besides spending time with her family, she enjoys reading.



Cindy Moon

Cindy Moon's teachers in Kalamazoo Public Schools helped her to realize her dream of becoming a teacher herself.

"I was fortunate to have many wonderful teachers over the years who not only believed in my abilities but made me believe in myself," she said. "They really inspired me. I feel I have always naturally been a teacher."

She especially recalls the influence of her fourth grade teacher, Fran Grossnickel, at South Westnedge Elementary School.

"She was kind and loving to every child in our class," she said. "I was very shy and had low self-esteem. She challenged me to step outside my comfort zone and helped me discover my strengths."

She went on to graduate from Loy Norrix High School and Western Michigan University where she majored in education and received her teacher certification.

Having previously taught in Parchment, this year she is teaching in the Great Start Readiness Program at Comstock Early Learning Academy.

"I love making a difference in the lives of my students," she said. "There is nothing better than watching the excitement in their faces when they learn something new or finally acquire a new skill and know that I played a part in their accomplishment."

Mrs. Moon and her husband, Bob, have a blended family of five adult children, two grandsons and a granddaughter.

She enjoys gardening, sewing, crocheting, and camping with her husband.



Elizabeth Triemstra

Seeing a cat declawed helped Elizabeth Triemstra decide she wasn't cut out to be a veterinarian.

"I couldn't stand it," she said of watching the declawing. "I knew I needed to find a different profession. At the time, I was babysitting and knew I loved working with children and that's when I decided to go into teaching."

A graduate of Taylorville High School in Taylorville, Illinois, she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. She will soon be completing her master's degree from Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan.

In her 15 years of teaching, she has taught in Mississippi, Georgia, and several places in Michigan.

"Having moved around a lot, I always questioned whether I wanted to stay in teaching or find a different profession as it was difficult to get a job in elementary teaching," she said. "I knew that I loved teaching so much that I couldn't walk away from it so I kept looking. I ended up getting a job in early childhood and fell in love with it which is why I am getting my master's in early childhood."

This year she is teaching in the Great Start Readiness Program (GRSP) at Comstock Early Learning Academy.

A favorite part of teaching for her is the "lightbulb moment" when it becomes clear that students understand what they're being taught.

That ties into the love of learning instilled in her by elementary teachers in her life.

"Many of my elementary teachers like Ms. Sherril-Mix and Ms. Klemens influenced my life because they made learning memorable and fun," she said. "They helped me find a love for learning that I still have to this day."

The hardest part of teaching, she said, is dealing with student behaviors and then finding ways to work with each student individually.

"When I am teaching, I believe it is important to teach academics, but also to teach them what they need to know in life so that cannot only

Continued on page 15

Father/Daughter Dance

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

Saturday, February 5, 2022

at Comstock High School

Dancing and games from 6-8:30 p.m.

Pizza and refreshments served from 6-7 p.m.

\$25/couple and \$5/extra daughter

Professional photographs available at an extra charge beginning at 5:30 p.m.

More information – Call Amber DeLoof at 680-7867 or email deloof.amber246@gmail.com

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: Amber DeLoof
2107 N. 26th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Father _____

Daughter _____

Phone _____ Daughter's Current Grade _____

School _____

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 sent out through a school shoutpoint email.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

December:

1 - Comstock STEM/MS/HS Band Concert 7 p.m. Free.

6 - Comstock MS/HS Choir Concert 7 p.m. Free.

7 - West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Concert: 7 p.m. (includes band, orchestra, choir) \$3 - at the door.

8 - Blood Drive-Colt Center- 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

13 - 15 - Education for the Arts: Jabari Dreams of Freedom; Kalamazoo County area schools will attend. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shows. **Not open to the public.**

18 - 19 - Ballet Kalamazoo: The Nutcracker: 6 p.m. on 18th and 2 p.m. on the 19th. Go to the website for tickets: <https://www.balletkalamazoo.com> or email Amy at: info@balletkalamazoo.com.

January:

13 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Play: 7 p.m. Free.

22 - Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs-Seminar 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Continued from page 14

succeed in the classroom but in the world as well.”

