

The Comstock Communicator

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



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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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,

We all want the best for our students and one way to achieve this outcome is to develop and maintain open lines of communication. To do so, requires that we take the time to listen to each other.

When we sincerely and truly listen to people who may have different experiences, feelings, and perspectives than our own, we open up opportunities and provide for new possibilities. Our ability to express our perspectives with clarity and civility is equally important.

Because of a lifetime of experiences as a classroom teacher, Peace Corps volunteer, public school administrator, and now as a superintendent, I heartily value open dialogue.

My goal is to promote honest and clear communication on a daily basis, and it begins with listening. I believe this core value is a foundational, key component toward building a unified community.

Whether a parent, community member, student, educator, or staff member, we are part of a community—our Comstock Public Schools community. As we strive to understand “the other side,” we learn to empathize and appreciate other perspectives that may inform and enhance our own.

Open communication and respectful dialogue lead to a better community. It isn’t easy, but it’s worth the effort and pays great dividends.

And lastly, allow a moment of grace for yourself and others when we fail, misstep, or come up short. Remember, we’re all on the same side—and we all want the best for our CPS students.

Thanks for listening!

Dr. Jeff Thoenes
Superintendent

The Importance of Listening

Communication is the most important skill in life. We spend most of our waking hours communicating. But consider this: You’ve spent years learning how to read and write, years learning how to speak. But what about listening? What training or education have you had that enables you to listen so that you really, deeply understand another human being from that individual’s own frame of reference?

Stephen R. Covey, educator and author

When you take the time to actually listen with humility to what people have to say, it’s amazing what you can learn, especially if the people who are doing the talking also happen to be children.

Greg Mortenson, co-founder of the educational charity, Pennies for Peace.

Democracy is interactive ... It’s a constant job of information, education, explanation, listening, and interactive communication.

Dick Gephardt, attorney, lobbyist, politician



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

Superintendent Speaks to Retiree Group

Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Comstock superintendent, recently spoke to about 100 members of the Kalamazoo Association of Retired School Personnel (KARSP).

He gave an overview of the Comstock District and the recent upgrades, renovations, and modernization of the District's facilities and infrastructure.

KARSP, whose membership is open to any former educator or school employee, hosts meetings nine times a year at the Fountains Event Center in Parchment.

District Has New Flag



District Communications Specialist Jason Hall has designed a District flag that is now on display in all of the buildings and the District's three gymnasiums.

The idea for the flag came when Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes had a conversation with Roland Saleh, owner of Two Fellas Grill on Gull Road. Mr. Saleh wanted to buy a District flag but there weren't any since the District hasn't had a flag in a long time.

So Jason Hall was asked to create a flag. When the flags arrived, Dr. Thoenes delivered one to Mr. Saleh. The new flag is now displayed on the wall of the Two Fellas Grill.

Security Camera Installation Complete

Knight's Watch Security Company recently completed installation of the District's new security camera system. This project will greatly enhance and modernize the District's ability to ensure safety in and around the buildings. The project was funded with monies from the 2016 bond.

What Dr. Thoenes is Reading

Sicily '43: The First Assault on Fortress Europe
James Holland (2020)

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

Instructional Rounds in Education: A Network Approach to Improving Teaching and Learning
Elizabeth A. City, Richard F. Elmore, Sarah E. Fiarman, and Lee Teitel (2009)



Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

October 24, 2022

- Accepted resignation of Bill Taylor - Math teacher, CHS
- Approved hiring:
 - Tamara Horobik - GSRP Teacher, CELA
 - Lindsay Meekhof - Speech & Language Pathologist, CELA
 - Danielle Whitaker - Functional Teacher, CES
- Approved the pre-purchase of roofing materials for CHS

REGULAR MEETING

November 14, 2022

- Recognized Students of the Month
 - Georgia VanMantgem (CELA Student, GSRP Pre-K)
 - Marley Theis (Elementary, Fourth Grade)
 - Saide Murillo (STEM Academy, Sixth Grade)
 - Alexa Carlton (Middle School, Seventh Grade)
 - Isabel Hardwick (High School, Tenth Grade)
 - Mathew Warren (Compass, Twelfth Grade)
 - Kassidee Cole (Virtual Academy, Tenth Grade)
- Recognized Staff of the Month
 - Lisa Watson, Administrative Assistant to the Principal, CES
- Approved resignation of Kala Law, Assistant Principal, CES
- Approved retirement of Patty Anderson,

Speech & Language Pathologist

- Approved hiring:
 - Josiah Bildner - Speech & Language Pathologist
 - Madeline Hough - Speech & Language Pathologist
- Approved the landscaping and snow removal bid from CD Lawn Maintenance & Supply
- Approved purchase of a food service truck
- Approved the recommended amendment to the Board Governance and Guidelines

REGULAR MEETING

December 12, 2022

- Recognized Students of the Month
 - Kenna Asiala (CELA Student, GSRP Pre-K)
 - Aleiyah Sinkler (Elementary, Third Grade)
 - Jackie Nussbaum (STEM Academy, Fourth Grade)
 - Elijah Patterson (Middle School, Eighth Grade)
 - Amarion White (High School, Twelfth Grade)
 - Eli Lambert (Compass, Twelfth Grade)
 - Mia Swinton (Virtual Academy, Twelfth Grade)
- Recognized Staff of the Month
 - Stanley Williams (Special Education Resource Teacher, CMS)
- Accepted resignation of Stephanie Johnson, School Psychologist
- Moved into closed session to discuss the Superintendent's quarterly evaluation.

