

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,

Reflecting on the first weeks of the 2022-23 school year, I'm thankful for the positive, enthusiastic, and smooth start we've experienced in each of our buildings.

As I often tell our Colt Cabinet and District staff, this type of success is not achieved by random luck or haphazard good fortune, but instead by purposeful design and planning, direct intent, and hard work. Comstock Public Schools employs top-notch educators whose passion, preparation, and energy drive our collective District focus and that focus is on meeting the academic, emotional, and social needs of our students.

Having begun the routine of the new school year and slowly emerging from the coronavirus pandemic, we recognize more than ever that connecting with one another is essential to a well-rounded education and success in school.

I urge every member of our school community not only to reconnect but to make new connections as well. Let's enjoy seeing old friends and acquaintances but also meeting new teammates, classmates, teachers, parents, bus drivers, and coaches - whoever they may be.

I also want to connect with you. Reach out to me if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about the District or its programming. Contact me if you want to be a part of our District's ongoing progress.

Let's chat at conferences, athletic events, competitions, concerts, and performances. Perhaps a conversation over coffee (my treat!). Good ideas come from all corners of the District.

Let's make this a great year to be a Colt!

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

Superintendent Becomes Mentor

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes has received training to become a mentor to first-year superintendents. The day-long virtual training session was sponsored by the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA).

Host of the event was Dr. Brian Davis, a retired superintendent from the Holland Public Schools. He is also MASA's executive director of professional learning.

Now that he has completed the training, Dr. Thoenes will be paired with a new superintendent most likely in southwest Michigan.

What Dr. Thoenes is reading:

The Four Pivots - Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves
Shawn A. Ginwright, PhD. (2022)



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.



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Requirements for the James R. Ryan Scholarship

As announced in the last Communicator, the James R. Ryan Family Foundation Middle School Scholarship is available to Comstock students.

Here are the requirements for the scholarship:

- The applicant must be a Comstock eighth-grade student and resident of the Comstock Public School District, who is planning to enroll in an accredited four-year college or university as a full-time student after graduation from Comstock High School.

- Enrollment in college must occur in the fall immediately following the applicant's high school graduation.

- The applicant must have attained a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA at the end of the second marking period of eighth grade.

- If awarded the scholarship, the recipient's cumulative GPA through completion of eighth grade must not fall below 2.5 or the applicant's scholarship eligibility will be permanently revoked and will be given to the designated alternate.

- The applicant's family must demonstrate financial need. Financial need questions that may be considered include:

- ✓ Does the applicant qualify for free or reduced lunch?

- ✓ Does the family income fall below the median family income in Michigan?

- ✓ Would the applicant be a first-generation

college student (parents did not obtain a college degree)?

- ✓ Does the applicant have a disabled parent or sibling, (which may put more financial burden on an otherwise middle-class family)?

- ✓ Does the applicant have a parent in the military?

- The applicant must demonstrate good citizenship, high moral character, and a good work ethic prior to and throughout the period of the scholarship.

If you have questions regarding this scholarship, please contact Post Secondary Dean James Cotter at James.Cotter@ComstockPS.org.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

October:

10 - Comstock HS Choir Concert 7 p.m., Free.

17 - Kalamazoo Christian MS/HS Band Concert: 7 p.m.

November:

4-6 - *Frozen Jr.*, Center Stage Theater Fall Show-7:30 p.m. Matinee only on the 6th at 2 p.m. Tickets: Go to their website for online ticketing: <https://kzoocst.com/tickets> or call: 269-348-SHOW. Some tickets will be available at the door.

8-10 - Center Education for the Arts: *Theatre Motus: Baobab*; Kalamazoo County area schools will attend. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. shows. Not open to the public.

15 - Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir Concert: 7 p.m., Free.

19 - Home School Performing Arts 2nd Stage - *Frozen (Kids)*, Shows: 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets: hpami.org or at the door.

Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

June 27, 2022

- Heard a presentation from Susan Duncan, Auditorium Manager, and Ryan Cousins, Auditorium Technical Director.
- Heard a presentation by ITC on electric transmission infrastructure and their Project Jaguar Substation.
- Approved hiring the following:
 - Chelsea Davidson, GSRP Teacher, CELA
 - Allison Weger, GSRP Teacher, CELA
- Approved the 2022-2023 Comstock K-12 Virtual Academy course catalog.

REGULAR MEETING

July 11, 2022

CANCELLED

REGULAR MEETING

July 25, 2022

- Accepted the following resignations:
 - Ryan Warner, Math Teacher, CHS
 - Kristin Townsend, Math Teacher, Compass
- Approved hiring the following:
 - Caroline Jordan, Speech & Language, CES
 - Erin Hanley, Resource Room, Compass
- Set work session dates for 7/25/22, 10/24/22, 01/23/23, and 04/24/23
- Designated Secretary Dori Scholly as the delegate to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).
- Designated President Pam Dickinson as the alternate delegate to the MASB.

REGULAR MEETING

August 8, 2022

- Accepted the following resignations:
 - Claudia Richards, Kindergarten Teacher, CES
 - Julie Woods, Second Grade Teacher, STEM
 - Tay MacIntyre - Guidance Counselor, STEM
- Approved hiring the following:
 - Megan McDonald, Kindergarten Teacher, CES
 - Kathy Tefft-Grimm, Kindergarten Teacher, CES
- Had first reading of Board policies.
- Discussed Board Governance Revision.

Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

The District's building renovations, rebuilding, and upgrading are continuing thanks to the 2016 bond fund, the 2019 sinking fund, and the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Here is an update on the progress at each building.

Comstock Elementary School - The Board of Education held a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently and officially declared the construction and renovation work on Comstock Elementary School to be complete. Approximately 60 people attended the ceremony and expressed their great satisfaction and joy at the total and all-encompassing transformation of the building.

Dignitaries at the event included Michigan State Senator Sean McCann and Comstock Township Superintendent Scott Hess. Vice President Matt Schreiner and Secretary Dori Scholly held the ceremonial ribbon while President Pamela Dickinson and Trustee Kayleen O'Donnell cut the ribbon. The project was funded by the 2016 bond fund.

What's next? Currently, a team is designing an outdoor environmental education classroom that will be located on the north side of the school. Construction of the outdoor classroom will take place in the summer of 2023 with an estimated cost of \$50-\$100,000. The District is exploring both grant funding and donations. If an individual or family in the community wishes to sponsor the project, the Board is willing to name the facility in their honor or in the memory of a loved one. If you are interested in exploring this possibility, contact me at your earliest convenience.