In 2018, Mrs. Triemstra’s life changed when she met her husband, Eric, on match.com. They married in December, 2019, and are expecting their first child in March. Her husband is a research associate in the neurobehavioral science department at Charles Rivers Labs.

She enjoys the outdoors, family time, reading, and music.

Sports News

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

The 2022 Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 30, at the WMU Fetzer Center. Comstock Hall of Fame inductees include Dawayne Heath – Class of 1962; Glenn Thomas – Class of 1968; Martin Johnson – Class of 1971; Tracy Daniel – Comstock High School Teacher & Coach 1987-2018; and Bryan Crosby – Class of 1985.

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 (Form on p. 15)

The Father-Daughter dance is Saturday, February 5, from 6-8:30 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. Please return the registration form by January 31 to help us get an accurate count for food. The competitive cheer team will be hosting the event this year. Please call Amber DeLoof at 269-680-7867 for more information.

Family & Friends Bowling Event (Form on p. 17)

The Comstock High School bowling team is sponsoring a Family & Friends Bowling event on Saturday, January 22, from noon to 2 p.m. at Continental Lanes. The cost is \$60 per lane for up to six people and includes two hours of bowling and shoe rental. Registration and payment are due by Friday, January 14. Please call Ray DeLeon at 269-277-4693 with any questions.

Mother Son Bowling Event (Form on p. 17)

The Comstock High School bowling team is hosting the Mother/Son Bowling event on Saturday, February 5, from Noon to 2 p.m. at Continental Lanes. The cost is \$25 per couple and includes two hours of bowling and shoe rental. Registration and payment are due by Friday, January 28. Please call Ray DeLeon at 269-277-4693 with any questions.

Please call the Athletic Department with any questions.

Girls Cross Country State Qualifier

Congratulations to junior Lydia Krus for making it to the state cross country meet for the third season in a row. She did a wonderful job representing Comstock, finishing in 69th place against 251 runners. Congratulations on a great season!

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



Mothers/Son Bowling Event

Brought to you by: The Comstock HS Bowling Teams

Boys of Any Age with Their Mothers or Mother Figures!
A Grand Afternoon of Bowling and Fun!

Saturday, February 5, 2022

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m.

Continental Lanes

3645 Vanrick Dr., Kalamazoo 49001

\$25/couple and \$15/extra son

Includes 2 hours of bowling & shoe rental

Food and drink are available for purchase through Continental Lanes

50/50 Raffle!!

More information – Call Ray DeLeon at 269-277-4693

****Registration & Payment due by Friday, January 28, 2022****

Mother/Son Bowling Registration Form

Please make checks payable to: Comstock Athletics

Return by mail to:

Comstock High School

Attn: Ray DeLeon

2107 N. 26th St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Mother's name _____

Son's name/s & Grade _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____ School _____

Bumpers needed (first come, first served): Yes or No (circle one)

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**

FAMILY & FRIENDS BOWLING EVENT

Brought to you by: The Comstock HS Bowling Teams

A Grand Afternoon of Bowling and Fun!

Saturday, January 22, 2022

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m.

Continental Lanes

3645 Vanrick Dr., Kalamazoo 49001

\$60 per lane - up to 6 people

Includes 2 hours of bowling & shoe rental

Food and drink are available for purchase through Continental Lanes

50/50 Raffle!!

More information – Call Ray DeLeon at 269-277-4693

****Registration & Payment due by Friday, January 14, 2022****

Family & Friends Bowling Registration Form

Please make checks payable to: Comstock Athletics

Return by mail to:

Comstock High School

Attn: Ray DeLeon

2107 N. 26th St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

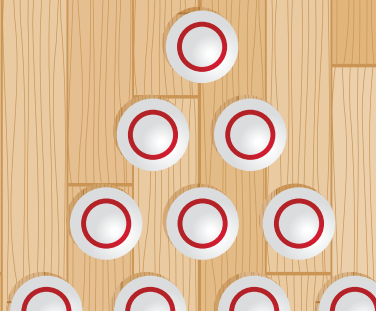
Phone _____ School _____

Bumpers needed (first come, first served): Yes or No (circle one) _____

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 WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Girls Junior Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/3	Loy Norrix HS	5:30PM
Tue 12/7	Bloomington High School	6:00PM
Fri 12/10	Marcellus High School	6:00PM
Tue 12/14	@ Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Thu 12/16	Cassopolis High School	6:00PM
Thu 1/06	@ Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 1/11	@ Mendon HS	6:00PM
Thu 1/13	Decatur High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/18	Centreville	6:00PM
Thu 1/20	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Tue 1/25	@ Bloomingdale High School	6:00PM
Thu 1/27	@ Cassopolis High School	6:00PM

Girls Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/3	Loy Norrix HS	7:00PM
Tue 12/7	Bloomington High School	7:30PM
Fri 12/10	Marcellus High School	7:30PM
Tue 12/14	@ Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Fri 12/17	@ Cassopolis High School	6:00PM
Fri 1/07	Bangor Public Schools	6:00PM
Tue 1/11	@ Mendon HS	7:30PM
Fri 1/14	@ Decatur High School	6:00PM
Tue 1/18	Centreville	7:30PM
Fri 1/21	@ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	6:00PM
Tue 1/25	@ Bloomingdale High School	7:30PM
Fri 1/28	Cassopolis High School	6:00PM

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/7	Parchment High School	5:30PM
Tue 12/14	Hartford Public Schools	6:00PM
Thu 12/16	Cassopolis High School	7:30PM

Thu 1/06	@ Bangor Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 1/11	Mendon HS	6:00PM
Thu 1/13	Decatur High School	7:30PM
Tue 1/18	@ Centreville	6:00PM
Thu 1/20	White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Tue 1/25	Bloomington High School	6:00PM
Thu 1/27	@ Cassopolis High School	7:30PM

Boys Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/7	Parchment High School	7:00PM
Tue 12/14	Hartford Public Schools	7:30PM
Fri 12/17	@ Cassopolis High School	7:30PM
Fri 1/07	Bangor Public Schools	7:30PM
Tue 1/11	Mendon HS	7:30PM
Fri 1/14	@ Decatur High School	7:30PM
Tue 1/18	@ Centreville	7:30PM
Fri 1/21	@ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS	7:30PM
Tue 1/25	Bloomington High School	7:30PM
Fri 1/28	Cassopolis High School	7:30PM

Boys & Girls Varsity Bowling

Mon 12/6	Martin Public Schools (Continental)	4:00PM
Fri 12/10	Bronson JR/SR HS (Continental)	4:00PM
Wed 12/15	@ Brandywine High School (Joey Armadillos)	4:00PM
Mon 1/10	Coloma High School (Continental)	4:00PM
Wed 1/12	@ Parchment High School (Eastland Bowl)	4:00PM
Mon 1/17	Gobles MS/HS School (Continental)	4:00PM
Fri 1/21	Saugatuck High School (Continental)	4:00PM
Tue 1/25	@ South Haven High School	

Wed 1/26	@ Coloma High School (Strikers in St. Joe)	3:30PM
Mon 1/31	@ Martin Public Schools	4:00PM

Girls Varsity Competitive Cheer

Sat 12/4	@ Lawton Black Out Event	9:00AM
Sat 12/11	@ CCCAM Scholarship Meet at Paw Paw	9:00AM
Sat 12/18	@ Gobles Holiday Cheer Bash	9:00AM
Sat 1/08	@ Gull Lake Invitational	9:00AM
Thu 1/13	@ Gobles League Jamboree	6:00PM
Mon 1/17	@ Coloma Cheer Invitational	6:00PM
Thu 1/20	@ Parchment League Jamboree	6:00PM
Thu 1/27	@ Bloomingdale League Jamboree	6:00PM
Sat 1/29	@ Otsego Invitational	9:00AM