Facilities Renovation and Construction Update

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Here are the latest updates on our renovations and construction projects which have been funded by the community through the passage of the 2016 and 2022 bonds, the 2019 sinking fund combined with federal funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

Comstock Elementary School

In December, the Board reviewed and unanimously approved the design for the outdoor environmental classroom at Comstock Elementary School (CES). Construction of the facility will take place this summer of 2023 with an estimated cost of \$125,000. The District is using monies left over from the major renovations at CES completed in August, 2022, to finance the project.

Comstock Middle School

At Comstock Middle School, Phase 1 of the three-phase renovation begun this past summer is now complete. Over winter break, workers installed new cabinetry and sinks in the six Phase 1 rooms so these instructional spaces now have a modernized and stylish appearance. Additionally, a painting crew finished painting the Phase 1 hallways. Due to a lack of time in August, some sections of these brick hallways had remained unpainted. To ensure a consistent and fresh look throughout the Phase 1 areas, the crew returned and finished the job. The District is financing the work using a combination of federal ESSER monies and sinking funds.

Note - 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.

Comstock High School Hamet Athletic Complex

Since the work on the Hamet Athletic Complex's new gated entrance, ticket booth, patio area, and restroom facility is now complete, the District will begin the second of two phases to rebuild its athletic facilities.

Beginning this spring, crews will tear out the

old and dilapidated track and replace it with modern materials. The project, funded by 2022 bond funds, also includes upgrades and improvements to the long jump, high jump, and pole vault field event areas as well as the shot put and discus rings. Crews will also convert the building housing the old bathrooms into a team meeting and athletic equipment room enhancing the overall usability of the facility.

Additional Future Projects at Comstock High School

In addition to work at the Hamet Athletic Complex, the District will initiate critically important renovations at Comstock High School. The work is estimated to take approximately 24 months and will result in much needed modernization of the school.

1. Roof repair and replacement - This spring, crews will begin repairing and replacing the school's roof. The estimated cost is \$1.5M and should be completed sometime in the fall of the 2023-24 school year. The work is financed by 2022 bond funds.

2. HVAC Renovations - Using a combination of 2022 bond funds and ESSER funds, the District will begin interior renovations to install modernized heating and cooling systems. This work will take approximately one year to complete.

3. Interior Renovations - Finally, in September, 2023, the District will begin phased renovations to the interior of Comstock High School. In similar fashion to the process used at Comstock Elementary School, sections of the building under construction will be walled off and accessible only to construction workers and architects. Students and staff will not be able to access these areas. The renovations will include, but not be limited to, new flooring, lighting, windows, and doors; ongoing installation of HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems; renovations to the woodshop classroom; upgrades to science classrooms; and the redesigning of the band room.

STEM Academy

In the spring of this school year, a STEM Academy design team will begin visiting other similar school buildings in southwest Michigan to gather ideas and information about potential designs or features for a modern school building. Design

meetings and discussions will follow beginning in the summer and concluding by late fall 2023. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024 and will 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, Miller Davis Construction Management, and AE Technology. Without the combined efforts and synergy of these groups, none of this would be possible.



Authentic Lozi Drums from Zambia Donated to Music Program

Former Board Treasurer Paul Lamphear has donated three Lozi drums to the District's music program. These drums were handmade by individual craftsmen in a small village in north-central Zambia.

The skins of the drums are from the Kudu which is similar to an American deer. The bodies of the drums are both carved and burnt out. These drums are used for ceremonies and dances, but are normally used to accompany singers.

Paul Lamphear and Sandra Lealofi originally purchased these percussion instruments to support local village economies while working with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Zambia in 2005.

CPS Awarded Michigan Education Grant

The Michigan Department of Education recently awarded the District a grant exceeding \$30,000. The funding is an Additional Instructional Time and Interventions Grant and has been authorized by Section 35a(5) of the State School Aid Act, P.A. 144 of 2022.

The money will assist Comstock with the cost of additional instructional time for students in grades Pre-K to 3 who have been identified as needing additional supports and interventions so that they can be reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel and Finance Director Michelle Darnell worked to secure this financial support.

CHS Grad Coaches in NCAA Soccer Tournament



Nick Carlin-Voigt, CHS Class of 2000, has made a career of coaching soccer teams, most recently coaching at the University of Portland where the team advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament last fall.

After graduating from CHS, Nick was a goalkeeper at Kalamazoo College, where he was two-time captain and a four-year starter. He then had coaching positions at Kalamazoo College, WMU, Wisconsin, George Mason University, and UCLA before being named head coach at Portland in 2016. He was inducted into the Comstock Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

In November's tournament, WMU lost 1-0 to the University of Portland. But, Portland's run in the NCAA tournament ended with a loss to Pittsburgh.

Board, Cabinet Sponsor Gifts for Local Family



Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Ashley LaVanWay and Communications Specialist Jason Hall wrap the gifts in the Boardroom.

The Board of Education and Colt Cabinet collected more than \$600 to purchase gifts for a local family. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Ashley LaVanWay headed up the effort.

After the Colt Cabinet selected the family, Mrs. LaVanWay personalized a gift list based on the wishes of each child. Then, she went shopping and wrapped each present with the assistance of Communications Specialist Jason Hall.

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes delivered eight gift bundles, one for each child, to the families on Thursday afternoon, December 22, just before the blizzard blew in.

CPS Renews Loaves and Fishes Partnership

The Board of Education recently approved a one-year renewal of its partnership with Loaves and Fishes, a local charity that focuses on feeding the hungry in Kalamazoo.

Through the efforts of Comstock Virtual Academy Instructor Todd Ide, CPS and Loaves and Fishes forged this relationship about three years ago, just before the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Given its visible and convenient location at 26th and H Avenue, Comstock Middle School has served as a hub for Loaves and Fishes' "Monthly Mobile Food Distribution" program.

On the second Tuesday of each month, families simply enter the bus loop in their cars, receive the food, and then drive home. Loaves and Fishes makes the distribution easy, fast, and convenient.