Comstock Middle School - At Comstock Middle School, Phase 1 of the three-phase renovation is now nearly complete. This summer, crews transformed six rooms along the east side of the building, finished installing resilient carpeting in the main hallway, installed two sets of beautiful metal entrance doors, and began the construction of the chiller plant which will eventually provide air conditioning for the entire building including the gymnasium.

Importantly, the District is financing the work using a combination of federal ESSER monies and sinking funds. Due to the age of the building and the requisites involved in the upgrades, the project has two more phases (Summer, 2023 and

Summer, 2024). However, when completed in August, 2024, for the start of the 2024-25 school year, both the interior and exterior of the school will be fully modernized and air-conditioned.

What's next? Due to supply chain issues caused by the pandemic and the disruption of the precious metals market by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the new cabinetry and vertical unit ventilators (VUVs) needed to finish the rooms will not arrive until this fall. After these items are on-site, the District will finish the installation as soon as practicable thereafter.

Comstock High School - Work on the Hamet Athletic Complex is the final project being funded by the 2016 bond. Crews worked all summer on the improvements, and when completed in November, the facility will have a beautifully-designed gated entrance that will feature a booth with ticket windows on three sides and a fully modernized restroom building. The new restroom building will be much larger and more aesthetically pleasing than the current version.

What's next? With the successful passage of the Board's \$39.4M bond proposal in May, 2022, the Superintendent Team, in full collaboration with GMB Architecture, Miller Davis Construction, and AE Tech Design, will begin discussions and planning sessions this fall for facility improvements targeted at Comstock High School. This work will start in May, 2023, and will take place over the next two years. The renovations will include, but not be limited to new flooring, windows, and doors; installation of HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems; renovations to the woodshop classroom; upgrades to science classrooms; and the redesign of the band room.

STEM Academy

What's next? Part of the successful 2022 bond was a proposal to build an entirely new STEM Academy. Constructed in 1949, the building is 73 years old and is so obsolete that it was originally designed to burn coal for heating. Some of this equipment is still in place in the basement and lower mechanical rooms.

This year, the Superintendent Team will collaborate with GMB Architecture and begin visiting other similar school buildings in southwest

Michigan to gather ideas and information about potential designs or features for a modern school building.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024 and take about two years to complete with the new school opening in August, 2026, for the 2026-27 school year.

As always, thanks go out to 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 this would be possible.

Leadership Team Receives Training

The Colt Leadership Team, consisting of central administrators and building principals, recently received training from Michigan State University Professor Dr. Kristy Cooper Stein regarding the teacher observation practice known as Harvard Instructional Rounds (HIR).

The Team will have a year-long series of training sessions with Dr. Cooper Stein which are designed to build administrator competence using HIR methodologies. To amplify their learning, the team will also participate in a book study about HIR by reading *Instructional Rounds Education*.

The ultimate outcome of this effort will be for the Leadership Team to provide effective feedback regarding teacher instructional and classroom practices to enhance lesson effectiveness and deepen student learning.



Superintendent Updates Academy Plans

Comstock Community,

Here is an update regarding the plans for the Math and Science Academy (MSA) which I introduced in the last Communicator. I've also provided a timeline showing the steps in the process of bringing the MSA to fruition by the 2023-2024 school year.

Current proposal:

Interested incoming freshmen students will be required to apply and be accepted before enrolling in the MSA. Importantly, any student may apply regardless of whether or not the student attended the Comstock STEM Academy. The enrollment process and standards for acceptance into the MSA are to be determined as a part of this design process.

The MSA will be a co-taught, two-period, cohort "block" for math, science, and robotics curriculum during the freshman and sophomore (and perhaps the junior) years. To clarify, if classes at CHS are 50 minutes, the two-period block would be 1 hour and 40 minutes in length and be co-taught by both the math and science teachers. A significant portion of the curriculum would be integrated and interdisciplinary with a focus on problem-based learning. The term "cohort" indicates that the same students stay together in the block class for the two (or perhaps three) years they are in the MSA. Students would be able to enroll in Advanced Placement or other similar honors-type classes during their junior and senior years, as desired or available.

Since the emphasis of this cohort program is on math and science, we propose that the program be named "The Math and Science Academy" or "MSA." Accordingly, students will enroll in whatever English or social studies courses and other electives that best fit their interests and academic schedules.

As part of this curricular proposal and design process, Assistant Superintendent Ansel and I will emphasize the need to research best practices for exemplary math and science high school programs. We will also rely on the expertise and guidance of STEM Academy Principal Chris Chopp, new High School Principal Mary Spade, Middle School Principal Mark Wilke, and any other interested staff.

By late November and early December, the program would be in its final form for presentation to the Board for review and approval. This timing will allow us to promote the program to the community during the second semester, complete the student application and acceptance process by late spring, and add the courses to the high school's course guidebook and schedule. The first freshman MSA cohort would begin in August, 2023.

Proposed Schedule of Important Program Development Dates

September - (Principals Meeting) - Present the draft proposal of the MSA to the District's principals to gather and hear feedback, suggestions, and input about the draft.

September - (Staff Meeting) - Present the draft proposal of the MSA to any of the District's interested teaching staff to gather and hear feedback, suggestions, and input about the draft.

October - (Comstock Communicator) - Provide the latest proposal of the MSA to the school community via the October/November edition of The Comstock Communicator.

October - Based on all of the input from various constituencies including best-practice research, finalize the MSA proposal.

Mid-November - Present the final MSA proposal to the Board's Academic Performance Committee for a full review and discussion.

Monday, November 28, 2022, Board meeting - Present the final MSA proposal to the full Board for discussion.

Monday, December 12, 2022, Board meeting - Present the final MSA proposal to the full Board for action.

January - Design application process for the MSA.

February - Promote applications and enrollment in the MSA.

March - Students submit applications.

April - Committee reviews the applications and notifies students of acceptance status.

May - Students register for MSA classes; courses added to the high school's course guidebook.

Anyone is welcome to contact me regarding any questions, thoughts, or ideas. We look forward to moving this process forward and ultimately enhancing the academic experiences of our students and families.

"It's a great day to be a Colt!"

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes
Superintendent



Little Libraries Available at All Buildings

All six schools in the District now have "Little Libraries" filled with free books for students to take and read.

Contacted by Superintendent Dr. Thoenes, Liz Cattleberry, youth librarian at the Township Library, donated 200 books from the library's free-book room.

If you have books you would like to donate to the Little Libraries, you may put them directly into the free book dispensers or drop them off at the District office at 3010 Gull Road.