Boys Varsity Wrestling

Wed 12/8	@ Parchment Quad	6:00PM
Fri 12/10	@ Olivet Invitational	5:00PM
Sat 12/18	@ Gull Lake Invitational	9:00AM
Wed 12/22	Comstock Varsity Invitational	9:30AM
Wed 1/05	@ Hartford Quad vs Bloomingdale & Bangor	6:00PM
Sat 1/8	@ Parma Western Invitational	9:00AM
Wed 1/12	@ Mendon Quad vs Mendon & Marcellus	6:00PM
Sat 1/15	Comstock V Team Tournament	9:30AM
Wed 1/19	Comstock Quad vs Hartford	6:00PM
Fri 1/21	Comstock V Individual Tournament	4:00PM
Wed 1/26	@ Hartford Quad vs Decatur & Cassopolis	6:00PM



Comstock Township Library Events

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

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

Do you want to learn a new skill, or take up a new hobby? Check out our Adult Discovery Kits which contain the materials you'll need to learn something new. Our current kits are: Birdwatching, Bullet Journaling, Crochet, Knitting, Macramé, Metal Stamping, Origami, Tarot, Woodburning, Postcard Embroidery, and Metal Detecting. We also have **Discovery Kits for Kids**, including robots, an instant camera, a night sky projector, and Oculus Go VR headsets. These kits check out just like our books.

Our website has a ton of information on services and events. While on the website, you can also sign up for our quarterly e-Newsletter to stay current with all the latest library news and events!

Adult Events

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

In-person Adult Craft: Glitter Ornaments - Thursday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. We will be making ornaments with the interior covered in glitter. Registration is required for this free event. Register on our website. You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

In-Person Adult Craft: DIY Birdseed Cakes - Thursday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m. Even our feathered friends need a treat now and then. We will be using common household ingredients to make birdseed cakes. Registration is required for

this free event and begins December 27. You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

In-Person Adult Craft: Plaster Flower Decorated Jar Lids - Monday, January 31, at 6 p.m. See the beauty you can create using silk flowers and plaster. Registration is required for this free event and begins January 24 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under "Upcoming Events." You may also register by calling 345-0136. Space is limited.

Adult Pop-up Crafts:

Week of December 13: **Beaded Snowflake Ornaments**

Week of January 22: **Pompom Penguins**

Youth Events

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

Storytimes are on hold for December, but will return again in January. When they resume, our weekly in-person storytime schedule will be:

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

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

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

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

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

**Siblings are welcome at every storytime.*

Drop-in Youth Gaming, every Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We have a Nintendo Switch, a TV, and a catalog of games.

Teen Advisory Group, December 7 from 6-7 p.m. and January 12 from 2-3 p.m. Join other local teens to plan fun events and earn volunteer hours. Afternoon programs are for early-release students and other tweens who are available to participate.

December Monthly Kids Craft: Wooden Gingerbread Houses - Friday, December 10, at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and Saturday, December 11, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Registration is required on our online events calendar.

CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSURES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

December 24 - All day

December 25 - All day

December 31 - All day

January 1 - All day

Teen Nerf Wars - December 30, 6-8 p.m. - T.A.G. will be hosting a Teen Nerf Wars after-hours event. Registration required, and T.A.G. members will get early registration. Check our online events calendar for registration information.

Paws and Pages: Read with a Therapy Dog! Read stories one-on-one with one of our therapy dog friends. Check our online events calendar for dates and times.

January Monthly Kids Craft: Valentine's Day Cards, Date TBD. Check our online events calendar for updated information.

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



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



We have fax, photocopy, and scanning services available.



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

Comstock Township Library Events (Cont.)

Continued from page 19

More programs may be planned, so keep an eye on our events calendar for the most up-to-date information.

**All events/programs subject to change.*

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

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

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

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

Hazardous Weather Communications

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

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

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

You may sign-up to follow Tweets at <https://twitter.com/ComstockPS> regarding school closings or go to our website at

www.comstockps.org.

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

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

CALL LETTERS

98.5 FM, 96.5 FM (WNWN, WFAT)

100.9 FM (WQXC)

903 AM, 1400 AM (WBCK, WRCC)

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

107.7 FM, 103.3 FM (WRKR, WKFR)

TV 3 WWMT-TV

TV 8 WOOD-TV

TV 4 WOTV