For more information about Loaves and Fishes, to find dates and locations to receive food, or to donate to this worthy organization, see the graphics on pages 6 and 7, or go to their website at kzoolf.org.

MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

JANUARY – JUNE 2023

- ⊗ No income verification, ID, or appointment required.
- ⊗ 5–7 supplemental grocery items for each household.
- ⊗ You can visit any/all of these distributions. They do not count toward your monthly pantry visits.

GALESBURG	KALAMAZOO	PORTAGE
Galesburg United Methodist Church 111 W Battle Creek Street 2:00–3:30 PM	Sunnyside United Methodist Church 2800 Gull Road Noon–1:00 PM	Chapel Hill United Methodist Church 7028 Oakland Drive 1:00–2:00 PM
January 5 & 19	January 7 & 21	January 10 & 24
February 2 & 16	February 4 & 18	February 14 & 28
March 2 & 16	March 4 & 18	March 14 & 28
April 6 & 20	April 1 & 15	April 11 & 25
May 4 & 18	May 6 & 20	May 9 & 23
June 1 & 15	June 3 & 17	June 13 & 27
COMSTOCK	KALAMAZOO	KALAMAZOO
Comstock Middle School 3100 N 26th Street 4:00–5:30 PM	Saint Andrew Community Church 3631 Covington Road 7:30–9:00 AM	Douglass Community Association 1000 W Paterson Street Noon–1:00 PM
January 10	January 14	January 18
February 14	February 11	February 15
March 14	March 11	March 15
April 11	April 8	April 19
May 9	May 13	May 17
June 13	June 10	June 21
VICKSBURG	KALAMAZOO	KALAMAZOO
Vicksburg United Methodist Church 217 S Main Street 8:00–9:00 AM	The Salvation Army 1700 S Burdick Street 1:00–2:00 PM	Centerpoint Church 2345 N 10th Street 8:00–9:30 AM
January 21	January 25	January 28
February 18	February 22	February 25
March 18	March 22	March 25
April 15	April 26	April 22
May 20	May 24	May 20
June 17	June 28	June 24



DID YOU KNOW?

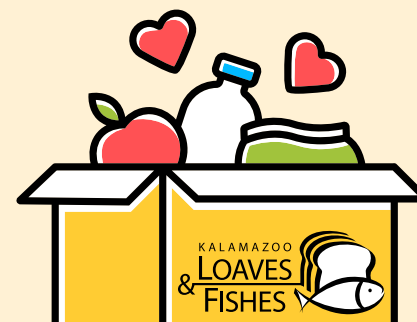
In addition to Mobile Food Distributions, you can receive groceries up to twice per month through KLF's **Grocery Pantry Program.**

- ⊗ No income verification or IDs required.
- ⊗ Non-perishable food as well as fresh produce, meat, dairy, bread, and eggs.
- ⊗ Food orders built to household size.
- ⊗ If you have special dietary needs, let us know—we'll do our best to accommodate.
- ⊗ Curbside pick-up, home delivery, and in-person shopping available, depending on location.

TO SCHEDULE A PICK-UP OR DELIVERY, CALL 269-343-3663 MONDAY – FRIDAY, 9 AM – 4 PM

If you are unable to call or reach us during these times, email info@kzoolf.org or message us on Facebook.

NEED FOOD LINE: 269-343-3663
901 PORTAGE STREET, KALAMAZOO
KZOLF.ORG



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

DISTRIBUCIONES MOVILES DE ALIMENTOS

ENERO – JUNIO 2023

- ⊗ No se requiere verificación de ingresos, ID ni cita.
- ⊗ 5-7 artículos de comestibles suplementarios para cada hogar.
- ⊗ Puede visitar cualquier/todas la distribuciones. No cuentan para sus visitas mensuales de despensa.

GALESBURG	KALAMAZOO	PORTAGE
Galesburg United Methodist Church 111 W Battle Creek Street 2:00–3:30 PM	Sunnyside United Methodist Church 2800 Gull Road Noon–1:00 PM	Chapel Hill United Methodist Church 7028 Oakland Drive 1:00–2:00 PM
Enero 5 & 19	Enero 7 & 21	Enero 10 & 24
Febrero 2 & 16	Febrero 4 & 18	Febrero 14 & 28
Marzo 2 & 16	Marzo 4 & 18	Marzo 14 & 28
Abril 6 & 20	Abril 1 & 15	Abril 11 & 25
Mayo 4 & 18	Mayo 6 & 20	Mayo 9 & 23
Junio 1 & 15	Junio 3 & 17	Junio 13 & 27
COMSTOCK	KALAMAZOO	KALAMAZOO
Comstock Middle School 3100 N 26th Street 4:00–5:30 PM	Saint Andrew Community Church 3631 Covington Road 7:30–9:00 AM	Douglass Community Association 1000 W Paterson Street Noon–1:00 PM
Enero 10	Enero 14	Enero 18
Febrero 14	Febrero 11	Febrero 15
Marzo 14	Marzo 11	Marzo 15
Abril 11	Abril 8	Abril 19
Mayo 9	Mayo 13	Mayo 17
Junio 13	Junio 10	Junio 21
VICKSBURG	KALAMAZOO	KALAMAZOO
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Enero 21	Enero 25	Enero 28
Febrero 18	Febrero 22	Febrero 25
Marzo 18	Marzo 22	Marzo 25
Abril 15	Abril 26	Abril 22
Mayo 20	Mayo 24	Mayo 20
Junio 17	Junio 28	Junio 24



SABIAS QUE?