A special thanks goes to Brad Hoercher, facilities crew member, who finished the installation of the Little Libraries this summer.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Laurie Allan
Administrative Assistant, Virtual Academy

A graduate of Portage Public Schools and KVCC with a focus on business and computers, Laurie Allan is serving as an administrative assistant in the Virtual Academy.

She has significant experience in this area, having served at Senior Services, Kalamazoo County/MSU Extension, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy, and Parker Hannifin.

Her husband, Randy, is retired. Their two grandsons, Joe and Josh, graduated from Comstock in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

She enjoys reading, gardening, and traveling.



Erika Brown
Second Grade Teacher, CES

Erika Brown started out as an engineering major in college, but after her freshman year realized that wouldn't be a fulfilling career. She had always thought at times, "If I was a teacher or in my classroom, I would . . ."

Then, her boyfriend, now her husband, suggested she become a teacher.

"I realized that I had always thought about it and decided to go for it and never looked back," she said.

After graduating from Cedarcrest High School in Duvall, Washington, she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with endorsements in reading, English Language Learner, and math from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. She also has a master's in instructional design from Western Governors University. Currently, she is working on a doctorate in education with a specialization in reading and literacy from Capella University.

Since she loves learning, school, and organizing, she knew that teaching would be a fit for her.

"I come from a family of strong leaders

as well and I think all of these aspects made becoming a teacher a no brainer," she said.

Her fourth grade teacher was one of the many fantastic teachers she had growing up.

"She was amazing at differentiation and giving choice," she said. "I think that since I got to see how that worked in person I have been a spokesperson for differentiation (tailoring instruction to meet individual needs) and giving students choice in my own classroom."

Mrs. Brown's first three years of teaching were in a second grade classroom in southern California near Los Angeles.

"I love building relationships with students and seeing students fall in love with learning and exploring topics they never knew about before," she said.

However, her first three years of teaching were highly affected by the COVID pandemic with the result that the hardest thing about teaching is making up for the educational hardships of the last three years.

"We have a lot of healing to do and that has to be addressed just as much as the content we need to cover," she said.

Mrs. Brown and her husband, Josh, met in the sixth grade. They married in December, 2020. They moved to Kalamazoo where her husband is an emergency room resident at both Borgess and Bronson Hospitals.

She enjoys fishing, listening to audiobooks, going on walks, and relaxing at home with her husband and their two cats, Oliver and Luna.



Chelsea Davidson
GSRP-Pre-K, Early Learning Academy

Chelsea Davidson knew in high school she wanted to go into early childhood education. She had experience in helping to lead a Sunday School class, babysitting, and working at child care centers while a student at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek.

In high school, she also took an early childhood education class at the Career Center in Battle Creek.

"I loved my teachers, Ms. Pam and Ms.

Sharon," she said. "They helped grow my interest and passion in early childhood education and taught me things I still use to this day in my classroom."

So, after high school, she majored in early childhood professional education at Western Michigan University, graduating in 2015. In her first year after college, she taught a Head Start/GSRP class in Three Rivers with Community Action. For the last six years, she worked through KRESA teaching Head Start/GSRP classes in many locations including Comstock.

"I enjoy building relationships with children and their families and being a part of their first school experience," said Miss Davidson. "I love seeing their growth and progress throughout the year and seeing how proud the children are when they learn something new."

The pandemic has made teaching harder today because students were quarantined and had limited exposure to other children, she said.

"That just means that we will be spending a lot of time, especially in preschool, working on building those important social skills," she said.

Miss Davidson and her fiance Ryan will be getting married next summer. She enjoys reading, biking, hiking/walking on trails and spending with with friends and family.



Caroline Jordan
Speech-Language Pathologist, CES

Caroline Jordan is beginning her education career as the speech-language pathologist at the elementary school, working mainly with students in first through third grades.

A graduate of Portage Northern High School and KAMSC, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Calvin University in Grand Rapids.

In college, she had a double major in Spanish and speech pathology and audiology.

"I decided to study speech pathology because I knew that I wanted to help others and loved

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Welcome, New Staff Members

that it combined my interests in language and science,” she said. “I decided to study Spanish because I fell in love with the language and enjoy being able to communicate with a wider range of people.”

Also, influencing her decision to go into speech pathology is that she saw the impact speech therapy had on her younger sister’s life.

“I wanted to shape children’s lives in a similar way,” she said.

Her high school Spanish teacher, Mr. Hill, instilled in her a love of the language and encouraged her to study Spanish in college.

“This has led to so many opportunities including studying abroad and doing speech therapy with Spanish-speaking students,” she said.

Miss Jordan is looking forward to forming relationships with students and watching them grow in their communication skills and become more confident.

“One of the hardest things about doing speech therapy over the past couple of years has been teaching students to say different speech sounds while we’re wearing masks,” she said.

When she’s not working, Miss Jordan enjoys doing theatre, walking her golden retriever, and spending time with family and friends.



Kala Law
Assistant Principal, CES

Kala Law’s grandmother fueled her desire to become a teacher.

“My grandmother was a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse,” she said. “She would consistently tell me stories. I have always wanted to be a teacher. I love working with children and watching their light bulbs go on.”

So after graduating from Centreville High School in Centreville, Michigan, Mrs. Law majored in elementary education, getting her bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University. She also earned a Master of Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University.

She taught in Arizona for 11 years and after moving back to Michigan, she taught in

Kalamazoo for three years.

“I love the process of learning and how each child takes this journey,” she said. “I also love to watch the students discover new things and teach me.”

Her third grade teacher, Mr. Sullivan, showed her a lot about teaching through his compassion and calmness.

“He showed me how to be firm, fair, and consistent while letting the children know they were loved and heard,” she said. “He created great relationships with all of his students and had been in teaching for a while because he was also my mother’s teacher when she was in elementary.”

Now, Mrs. Law has taken her love of learning to a different level by becoming assistant principal at the elementary school.

Mrs. Law and her husband, Kurt, have a son, Kamden, 11, a sixth grader at the middle school. Her husband works for US Foods as a national account sales person.

They have two English mastiff puppies, Hank and Mavis.

She enjoys being outside, spending time with family, hiking, biking, playing sports, and riding horses and ATVs.



Abby Mullis
Elementary (K-5)
Music Teacher

Abby Mullis sees music as a way of bringing people together. So, her life has centered around music. A

native of Battle Creek, she graduated from Central Michigan University with bachelor’s degrees in piano performance and music education.

She chose to use her education in the schools because they are at “the heart of the community,” she said.

“I find it inspiring to work with young students exploring the many different aspects of music for the first time,” she said. “Additionally, I want to be part of the team of music educators who help ensure that children receive a high-quality music experience during their K-12 education.”