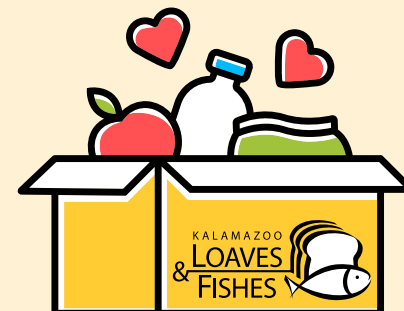
Ademas de la distribucion movil de alimentos, puede recibir alimentos hasta dos veces al mes a traves del **PROGRAMA DE DESPENSA DE COMESTIBLES** de KLF.

- ⊗ No se requiere identificación para utilizar este servicio.
- ⊗ Alimentos no perecederos, asi como productos frescos, carne, lacteos, pan y huevos.
- ⊗ Ordenes de comida construidas a tamaño domestico.
- ⊗ Si tiene necesidades dieteticas especiales, haganoslo saber. Haremos todo lo posible para acomodarnos.
- ⊗ Entrega a domicilio y compras en persona, dependiendo de la ubicacion.

PARA PROGRAMAR UNA RECOGIDA O ENTREGA, LLAME 269-343-3663 LUNES – VIERNES 9 AM – 4 PM

Si es incapaz de llamar o alcanzarnos durante estos tiempos, corero electronico info@kzoolf.org o mensaje nosotros en facebook.

**NECESITA LINEA DE ALIMENTOS:
269-343-3663
901 PORTAGE STREET, KALAMAZOO
KZOOLF.ORG**



ESTA INSTITUCIÓN ES UN PROVEEDOR DE IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES.

Welcome, New Staff Members



Josiah Bildner, Speech Language Pathologist

Actor, voice over specialist, author, and speech language pathologist all describe Josiah Bildner who is the speech language pathologist at the middle school, high school, Compass High School, the Virtual Academy and the STEM Academy.

Born in Grand Rapids but raised in Iowa, he graduated from Decorah High School in Decorah, Iowa. He then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history at the University of Northern Iowa.

After volunteering with Communities in Schools at Northeastern Elementary in Kalamazoo where he enjoyed working with the students, he decided to get a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology at Western Michigan University.

For 17 years, he was a speech therapist in various schools in the Kalamazoo Public Schools, working with students from pre-K through the twelfth grade.

Of his career in education, he said, “I enjoy seeing the progress students make, collaborating with fellow educators, and interacting creatively with the students on my caseload.”

But balancing meetings, paperwork and therapy time is a difficult part of the job.

“It is also difficult to come up with creative therapy ideas,” he said. “Comstock is great in that they make it easier for speech language pathologists to balance all these things with a reasonable caseload and fantastic support.”

Outside of work, he and his children participate in Center Stage Theater, frequently performing at the Comstock Auditorium. They also act in shows at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre and other community theaters.

He is also a voice over actor and the author of the novel, *Elijah’s Magical*

Journey: The Story of Elijah Foreman. Drawing, playing the guitar, and singing help fill up his free time.

His wife, Karen, is a reading specialist at the Montessori School on Howard Street. They have two children: Caleb, 16, who attends Hackett Catholic Prep High School, and Johannah, 9, who attends St. Augustine Elementary School.



Madeline Hough, Speech Language Pathologist

Madeline Hough always wanted to work with children, but she didn’t want to be a classroom teacher, so she chose to become a speech language pathologist which is her job this year at Comstock.

A graduate of Gull Lake High School, she graduated from Western Michigan University and then pursued a master’s degree at Grand Valley State University, graduating in 2022.

“I love to add positivity to a child’s day,” she said of her decision to go into education.

Helping her along the way was Julia Kaemming, principal at Parchment Central Elementary School.

“She has been a boss and a long time friend,” said Miss Hough. “She has provided me with many opportunities and experiences that have shaped me as a clinician today.”

Miss Hough enjoys reading murder mysteries and watching true crime television shows.

Spending time with her family is also a priority. Her mother is an X-ray technician at Bronson Hospital and her father is a mechanical supervisor at Prairie Farms.

“My brother recently moved to Chicago so I love to take time to visit him as well,” she said.

2022-23 Comstock Public Schools Calendar

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 Implements Digital Hall Passes

CHS has implemented the Digital SmartPass System for hall passes during the school day. Students receive two SmartPasses a day and are able to use them within parameters set by the administration.

There are exceptions for students with medical needs, disabilities or emergencies, but the majority of CHS students will have two passes.

Importantly, the Digital SmartPass System allows the administration to manage the number of students out of class at any given time and limits the areas where they may go. If the maximum number of students in a specific area is reached, students requesting access to that area are put on a virtual waiting list and notified on their Chromebooks when a pass is available.

Having data to support educational decisions is valuable in today's educational setting.

The Digital SmartPass System keeps a comprehensive record of each student's time away from class.

Parents and guardians are able to view when their students are using a pass and where they go. The data can be viewed at smartpass.app/support/parent-accounts.

Being in class is important to a student's academic success, and research shows that students perform better when they attend class on a regular basis. Students should use their Digital Hall Passes only when needed so they do not miss out on valuable instructional time.

CHS Receives \$1,000 United Way Grant

Comstock High School recently received a \$1,000 grant from the local United Way. The money will be used to recognize and incentivize students to attend school every day and be on time to every class every day.

Research shows that students perform better in school when they have good attendance. These monies will be part of the CHS Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program and all students will be eligible to benefit from this grant.

During each marking period of the 2022-23

school year, students who have perfect attendance and all students who have zero tardies will be recognized. Those students who have multiple marking periods of this excellent behavior will be eligible for bigger incentives.

The grant will help pay for the individual incentives to recognize these students. Examples of incentives include pizza parties, ice cream floats, Gatorade, treats, school supplies, gift cards, and more.

MANN+HUMMEL's Mentor Program Returns

MANN+HUMMEL, a manufacturer of liquid and air filter systems, is once again offering its mentoring program. This program allows CHS and CVA seniors to attend bi-monthly internship sessions where they explore the different departments within the organization, gain employment skills and knowledge from MANN+HUMMEL employees, and get paid while doing it.

Students who successfully complete the program and graduate in the spring are offered immediate

employment starting at \$15.50 an hour. Once the students log 400 hours, they are officially hired in with a pay bump, full health benefits, 401K, paid time off/holidays, in-house promotions, and ample overtime opportunities.

Additionally, MANN+HUMMEL has created two apprenticeship routes (Maintenances & Tooling and Process Technicians) that are available options for our students.

CHS Hosts Wrestling Tournament

The CHS wrestling team recently hosted its annual Horseshoe Classic Holiday Wrestling Tournament featuring 16 teams from high schools in Southwest Michigan.

Two Comstock wrestlers placed in the event. Stanley Young took third place and Jaylen Claxton took fifth place in their respective weight classes.

Clara Robinson made and sold commemorative T-shirts for the competitors as a fundraiser which was a big success.

"It was a great day for wrestling, and many of the visiting coaches and fans complimented our Colt support team regarding how well organized and smoothly run the tournament was," said Travis Myrkle, coach.



Township Library to Donate Books to Stock Little Libraries

The Comstock Township Library (CTL) Youth Librarian Liz Castleberry has arranged for the library to routinely donate books to the District to keep the Little Libraries freshly stocked with high-interest reading materials for students.

Recently, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thoenes visited the donation room at the CTL and loaded his car full of books. He then delivered the books to the District's six Little Libraries so students can select and make the books their own.

Comstock High School

CHS Hosts EFA Dance Recital



Comstock Community Auditorium hosted the annual Education for the Arts (EFA) Winter Dance Recital. Performing in the show were Valeria Burr, Litzy Ramirez, Zamaiyah Williams, with instructor Shantese Robinson, along with Damarion McCone and Frankie Lopez, Jr.

Comstock Community Auditorium Events

FEBRUARY:

4 - Comstock Athletics Father/ Daughter Dance: 7 p.m. Colt Center.
Tickets: 269-250-8712.

8 - Compass High School Graduation: 6 p.m.; Rehearsal at 5 p.m.

11 - Run Kalamazoo: Colt Center. 7-11:30 a.m.

18 - Traci Phelps Dance Studios Competition Showcase: 2-3:30 p.m.
Call Studio for details.

24-26 - Center Stage Theater - *Something Rotten*: 24th: 7 p.m.;
25th: 2 & 7 p.m.; 26th: 2 p.m. Tickets available online at:
kzoocst.com

MARCH:

9-11 - Kalamazoo Christian High School Musical: *The Music Man*: 7 p.m. each night. Matinee at 2 p.m. on the 12th. Tickets: Call Kalamazoo Christian High School at 269-381-2250. Tickets also available online.

13 - Comstock Eighth Grade/ Freshmen Parent Meeting: 6 p.m.

24-25 - Heritage Christian Academy Musical: *Wizard of Oz*: 7 p.m. each night. Matinee also on the 25th at 1 p.m. Call the school for tickets: 269-372-1400. Tickets available online at: www.hcaeagles.org

Comstock Middle

CMS Hosts First Door Decorating Contest



This door, designed by Mr. Trayer's class, won the door decorating contest. The three-dimensional design featured a house, Santa and his reindeer, a tree, presents, ornaments, and "Comstockings" hung with care.

Winning the first-ever Door Decorating Contest at the Middle School was Ryan Trayer's class. Mr. Trayer's class won the contest with a three-dimensional house design which featured a house, Santa and his reindeer, a tree, presents, ornaments, and "Comstockings" hung with care.

Runners up were Spanish teacher Stacy Nieto, ELA teacher Mike Thiel, and math teacher Cathy Street.

The winning class received a pizza party, while the other classes all received doughnuts. Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel served as the judge.

This contest was the brainchild of paraprofessional Shryl Daniel and Billie Malamas. Students in their fifth-hour classes participated in the contest.

Comstock Middle

CMS Receives Target Donations

Target recently donated items for the CMS school store. Among the new items were a light-up scooter, bath bombs, craft projects, LEGO sets, board games and chocolate.

The donation was arranged by Parent Liaison Stephanie Brown.

The school store, run by Social Worker Amanda Clapper, gives students a chance to spend Colt Cash that they have earned for positive behavior.

Comstock Elementary

CES Students “Shop with a Cop!”



CES students Brian Bowden and Adin Skinner were chosen to enjoy lunch and a shopping trip with State Trooper Lagattuta for the “Shop with a Cop” initiative.

Two CES students, Brian Bowden and Adin Skinner, enjoyed lunch and a shopping trip with State Trooper Lagattuta for the “Shop with a Cop” initiative. The excitement that these two boys displayed before, during, and after was truly priceless.

The purpose of the nationwide Shop with a Cop program is to foster positive relationships between youth and officers. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade are selected each year during the holiday season to shop at a local store to purchase gifts for members of their immediate families.

Comstock Elementary

Students Raise Money for Books



Kathryn Tefft-Grimm's kindergarten class enjoy the books they earned from the Coin Drive.

Through a Coin Drive and a Book Fair last fall, CES students raised money for their classroom libraries and for the school library.

The week before the Book Fair, students brought in coins, raising over \$800 for their classroom libraries. Miss Jenna Lyddon's class was the grand winner bringing in over \$200 in coins.

Each teacher had at least \$5 to spend at the Book Fair which took place during conferences.

Families went book shopping while at conferences where Mrs. Dori Scholly, school board member and retired teacher, helped out at the

cash register.

Over 500 books were purchased during the Fair earning over \$2000 in Scholastic Dollars which can be used to purchase books from Scholastic for the school library.