While this is her first year of teaching in the public schools, she has taught private piano lessons at UpBeat Music Academy in Midland, Michigan, and has also taught intergenerational music classes at Michigan nursing homes.

Her musical career was encouraged by her piano professor, Dr. Alexandra Mascolo-David at Central Michigan University.

“Dr. David provided me with a breadth of information about music, the history of music, music’s role in our society, and the art of playing the piano,” she said. “Above all things, Dr. David is a good listener and made me feel that my ideas were important and worth sharing. She always encouraged me to pursue my academic and personal interests, projects, and goals.”

Ms. Mullis loves how teaching challenges her to continue her own learning.

“There are so many artists and songs in the world that I get to discover alongside my students,” she said.

She also recognizes the challenges in education today.

“In a group situation, it is difficult to meet every student’s unique interests and needs, but as educators, we try our best to build a community that can help all students be their best,” she said.

Besides playing the piano, she enjoys cooking and taking long walks. She recently bought a cello with the goal of playing it in a community orchestra some day.



Logan Skotzke
Teacher Assistant,
CELA

Logan Skotzke, originally from Columbus, Indiana, is teaching in the Great Start Readiness Program at the

Early Learning Academy. Before coming to Comstock, she taught for three years in a self-contained classroom for Keller Intermediate School District in Fort Worth, Texas.

“I love seeing light bulb moments and watching kids learn over the course of the year,” she said.

Her career in education has been enhanced

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by her best friend, Rachel Soria.

“In her five years as a special education teacher, she has had to face so many challenges and has persevered through all of them,” said Miss Skotzke. “I would not know everything I know about teaching now without her guidance.”

She chose education as a career because of her love for kids with special needs.

Today, the hardest thing about teaching is acclimating students to the classroom and just simply learning how to educate post-pandemic.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, and hanging out with her dog.



Mary Spade
Comstock High School
Principal

With years of teaching and administrative experience in different schools, Mary Spade is adding Comstock to her resume as she is now the principal of Comstock High School.

A graduate of Portage Northern High School, Ms. Spade majored in physical education and minored in history for her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. She also has a master's degree in sports management and a K-12 administrator's certificate through the Path to Leadership Program at the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

Ms. Spade began her career in Knoxville, Tennessee, teaching physical education in kindergarten through eighth grade. She then taught physical education in middle school and high school in Ninety Six, South Carolina.

She has 11 years of experience as an athletic director, four years as a high school assistant principal, and four years as a middle school/high school principal.

It's a career that she enjoys as she builds positive relationships with students and watches them grow and learn.

“Watching students mature and transition into the real world is very fulfilling to me,” she said. “I also enjoy the positive working

relationships that are made with my colleagues.”

She chose education as a career because of the many teachers who had a positive impact on her life back then and who still influence her today.

“As I grow in my career, I often rely on the advice and feedback from Jerry and Kay Spade who are both retired teachers in Michigan,” she said.

Jerry taught social studies at Portage Northern High School while Kay taught English and Latin at Vicksburg High School.

“My teachers influenced me by pushing me outside my comfort zone and guiding me to push the boundaries on the potential of what I could learn and accomplish,” she said. “I hope to make the same impact on my students as my teachers' impact on me.” With her career taking her to different schools in different parts of the country, the hardest part has been having to say “Goodbye” to students.

“It's always hard to say goodbye to students but it also means that I get to say hello to new students,” she said. “I am super excited to be in Comstock and meeting all the great Comstock students in the district. I am equally excited to be working with such a great team of teachers, staff and administrators at Comstock Public Schools. It's going to be a great year.”

Ms. Spade enjoys spending time with family and friends. She likes to read, do projects around the house, and play euchre and dominoes.



Benjamin “Buddy”
Stowe
Eighth Grade Math
Teacher, CMS

After being homeschooled, Benjamin “Buddy” Stowe attended Western Michigan University majoring in elementary/middle school math and minoring in philosophy.

“I love learning and the pursuit of truth,” he said of his choice of a major.

His decision to go into education came from a “desire to help others see the beauty of the universe and live a life worth living,” he said.

A math professor, Jon Davis, influenced him through his knowledge, pedagogy and patience

about what it means to be a teacher.

As a teacher, Mr. Stowe enjoys building relationships with students and seeing them grow.

The hardest thing in education today is “the erosion of the family and its effects on the kids,” he said.

Before coming to Comstock, he taught at Milwood Middle School.

Mr. Stowe, who has nine siblings and many nieces and nephews, relishes spending time with his family and friends. He also enjoys being outside and training in the martial arts.



Bill Taylor
High School Math
Teacher

A native of El Paso, Texas, Bill Taylor graduated from Logansport High School in Logansport, Indiana, and then majored in math education at Purdue University. For his master's and PhD degrees, he majored in educational administration and gifted and talented education.

He has now been a teacher and an administrator in five different districts over the course of 34 years. At Comstock, he will be teaching Algebra 1.

Of his decision to go into education, he said, “I couldn't see myself doing anything else.”

He remembers two teachers who had an impact on him, Mrs. Thomas from an elementary school in El Paso and Jim Ridenour, his high school track coach in Logansport.

“They taught me the importance of hard work and having compassion and love for other people,” he said.

He enjoys concerts, musicals, golfing, sporting events, and singing. In the summer, he serves as program director in a Christian summer camp for ninth and tenth graders.

“I enjoy working with youth groups and singing on the worship team,” he said.

Mr. Taylor recently got engaged to his fiancée, Kim. He has two children, Brian and Sarah, who are twins.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Kasmyn VanMaanen
Sixth Grade Science
Teacher, CMS

A graduate of Vicksburg High School and Albion College, Kasmyn Van Maanen completed her student teaching at Marshall High School and is now teaching science at Comstock Middle School.

She majored in biology at Albion with the goal of becoming a teacher.

"I decided on this major because I enjoyed learning about different aspects of the world even at the microscopic level," she said. "I went into education because I have always loved working with kids."

Helping her along this path was her college professor, Suelyn Henke.

"She always pushed me to be creative with the material I made and always offered me support whenever needed," she said.

Miss VanMaanen enjoys teaching because she gets to see all the different ways that students learn.

"The hardest thing about teaching today is figuring out how to utilize many different pieces of technology to keep the students engaged," she said.

She and her fiance, Caleb Lear, have a dog named Pineapple and a kitten named Snuffles.

At Comstock, she is also coaching the cross country team at the high school.



Machelle Weber
District Custodial
Supervisor/Trainer

A graduate of Compass High School who also attended the University of Phoenix, Machelle Weber is joining the Comstock staff as supervisor and trainer of custodians.