“It was a great work of synergy as students came together to raise money and then discussed what kind of books they would like added to their classroom libraries,” said Miss Emmy Kimmer, librarian.

Another Book Fair will be held in March.

Little Libraries Are Popular

The District's Little Libraries are proving to be quite popular. These wooden boxes are filled with free books for students to take home to read.

Some of the boxes were built by students in the high school's woodshop program. The boxes have glass doors and are mounted on a post near the front entrance of each school so they are readily

visible and accessible to students.

CES Intervention Specialist Cyndie Moore said, “Our kids love the Little Library. They are in it every day taking out books!”

If people in the community have books they'd like to donate, please drop them off at the main office in any of our school buildings.

Comstock Elementary

Parents Provide Holiday Treats

Parent volunteers provided treats and gifts to every Comstock Elementary student and staff before Christmas break. The treats included snowman soup, cookies, and a cart full of gifts to choose from. The treats and gifts created smiles and joy for the students.

Staff members also received gifts.



Mrs Tefft-Grimm's kindergarten class with their snowman soup mixes.

CES Students Find Win-Win Solutions

Having read *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague, students in Cathy Buscher's kindergarten class discussed the importance of rules and how to find win-win ideas that help everyone have fun learning.

Then, the students wrote rules that they thought were important. They came up with ideas like "I can play safe" and "I can be kind." They also talked about listening, being nice, and helping others.

The book begins with questions getting children

to think about the what ifs of dinosaurs attending school. The questions which deal with inappropriate behaviors are answered with a No! Then, the dinosaurs are shown doing the right thing in school helping children see how they should act in school.

With a rhyming text and colorful illustrations, the book shows dinosaurs in all their silliness while helping children learn about following rules and helping others.

STEM Academy

STEM Principal Receives Award

STEM Academy Principal Chris Chopp received the 2022 Regional Honors Award from the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA).

The award was presented to him at the group's annual conference during the Leadership Awards Banquet at Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan.

Of the awards, the Association's Executive Director Paul Liabenow said, "Each year the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association recognizes principals from our regional principal networks for their dedicated contributions to their local school communities as well as their demonstrated commitment to their professional association colleagues."



STEM Academy Principal Chris Chopp with his wife, Amy, and children, Cole and Evelyn at the MEMSPA Leadership Awards Banquet.

CES Concerts

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Young 5s through second grade will perform a 30-minute concert at the Comstock Community Auditorium. We will have transportation to the auditorium for a dress rehearsal that morning.

WHERE:

Comstock Community Auditorium

WHEN:

03/01/2023, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Third through fifth grade students will perform a 30-minute concert at the Comstock Community Auditorium.

WHERE:

Comstock Community Auditorium

WHEN:

05/25/2023, 6:30 p.m.

STEM Academy Honors Veterans

Second graders at the STEM Academy once again honored veterans for Veterans Day. Students shared songs and artwork with parents and other guests, including 12 veterans.

Second grade teacher Ann Swinehart created a slide show spotlighting the servicemen and women who are important in the lives of students and staff at STEM Academy.

"It's impressive to see just how many parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles of our students and staff have served in the various branches of the U.S. military," she said.



Update on the Design and Development of the Comstock High School STEM Academy

By Dr. Jeff Thoenes, Superintendent

Led by Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel, the design team for the new CHS STEM Academy has visited a technical high school, met several times and formed committees to carry the project forward.

The team visited Niles New Tech High School where they had a guided tour of the facility; met the principal, teachers, and students; and discussed the curricular focus and architectural features of the school.

Following that visit, the team convened its first planning meeting where they reviewed facility options, reflected upon the visit to Niles New Tech, and divided into three committees to discuss and complete tasks around the following areas:

- Application process and student selection rubrics for staff
- Curriculum, course options, and master scheduling
- Professional Development, Staff Job Descriptions

Given the amount of curricular work yet to be accomplished combined with the timeline for construction of facilities at CHS, the team decided to have full implementation of the program and start the CHS STEM Academy in the fall of 2024.

At a second meeting, the design team divided into the three committees (Application, Curriculum, and Professional Development). Members of each committee worked on specified tasks and then reported back to the whole committee for a discussion and review of the progress in each designated area.

The third and final planning committee meeting was held last month. Upon completion of the programmatic and curricular design for the CHS STEM Academy, Assistant Superintendent Jill Ansel plans on presenting the proposal to the Board's Academic Performance Committee sometime in February or March.

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.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to these professional educators. They have saddled up and grabbed the reins regarding this much needed curricular project that we believe will become an important addition to our high school's curricular offerings.

Comstock Early Learning Academy

Principal Earns Advanced Degree



CELA Principal Meadow Nuyen recently earned her Educational Specialist degree from Western Michigan University. Out of over 1,200 graduates in December, she was one of two students who received this degree.

CELA Receives Anonymous Donations

Two Comstock alumni, who wish to remain anonymous, recently donated new coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for students at the Early Learning Academy. The items will be handed out to students as needed.

The donors indicated they just wanted to give something back to the school they had attended.

Sports News

Hall of Fame Inductees

Congratulations to Joe Hnilo, Class of 1964; Mike Stripp, Comstock Teacher, 1967-2007; Al Kimball, Class of 1971; Jim Kordupel, Comstock Teacher and Coach, 1980-2015; Teri Loher, Class of 1995; and Kaylin Taylor, Class of 2010, for being voted into Comstock's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

The Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 22, at the WMU Fetzer Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. and the induction to follow at 6:45 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$30. Come support these great Comstock alumni and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 17.

Winter Sports Practice & Game Schedules

The Comstock winter sports practices and game schedules are posted at www.comstockps.org. You can hover over Athletics to find Practice Calendars and Game Schedules.

High School and Middle School

Livestreamed Events on NFHS Network

Home high school and middle school athletic events are being streamed on the NFHS Network. Go to nfhsnetwork.com and subscribe to watch our home events in the comfort of your own home.

High School Spring Sports

Start Date & Physicals

High school Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, Girls Soccer and Boys Golf begin on Monday, March 13. Middle school Track & Field (6-8), Girls Soccer (6-8), Baseball (7-8) and Softball (7-8) will start the week of March 20. We will post dates and times on the main page of the athletic website. Each student athlete must have a physical on file with the athletic office in order to participate. The physical must be dated after April 15, 2022, to count for this spring. If your son/daughter needs a physical, WellNow Urgent Care on Gull Road is a good place to go.

Hathaway Returns to School Board

Engineer, professor, business owner, race car enthusiast, school volunteer, father, and grandfather all describe Dr. Richard Hathaway who was elected to the School Board in 2022 after having served on the Board from 2006 to 2018.

“I ran unsuccessfully for the Board in 2020 and then decided that I could benefit our community’s children by serving on the Board again and made a significant effort to be re-elected in 2022,” he said.

In his prior years on the Board, he “kept his ears to the ground” by listening to the community and then worked with the Board and committees to implement various policies and changes.

An ad hoc committee he chaired which looked at the District’s future came up with the concept of the STEM Academy. Then Superintendent Todd Mora was also instrumental in developing the Academy which opened as a K-5 school and gradually expanded to include middle school students.

As chair of the Academic Performance Committee, he worked closely with then Board President Jackie Wahl to initiate after-school programs to increase academic growth.

Then in 2022, concerned about students not recovering as they should academically following the pandemic shutdowns, Dr. Hathaway decided to run for the Board again to push for strategies that will drive recovery.

“There is nothing that will help our students more than having high quality academic programs,” he said. “Our district has a significant amount of poverty and the best way out of poverty is education. The programs needed must make up for the education lost during the pandemic.”

Admitting that his primary focus will be academics, he plans to push for strategies to support teachers by finding out from them what the Board can do to make their classrooms high performing learning environments.

“The District has good teachers, and thanks to the community we have good facilities,” he said. “In spite of that, we are still losing students to neighboring districts. The answer to that is improving academics. With improved academics, we can retain students who want a quality education and build a better future for the Comstock community.”

In addition to his experiences on the Board, Dr. Hathaway also comes with years of experience in



Recently sworn in as Board members were Matt Schreiner, Dori Scholly, Saralyn Brown, and Richard Hathaway.

education, having taught engineering at Western Michigan University for 34 years and then retiring with the status of Professor Emeritus.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, he graduated from a vocational high school and community college before attending the University of Massachusetts in Amherst where he met his wife Barbara. They moved to Kalamazoo in 1972 so he could continue his education at WMU. He finished his Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

In addition to his teaching, he did academic advising, co-authored textbooks, and conducted research for several automotive companies.

“In all of my research efforts, I involved undergraduate and graduate students,” he said. “I have one patent for a unique engine design that I proudly hold with two students who were undergraduates at the time.”

At WMU, he enjoyed working with students on various projects such as solar cars, SuperMileage cars, Sea-to-Sea EconoRally cars, and Formula SAE cars.

This interest in automobiles, particularly high performance cars, developed at an early age. Today, he owns race cars and assists race teams with questions primarily in the areas of suspension, chassis, and aerodynamics.

With that interest in cars and racing, he now owns a small business, H & S Design and Prototype, LLC.

“In this business I continue my passion for developing new prototype equipment primarily for the racing industry as well as some Michigan companies,” said. “I proudly have many Comstock

students involved in helping me with a vast array of projects.”

Through volunteer work, he has also shared his love of engineering with students. For six years, he ran an after-school science club at Comstock and now is doing the same thing at Forest Academy, a public charter school.

But Dr. Hathaway isn’t the only one in his family with connections to education. His wife, Barbara, is president of the board of a local charter school. Both have attended Comstock Board meetings for over 30 years.

“Barbara and I both feel very strongly about how education can be the way out of poverty and we both have devoted much of our professional careers in helping make that happen,” he said.

He and Barbara have three children, Alex, Peter, and Emily, all of whom graduated from Comstock. Alex, a WMU graduate, is an engineer for a major company. Peter, a graduate of Toledo University, is also an engineer for a local company involved in design and manufacture of race car products. Emily, a graduate of Barnard College of Columbia University, works in the medical software industry.

Their oldest son, Alex, and his wife, Lindsey have given them two grandchildren.

As he begins his next term on the School Board, Dr. Hathaway is ready to go to work.

“I look forward to working with this Board to identify strategic directions that will allow us to achieve the goals we set forth,” he said. “There are many challenges in any school system today. Comstock’s success in meeting those challenges will be because of the people involved.”

Comstock Township Library News

Contact us: 269-345-0136
 info@comstocklibrary.org
 www.comstocklibrary.org

Library Event Highlights

Winter Reading Challenge

January 1, 2023 – March 1, 2023

Take our Winter Reading Bingo challenge! One lucky family or individual will win \$500. Print off your bingo sheet from our website or pick one up at the library. You must have a valid Comstock Township Library card to check out materials in order to participate in the challenge. Don't forget that we are a fine free library! Only one sheet per person if doing individually or one sheet per family.

Youth Winter Storytimes and Play Groups

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at 10:30 a.m. –

Family Storytime

Family storytimes provide an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children ages 0-5. Build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs, and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every storytime is followed by a sensory toy play time.

Thursdays, at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. –

Musical Mayhem

Get ready to wiggle and rock with our music and movement programs! Have fun with action songs, musical instruments, parachute time, and a short story.