"I have over 10 years of school custodial experience and felt this job was an opportunity to teach what I've learned as I learn more," she said.

As she settled into her new position, remembering names and which building

people work in has been challenging. But overshadowing that are the good things about her job.

"I enjoy meeting new people and networking as a team," she said. "I love kids. I take pride in a job well done, knowing I am making a difference no matter how small."

Her eighth grade reading teacher, Mrs. Lohrberg, was an important influence on her life.

"She was so soft spoken," Ms. Weber said. "She taught me the art of writing poetry and how to appreciate not only the words on paper, but the image you see and energy you feel from them."

Ms. Weber has three children: Kris, 21; Ryeann, 20; and Joydyne, 12. Her boyfriend, Dustin, is a CNC (computer numerical control) operator at Becken Industries Precision Machining and Grinding.

She enjoys relaxing with family and friends around bonfires. Traveling is also one of her joys. She loves visiting new places such as arcades, amusement parks, haunted houses and drive-in theaters.



Allison Weger
Preschool Teacher,
CELA

As a child, Allison Weger loved school and learning so she would pretend to be a teacher with her stuffed animals as her students. So, it's only natural that she became a teacher.

"I had some phenomenal teachers who helped to instill this love of learning in me," she said. "I want to help young children develop the same love for school and learning."

One phenomenal teacher she recalls is her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sarns.

After graduating from Western Michigan University in 2012 with a major in early childhood education, Mrs. Weger taught second grade in the Parchment Schools and then four-year-old preschool with Head Start.

"I enjoy watching children learn and explore the world around them," she said.

Mrs. Weger's husband, Chris, is a maintenance

supervisor at Graphic Packaging. They have two children, Everly, 5, and Benjamin, 2.

Her leisure time activities include bike riding, camping, baking, and spending time with family and friends.



Kelly Wright
Second Grade Teacher,
Comstock Elementary

Kelly Wright has wanted to be a teacher since she was in the sixth grade.

"I used to set up a classroom downstairs when I was growing up," she said. "I even made my own workbooks."

In school, she would always help the teachers and ask for extra worksheets.

"I enjoy learning daily," she said. "I love reaching the children and seeing their minds form with new ideas and new ways of thinking."

Her sixth grade teacher was very influential in her life.

"She took me under her wing," Ms. Wright said. "She showed me a different side of learning."

That idea was that math wasn't just about memorizing facts.

"Throughout my teaching experience I have been able to show students different ways of figuring out a math problem," she said. "Math is one of my favorite subjects to teach now."

After graduating from Kalamazoo Central High School, she majored in elementary education at Western Michigan University. She then taught in the Muskegon Public Schools for 13 years.

She enjoys watching students advance in their thinking.

"I still receive emails from former students keeping me up to date on their lives," she said.

Ms. Wright has two sons, Gavin, 9, who is in third grade, and Nolan, 7, who is in second grade.

Besides spending time with her large extended family, she enjoys coaching soccer and watching her sons play various sports.

Board Members Attend Statewide Training

Board President Pamela Dickinson and Secretary Dori Scholly recently attended a statewide training session for Board members sponsored by the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

At the meeting held in Muskegon, Secretary Scholly attended sessions on Data Dashboards, Succession Planning, Ethical Challenges, Teacher

Effectiveness and Student Achievement, Cultural-ly Competent Leaders, and Advanced Community Relations.

“I also attended the morning session on Friday titled, ‘Building Trust: Leading the Way Through Conflict’ and then a Leadership Lab after lunch,” said Scholly. “It was a very successful weekend with lots of collaborating with other boards from

across Michigan.”

President Dickinson attended a number of similar sessions including several designed specifically for Board presidents. She was pleasantly surprised to be in a session on board governance that referenced two documents created by Comstock’s Board during her tenure - the Board’s Governance Guidelines and the Board’s Calendar.

2022-23 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

October 6, 2022	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
October 28, 2022	DPPD	8:00-3:00	No Students
November 15, 2022	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
November 17, 2022	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
November 18, 2022	Half Day Students K-12		Half Day Students/Teachers
November 23-25, 2022	Thanksgiving Recess		No Students/Teachers
December 1, 2022	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 8, 2022	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
December 26, 2022 to January 6, 2023	Winter Recess		
January 17-19, 2023	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students/Teachers
January 20, 2023	PD AM/K-12-Records Day PM (End of 1st Sem.)		No Students
February 21, 2023	CHS Conferences		
February 23-24, 2023	Mid-Winter Break		No Students/Teachers
March 2, 2023	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
March 14, 2023	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 16, 2023	Comstock Elementary & STEM Conferences	4:00-8:00 (CES) & 3:00-7:00 (STEM)	
March 17, 2023	DPPD	8:00-3:00	No Students
March 24-31, 2023	Spring Break		No Students/ No Teachers
May 4, 2023	CHS Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 11, 2023	Comstock Middle School Conferences	3:00-7:00	
May 29, 2023	Memorial Day		No Students/No Staff
June 5, 6, 7, 2023	Half Day Students K-12 (High School Exams)		Half Day Students and Teachers K-12
June 7, 2023	Last Day for Students/Records Day PM		Half Day Students AM/ Staff Records Day PM

Comstock High School

CHS Senior Receives National Honor

Alex Ballesteros has received the National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA) through the College Board.

This award is given to students who excel on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, PSAT 10, or Advanced Placement Exams. Students must also have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Eligible students must be African American, Hispanic American, and/or attend a school in a rural area or small town.

Eligible students may apply during their sophomore or junior year and then the scholarship is awarded at the beginning of the next school year.

“The NHRA is yet another well-earned recognition for Alex who remains in tireless pursuit of his post-secondary goals,” said Post Secondary Dean James Cotter. “He has done a bit of everything here at CHS - from the band and National Honor Society (NHS) to varsity sports, as well as Advanced Placement classes to dual enrollment.”



He is also a two-year Career and Technical Education (CTE) student and is currently enrolled in the invite-only Professional Health Sciences (PHS) program.

NHS Inducts New Members



The new NHS inductees are (left to right): Tyler Woolsey, Tyler Caswell, Madison Greenhalgh, Ethan Roush, Brianne Doud, Ava Dalton and Blake Lennon (not pictured: Mishti Patel and Vraj Patel).

The Comstock High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) recently inducted nine new members.

Members are selected based on the Four Pillars of NHS which are Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service.

The new inductees are Tyler Caswell, Ava Dalton, Brianne Doud, Madison Greenhalgh, Blake Lennon, Mishti Patel, Vraj Patel, Ethan Roush, and Tyler Woolsey.

About 50 people attended the fall induction which was led by NHS President Annalise Schreiner. NHS faculty advisor Colleen Grueter introduced the Chapter's Leadership Team.

Current NHS members Lydia Kruijs, Alexander Ballesteros, Autumn Hummel, and Alondra Chiquito reviewed the Four Pillars in the traditional candle-lighting ceremony.

Each inductee was introduced by a current NHS member.

CHS Students Prepare for the Future

Comstock High School students are preparing for their future by enrolling in various programs offered through the school. Those programs are Career & Technical Education/Education for the Arts (CTE/EFA), Dual Enrollment (DE), and Early Middle College (EMC).

Here are the details of students enrolled in these programs.

- 39 CHS students are enrolled in the following CTE/EFA classes:

- Health Sciences
- Professional Health Sciences
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Dental Assisting
- Automotive Technology
- Electrical Tech
- Electronics & Robotics
- Welding
- Law Enforcement
- Creative Writing
- 3D Animation & Game Design
- Improvisation and Script Writing
- KVCC Media Arts
- Media Production
- Dance
- Aviation Technology II
- Barbering I
- Culinary Arts

- 22 CHS students are dual-enrolled through Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and one CHS student is dual-enrolled at Western Michigan University.

- 24 CHS students are active in the Early Middle College Program (five 13th-year students, ten 12th-grade students, eight 11th-grade students, and one 10th-grade student). Early Middle College applications open up in January for all ninth and tenth-grade students.

Students and families interested in these programs should contact Post Secondary Dean James Cotter at James.Cotter@ComstockPS.org.

- Comstock is also offering an on-campus section of ENG 110 - College Writing I this semester.

Fourteen CHS students are enrolled in this class which is one of the most transferable classes KVCC offers. ENG 110 serves as the freshman English requirement at most institutions across the state and beyond.

Comstock High School

Girls Golf Team Hosts Annual Scramble



Dr. Jeff Thoenes (far right) and the Board of Education golf team at the recent scramble.

The Comstock Girls Golf Team recently received the annual Teacher-Family Scramble at Hickory Ridge Golf Course. The more than 40 people who attended were divided into foursomes for the scramble.

The teams consisted of a high school golfer, a teacher, and some family members. There were also teams representing the Board of Education, Athletic Department, and Boys Golf Team.

Christine Greenhalgh won Longest Putt, Jeff

VanGoeyne won Longest Drive, and Matt Schreiner won Closest to the Pin.

The overall winning team was Team Ludwick and the boys golf team who scored a fantastic four under par. Congratulations to Coach Doug Ludwick, Cayden Schultz, Ethan Roush, and Tyler Woolsey.

High school science teacher and girls golf coach Abi Schreiner Osborn organized the event.

Art Show Planned for Spring

The District is planning its inaugural art show for Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m.

Submitted art will be judged by a panel of local artists. The Board of Education will purchase the show's top selections to be displayed permanently throughout the District.

More information about the event will be provided in District publications throughout the year.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

Bookbug Raises Over \$1200 for CELA

In its Roundup for Reading program, local independent bookstore Bookbug raised over \$1200 for the Early Learning Academy. In this program, customers may opt to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar with the donation going to a local school or organization.

CELA was chosen as August's recipient with the store raising \$1252 for the school.

The store also gave the school 80 copies of the new picture book "All Are Neighbors" by Alexandra Penfold which celebrates diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each CELA student received a free book.

"Last school year, each classroom had the story 'All Are Welcome' by the same author," said CELA Principal Meadow Nuyen. "We engaged students and families with lesson plans focused on inclusion. We will get to continue this critically important work with the help of Bookbug."

Annual Car Show Attracts Large Crowds

The seventh Annual Comstock High School Car Show attracted large numbers of participants and car enthusiasts. This year, there were 132 cars registered for the event with another 20 who showed up the day of the event, says Auto Tech teacher Matt Basse.

The car show began in 2015 as a Homecoming event created by Madison Gremore, Class of 2016. She is now the host and operator of the show.

A graduate of the University of Northwestern Ohio, she works for Andretti Autosport as a mechanic on one of their race teams.

"Madison has grown the event into a full show, with awards, food service, and many regular attendees," said Mr. Basse. "She uses donations and proceeds from the show to restore our 1986 Buick Regal Drag race car."



Comstock Elementary

CES Students Enjoy Apple Picking

After a storm took down a beloved apple tree at the elementary school this fall, second grade teacher Mike Grantham turned it into a positive experience for his students. He took the students apple picking.

“While the variety is not certain, they were ripe for the picking,” said Mr. Grantham. “The kids loved tasting them. Much of the fruit had been blown off the tree, but plenty of apples remained intact and within reach for most students to pick themselves.”

Instructional Coach Becomes Cartoon Character

Franklin Covey, a company focusing on developing leadership skills, has created a cartoon character modeled after CES Instructional Coach Shawn McMeehan. The character, named “Shaun McMeehan” will be seen nationally beginning this fall and will help promote various lessons included in the company’s Leader In Me Program.



Representative Matt Hall Donates Backpacks to Comstock

Michigan State Representative Matt Hall of District 63 donated 50 back-to-school backpacks for Comstock students.

The backpacks are made available through a collaboration between AT&T and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Students at the elementary school received the backpacks the first week of school.



CUSTODIANS, BUS DRIVERS, AND PARAPROFESSIONALS!
COMPETITIVE WAGES - FULL TIME - PART TIME - FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES
 Apply online at ComstockPS.org/hr

STEM Academy

STEM Academy Receives Grant

The STEM Academy has been awarded a \$9000 grant to provide professional development training for three teachers over the next two years.

The Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Grant will be used to restart the gateway (middle school) engineering classes at the STEM Academy. Three new teachers will be sent to PLTW training paid for with this grant over the next two years. This will allow the school to offer Engineering and Robotics again.

The following teachers will be receiving training:

- Kayleigh Schneider will be trained in Energy and the Environment.
- Danielle Tennant will be trained in Engineering and Robotics.
- Andrew Perkowski will be trained in Green Architecture.

Comstock Middle

CMS Enrollment Increases

Comstock Middle School Principal Mark Wilke reports that enrollment at CMS has increased from 265 students at the beginning of 2021-22 school year to 304 this year. And the enrollment is continuing to grow.

The ongoing improvements to the facilities and enhancements to the academic programming are clearly increasing interest in the school from the surrounding Comstock community

Staff Receive Service Awards

Board President Pamela Dickinson and Secretary Dori Scholly presented service awards to staff members during the staff breakfast at the beginning of the school year.