Our 10:30 session requires registration by phone the morning of the program. The library opens at 9:30 a.m. and you may register by calling 269-345-0136. Our 12:30 session is drop-in, no registration required.

Mondays and Fridays, all day –

Storytime Room Play

Stop by our storytime room and play with our special toys that are usually only reserved for after storytime sessions. This is a drop-in program for all ages.

In-Person Adult Craft: Felt Heart Mobile

Registration has already begun.

Program is February 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Feel the love with this adorable felt heart mobile. Registration is required for this free event and it can be done on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling the library. Space is limited. *Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.*

Take-Home Adult Craft: Seed Bombs

Registration and pick-up begin February 6.

Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins February 6 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under

Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling the library. Space is limited. *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.*

Mo Willems's Birthday Party!

February 11, 2023 at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Help us celebrate the birthday of beloved author and illustrator Mo Willems. Join us for a Mo Willems storytime, a craft, and some delicious cake. We will have two storytime sessions: 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. No registration is required for this event. We do ask that you help support the library by checking out materials, so we may continue to offer programs like these.

Take-Home Adult Craft: Painted Wind Chimes

Registration and pick-up begin February 20.

Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins February 20 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling the library. Space is limited. *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.*

February Adult Book Club

Registration has already begun.

Book Club meets on February 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* by Kevin Boyle. This nonfiction book covers an important Civil Rights case and a lesser known piece of Michigan history.

March Adult Book Club

Registration begins February 27.

Book Club meets on March 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for a discussion of the contemporary romance *Get a Life, Chloe Brown* by Talia Hibbert and for a game of Romance Trope Bingo. All participants will get a bingo card to mark as they read and will get a fun prize for each bingo they score.

Copies of each book are available for participants to check out 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.

Pizza and Pages Kids' Book Club

Registration begins February 13.

Book Club meets on March 2 at 6 p.m.

Join our theme-based book club! Participants in third through sixth grades will eat pizza, discuss what they have read, and participate in an auction to end the hour. For March's theme, read a book with an animal as one of the main characters. Books can include audio books, graphic novels, or juvenile fiction. Registration is required and each child must register individually. *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.*

Writing with Wilma

Tuesdays, at 10 a.m. from March 7 through April 11.

Please join the Comstock Township Library's Reminiscence Writing Class. You can write about your past or present; you can write essays, stories, fiction, or poems. It's just a fun, supportive class for people who love to write. Class leader Wilma Kahn has an MFA in Creative Writing and a DA in English. How does this class work? Wilma provides optional writing ideas or you can write anything you like. You do your writing at home, share it each week with classmates at the library, and hand it in—in person, by email, or by mail. Wilma will return your writing the following week with helpful comments. Participants will be asked to bring some of their writing to share at the first meeting. Bring a memoir vignette, an essay, a story, or a few poems. Questions? Email Wilma at wjk1234@gmail.com. Hope to see you in March!

Tea 101

Registration begins February 21.

Program is held March 8 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 free event on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling the library. Space is limited. *Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card but would like to participate, please call us at 269-345-0136.*

In-Person Teen Craft: Galaxy Snow Globes

Registration begins February 26.

Program has two sessions: March 14 at 6 p.m. or March 15 at 2 p.m.

Get creative and make your own galaxy snow globe or crystal ball. This program is for grades eighth through twelfth grades only. Registration is required for this free program. Space is limited. *Valid Comstock Township Library card is required for registration. If you don't have a CTL card but would like to participate, please call us at*

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269-345-0136.

**Take-Home Adult Craft: Pom Pom Bunnies
Registration and pick-up begin March 20.**

Registration and pick-up occur during the same week for all take-home crafts. After registering, you can stop by the library for your bag of supplies. Registration is required for this free event and begins March 20 on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling the library. Space is limited. *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.*

In-Person Adult Craft: Mandala Sun Catcher

**Registration begins March 8.
Program is held March 22 at 6 p.m.**

Get ready for that spring and summer sun with this meditative craft. Registration is required for this free event on our website. Go to Programs and it will be under Upcoming Events. You may also register by calling the Library. Space is limited. *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.

**WINTER WEATHER
Notifications & Procedures**

When wintry weather arrives in Comstock, we know that our families and staff are anxiously waiting to hear what our district has planned. If we make a change from our normal operations, we will try our best to share information by 6 a.m. If there is no mention of a delay or closure on our website or social media, Comstock Schools are running on-time, as scheduled.

Our first step will be to post notices on our website: ComstockPS.org

Next, we will alert WWMT and post a message on our Twitter feed: [@ComstockPS](https://twitter.com/ComstockPS)

We will then send e-mail, phone call, and text messages using SchoolMessenger. Note that this process takes a little time; our phone system cannot call everyone at the same time.

Finally, we will share the message on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Opt-In for Text Messaging from CPS

Comstock Public Schools is transitioning to the SchoolMessenger system to deliver important information about events, school closings, safety alerts, and more* straight to your mobile device via text messages.

Opt-in from your mobile device now! To participate in this free service*, just send a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587. You can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop."

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

If you want to receive text messages when we have school closures due to excessive snow or extreme cold, YOU NEED TO OPT IN. Regardless of whether or not you have received text messages from us in the past, YOU WILL NEED TO OPT IN to receive future text messages from us.

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message." Most mobile devices support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.



If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages.

See SchoolMessenger.com/tm for more information.

NOTE: If you opt-in by sending a message to 67587 and you ARE NOT currently signed up to receive messages about your student via Infinite Campus, you will NOT receive text messages from SchoolMessenger. If you have a student attending our schools but you do not currently have an Infinite Campus account, please reach out to the office at your child's school building to have an account set up for you.

This text service is **NOT** for the general public. If you are a member of the general public and wish to know about school closures, please check our website, Twitter feed, or district Facebook page for the latest information.