Receiving the awards were:
*Maria Standal - 35 years

- *Shawn McMeekan - 30 years
- *Shirley Gilland - 30 years
- *Beth Stachura - 25 years
- *Shirley Doorlag - 25 years
- *Jan Kiino - 25 years
- *Krissy Sieber - 25 years

District Buys Three Buses

The District recently purchased three new school buses which were paid for with cash without having to take out a loan. This approach to the purchase of the buses will result in substantial savings of thousands of dollars for the school community.

This was possible due to the budgetary planning and financial foresight of Finance Director Michelle Darnell.

The buses come with the new “red light” camera which video records the roads around the bus in case of an accident or other issue.




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Comstock Elementary

CES Receives Arts Grant

Comstock Elementary School has been awarded a \$14,000 grant to fund its Leading Education through the Arts and Discovery (LEAD) Project. The grant was awarded by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) based on a grant proposal submitted by the school. This is the fourth year the school has received the grant.

Last spring, Shawn McMeekan, the school's Aesthetic Education Coordinator, worked with the director of Education for the Art's Aesthetic Education program, Kevin Dodd, to submit the school's grant proposal.

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 that will prepare them to view and appreciate a quality work of art being presented in the community.

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

The K-2 students will be seeing Dan & Claudia Zanes' musical performance, the visual art exhibit "Blended Narratives: Works by EFA Teaching Artists," WMU Theatre's presentation "Rising Waters," and the KIA visual art exhibit "Art, Mu-

sic, Feminism, and the Mid-Century Quest for Change."

Students in grades 3-5 will be seeing the KIA's visual art exhibit "Tales Told Through Art," a performance by the dance company DanceWorks Chicago, WMU Theatre's presentation "Rising Waters," and "A Simple Space" performed by Australia's contemporary circus Gravity and Other Myths.

This activity is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Sports News

High School Fall Awards Banquet

The high school fall awards banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Middle School Fall Awards Banquet

The middle school fall awards banquet will be held on Wednesday, October 26, at 6 p.m. in the middle school gym.

Physicals

A reminder to all parents that it is an MHSAA requirement that each student athlete have a physical on file with the Athletic Department to be eligible to participate in athletics for Comstock. The physical has to be dated after April 15, 2022, to cover your son/daughter for the entire 2022-23 year. Please call Athletic Director Justin Ansel at 269-250-8711 if you have any questions.

Winter Sport Start Dates

- Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Boys Basketball – Monday, October 24
- High School Competitive Cheer – November 7
- High School Girls Basketball, High School Wrestling and High School Bowling – November 14.
- High School Boys Basketball – November 21
- Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Girls Basketball, Middle School Wrestling and Middle School Competitive Cheer – Tuesday, January 10 (Tentative).

Please call the Athletic Department with any questions.

High School Winter Sports Parent Meeting

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

Hall of Fame Induction

This is your last chance to nominate someone for the 2023 Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame. Please fill out the Hall of Fame nomination form on page 16. Return it to the Athletic Office by Thanksgiving. The Hall of Fame board will be meeting after Thanksgiving to decide on the 2023 Induction Class.




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COMPETITIVE WAGES - FULL TIME - PART TIME - FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

Apply online at ComstockPS.org/hr

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL Nomination

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

High School Attended _____ Year of Graduation _____

College Attended (If Applicable) _____ Year of Graduation _____

of Varsity Letters - Boys Sports

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

of Varsity Letters - Girls Sports

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



PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

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

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

Year _____ Sport _____ Coach _____

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

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

INDIVIDUAL or TEAM Nominated By:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Girls Varsity Golf

Mon 10/3 @ KVA Conference Tournament
RAIN DATE TBA

Boys Varsity Football

Fri 10/7 Centreville 7:00PM
Fri 10/14 @ Decatur High School 7:00PM
Fri 10/21 Lawton Community Schools 7:00PM

Girls & Boys Varsity Cross Country

Wed 10/5 @ SW 10 Cassopolis Jamboree 5:00PM
Sat 10/8 @ Allegan Invitational 9:00AM
Sat 10/15 @ Bloomingdale Invitational 10:00AM
Wed 10/19 @ SW 10 Marcellus Jamboree 5:00PM
Sat 10/22 @ Kalamazoo Christian Invitational 10:00AM

Boys Varsity Soccer

Mon 10/3 Olivet High School 6:00PM
Wed 10/5 @ Bloomingdale High School 6:30PM
Thu 10/6 @ Berrien Springs HS 6:30PM
Mon 10/10 Buchanan HS 5:00PM

Girls Varsity Volleyball

Sat 10/1 @ Bloomingdale TournAMent 9:00AM
Tue 10/4 @ Bangor Public Schools 7:00PM
Thu 10/6 Centreville 7:00PM
Sat 10/8 Comstock Varsity Invitational 9:00AM
Tue 10/11 @ Paw Paw High School 5:00PM
Tue 10/18 White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS 7:00PM
Sat 10/22 @ SW 10 Conference Tourney 9:00AM
Tue 10/25 @ Bangor Quad TBA

Girls Varsity Basketball

Fri 12/2 Parchment High School 7:30PM
Tue 12/6 Mendon HS 7:30PM
Fri 12/9 @ Decatur High School 7:00PM
Tue 12/13 @ White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS 7:30PM
Thu 12/15 @ Bloomingdale High School 7:00PM
Tue 12/20 Marcellus High School 7:30PM
Thu 12/22 @ Lawrence Jr/Sr HS 7:30PM
Tue 1/10 @ Mendon HS 7:30PM
Thu 1/12 Hartford Public Schools 7:30PM
Tue 1/17 @ Cassopolis High School 7:30PM
Thu 1/19 Bangor Public Schools 7:00PM
Tue 1/24 @ Colon High School 7:30PM
Thu 1/26 Decatur High School 7:00PM
Tue 1/31 Bloomingdale High School 7:00PM
Fri 2/3 Lawrence Jr/Sr HS 7:30PM
Tue 2/7 Centreville 7:30PM
Thu 2/9 @ Hartford Public Schools 7:30PM
Mon 2/13 Fennville High School 7:00PM
Tue 2/14 @ Allegan Public Schools 7:00PM
Fri 2/17 @ Bangor Public Schools 7:00PM
Tue 2/21 Maple Valley High School 7:00PM
Thu 2/23 SW10 Crossover at North 7:30PM

Boys Varsity Basketball

Tue 12/6 @ Parchment High School 7:30PM
Thu 12/8 Dowagiac High School 7:00PM
Tue 12/13 White Pigeon Jr/Sr HS 7:30PM
Fri 12/16 Bloomingdale High School 7:00PM
Tue 12/20 @ Marcellus High School 7:30PM
Thu 12/22 Lawrence Jr/Sr HS 7:30PM
Tue 1/10 Mendon HS 7:30PM
Fri 1/13 @ Hartford Public Schools 7:30PM
Tue 1/17 Cassopolis High School 7:30PM

Fri 1/20 @ Bangor Public Schools 7:00PM
Fri 1/27 @ Decatur High School 7:00PM
Mon 1/30 Pennfield High School 7:30PM
Tue 1/31 @ Bloomingdale High School 7:00PM
Thu 2/2 @ Lawrence Jr/Sr HS 7:30PM
Tue 2/7 @ Centreville 7:30PM
Fri 2/10 Hartford Public Schools 7:30PM
Tue 2/14 Allegan Public Schools 7:00PM
Thu 2/16 Bangor Public Schools 7:00PM
Tue 2/21 @ Maple Valley High School 7:00PM
Fri 2/24 @ Mendon HS 7:30PM
Tue 2/28 Decatur High School 7:00PM
Thu 3/2 @ SW10 Crossover at South 7:30PM

Boys Varsity Wrestling

Wed 12/7 Comstock Quad 6:00PM
Sat 12/10 @ Bangor Team Tourney 10:00AM
Wed 12/14 @ Buchanan Quad 6:00PM
Sat 12/17 @ Gull Lake Invitational TBA
Wed 12/21 @ SW10 Bangor Quad
vs Bangor & Bloomingdale 6:00PM
Wed 12/28 Comstock V Individual Tournament 9:30AM
Sat 1/7 Comstock V Team Tournament 9:00AM
Wed 1/11 SW10 Comstock Quad
vs Marcellus & Mendon 6:00PM
Wed 1/18 @ SW10 Hartford Tri
vs Hartford & Lawrence 6:00PM
Fri 1/20 Comstock V Individual Tournament 4:00PM
Wed 1/25 SW10 Comstock Quad
vs Decatur & Cassopolis 6:00PM
Sat 1/28 @ Buchanan Super Dual 9:00AM
Wed 2/1 @ SW10 White Pigeon Quad
vs White Pigeon & Centreville 6:00PM
Sat 2/4 SW10 Conference Meet @ Bangor 9:00AM



Comstock Township Library News

Library Event Highlights

Buck-a-Bag Book Sale

October 10 – October 22, 2022

Fill a bag of books for \$1! Bring your own bag or use one of ours. Sale goes from Monday, October 10 through Saturday, October 22. There is a \$2 service fee for paying with a debit or credit card. Sale will take place on the main floor of the library and in our book sale room on the lower level. We currently have adult fiction and nonfiction, children's fiction and nonfiction, audiobooks and more. We also have video games and DVDs; however, these are NOT included in the dollar bag sale. The book sale room is open Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-7:45 p.m.; Friday from 9:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Adult Murder Mystery Game

Registration begins October 3, 2022.

Program will be held after-hours on October 21, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. Join us for a costumed evening of crime solving! Registration is required because all participants will be getting their character information ahead of the game. Themed refreshments will be served. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

October Adult Book Club Registration began September 26, 2022. Book Club will meet on October 27, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of the horror novel, *We Can Never Leave This Place* by Eric LaRocca.

November Adult Book Club

Registration begins October 24, 2022. Book Club will meet on November 30, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of *Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram. This teen novel explores themes of multiculturalism, mental health, family, and friendship. Free copies of each book will be given to participants while supplies last. Light refreshments will be served. Please visit the library's website or call us at 269-345-0136 to reserve your spot. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

After-Hours Teen Halloween Party

Registration begins October 9, 2022.

Program will be held after hours on October 28, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Dress up in your Halloween costume and brave the library after hours! Pizza, candy, and spookyscares will be provided. This is an after-hours event which requires a signed parental/guardian form which you can pick up at the library. Space is limited and registration is required. This event is for students in grades eight through twelve. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Scrabble Tournament

Registration begins October 24, 2022.

Program will be held on November 5, 2022, at 11 a.m. Are you a Scrabble fan? The library will be hosting a two-round Scrabble tournament with prizes for the three highest scoring players. The tournament is open to ages 13 and up. Registration is required for this event and begins October 24 on our website or by calling 269-345-0136. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Tea 101

Registration begins October 24, 2022.

Program will be held on November 9, 2022, at 6 p.m. Polly Kragt, from Chocolatea, will be sharing her tea wisdom with us. We will talk about all things tea and even have some samples. What's better than a cup of tea and a good book? Knowing how to make the perfect cup of tea and a good book! Registration is required for this event and begins October 24 on our website or by calling 269-345-0136. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Holiday Portrait Sessions

Registration begins October 31, 2022.

Program will be held on November 18, 2022, at 4 p.m. Looking for someone to take your family (or individual) photos for the holidays? We'll have a professional photographer booked to take your portrait. Photo sessions will all take place inside the library with a winter background. You may also have the choice of getting your portrait taken with Santa Claus. Each family or individual will sign up for one 15-minute time slot, and will have three professionally edited photos emailed to them after the session. Additional images may be purchased. Please arrive 10 minutes early for your time slot. Patrons who are late will not be guaranteed a spot and may

Contact us: 269-345-0136

info@comstocklibrary.org

www.comstocklibrary.org

lose their reservation. Registration is required for this event and begins October 31 by calling 269-345-0136. Valid Comstock Township Library card required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card, but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.

Library Services Sign up for our eNewsletter and stay current on all the latest library news and events.

Do you need help with homework? ACT or SAT? GED testing? Grad school testing? Interviews? Please visit our new service from the Princeton Review, "Tutor.com." This service is free for Comstock Township Library patrons.

Download free audiobooks, eBooks, music, and videos at home through our digital services, Hoopla and Libby. Visit the *Digital Materials* page on our website for a full list of available electronic services.

We have photocopy and mobile print services available for a small fee. Fax and scanning services are always available for free.

Need a Library Card? A Comstock Township Library card gives you access to books, movies, music, digital materials, and much more! If you're a resident, property owner, or work in Comstock Township, you're eligible to get a card of your own. Residents of surrounding communities may also qualify for a free card; please contact the library with any questions you may have about library card eligibility.

Comstock Library is Fine Free The library does not charge fines for overdue materials with the exception of mobile hotspots and Playaway Launchpads. If you have long-overdue library items, you can now bring them back without penalty.

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.

UPCOMING CLOSURES:

November 11 and 24 – Closed all day

November 23 – early closure at 5 p.m.