

FALL 2022

# Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



**Food service updates**

**Travel during the Summer of Scots**

**District staff undergo professional development**

**Meet school board candidates**



# A letter from the Superintendent

## Dear Caledonia Schools Community,

I would like to welcome everyone back to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope you found time to enjoy your summer, feel recharged and are ready for all the excitement and energy that a new school year brings.

This summer we launched an initial training in Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) for ALL staff in the district. It was a great opportunity for our staff to come together districtwide and learn about the important role each of us plays in the lives of our students and how we can collectively create a positive culture and climate that helps all students succeed. Check out what some of our staff have said about the CKH sessions!

"CKH is an incredible process that puts relationships with students at the heart of the learning experience. My biggest takeaway was how grateful I am to be working with such caring, loving individuals who truly want all students to succeed and who strive to have a positive relationship with all students who walk through their door. Everyone who attended the training is genuinely excited to put what we've learned into action and see how it only continues to grow and connect our relationships within our CAL community and therefore help our students set and achieve their goals."

"My most valuable takeaway was the power of a systemic approach to prioritizing relationships with students, staff and across district departments. When everyone is practicing the same principles, we are going to have a much greater impact!"

"This training helped our team to connect through interactive experiences and sharing. With many new staff and several different programs and schedules, we

are not often able to connect in this way. Moving forward, I feel our building will be more cohesive in our support of students and building community."

"Getting to personally know your students and staff. Learning to slow down and take time to learn some facts and relate to each child is very beneficial yet rewarding at the same time. It's helped to inspire me."

I'm excited to see where our district will take this training and what it will do for students, staff and our entire community. CKH give our staff a common language while speaking to the heart of who we want to be for our students and families. Our families will know we are about:

- Capturing Kids Hearts
- Academic, Athletic and Arts Focus
- Leaders in Educational Excellence

**WE ARE CAL!** If you know one of our staff members, please join me in thanking them for all the wonderful things they have done in the past and for what they will do for our students this school year. We look forward to another great year at Caledonia Community Schools.



**Dr. Dedrick Martin**  
Superintendent  
Caledonia Community Schools

## Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education meets monthly on the third Monday at 6 p.m. in the administration office located at 8948 Kraft Ave., unless noted differently. Remaining 2022 meetings include:

- Sept. 19, 2022
- Oct. 17, 2022
- Nov. 21, 2022
- Dec. 12, 2022

## Meet Our Board of Education

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Marcy White</b><br>President       | <b>Kyle Clement</b><br>Trustee           |
| <b>Jason Saidoo</b><br>Vice President | <b>Brittany Barber Garcia</b><br>Trustee |
| <b>Julie Asper</b><br>Secretary       | <b>Katie Isic</b><br>Trustee             |
| <b>Tim Morris</b><br>Treasurer        |  |



# School Bond Update



## CCS Completes Multiple Bond Projects During Summer

In May 2020, the community passed a five-year, \$88 million bond for infrastructure and other improvements that will help prepare our students for bright futures and the jobs of tomorrow. It has been and will continue to be a significantly challenging construction environment. Supply chain and manufacturing delays have changed the way we need to handle our construction.

As shared in the May 2022 Board of Education bond update, we are seeing economic pressures in construction that are pushing our costs significantly higher. Some of the key points to note are:

- Labor costs increased 5.1% year over year through June 2022. Additionally, the construction industry is short over 650,000 workers and is predicted to be short over 2.2 million workers in the coming three years.
- Some price indicators that have increased significantly since the passage of the 2020 bond are driving project pricing, including:
  - *Cement* – Up 4% in 2021 and another 7.1% in 2022
    - *A total 11% increase over the past two years*
  - *Steel* – Up 65.6% in 2021 and another 20% in 2022
    - *A total 98% increase over the past two years*
  - *Lumber* – Up 41.9% in 2021 and unknown for 2022
  - *Aluminum* – Up 34.7% in 2021 and holding through the first quarter of 2022
  - *Copper Pipe* – Up 20.8% in 2021 and holding through the first quarter of 2022

Steel is the biggest driver of most cost increases as it is used in structural, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and manufacturing components of every construction project.

We continue to work closely with our owner's representatives Plante Moran-Cresa, technology advisors Communications by Design and our architectural firms Tower-Pinkster (school construction) and Stantec-C2AE (Cal Community Center) to keep the bond projects on time and as close to budgets as possible given the challenges of inflation, worker shortages and supply chain issues. Our construction firms The Christman Company (schools) and Rockford Construction (Cal Community Center) have played an integral role in helping us keep our schedules as close to budgets as possible.

The following projects were completed this summer:

- Roofing replacement at Emmons Lake Elementary and the High School (north);
- Roofing sectional replacement at Caledonia Elementary, Kettle Lake Elementary and Duncan Lake Middle School;
- Continued technology upgrades districtwide;
- Security updates; and
- Installation of doors, door frames and fire glass upgrades surrounding the new central classroom areas at Duncan Lake Middle School.

We look forward to breaking ground this fall on the New Community Center. Watch our website and social media for updates and pictures as construction progresses. Thank you for your continued support of the 2020 Bond.

Bond information, updates and pictures can be found on our website. If you have any questions about anything bond-related, the best way to get your questions answered is by contacting our team which can be reached directly at [2020Bond@CalSchools.org](mailto:2020Bond@CalSchools.org).





## Food Service Update

When the 2021-2022 school year ended, so did free meals for every student. While the federal government funded a program that allowed all students access to free meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has declined to continue funding this program.

In order to alleviate the burden parents face as we transition back to paying for school meals, CCS in cooperation with Aramark Foods has decided not to raise school meal costs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Applications to apply for free or reduced meals can be completed online at [www.familyportal.cloud](http://www.familyportal.cloud). All information is completely confidential.

For assistance, please contact our Food Service Department at (616) 891-0227.

**FREE & REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS**  
**IT'S MORE THAN JUST A MEAL**  
 Your Free & Reduced Lunch application helps provide critical funding to ALL Caledonia Community Schools

**6 Reasons to Complete the Free & Reduced Lunch Application:**

	Increased funding to support your child's school		Discounts for fees associated with college application process
	Additional funding for technology and internet access		Receive discount on fees associated with credit recovery
	Discounted fees for SAT, ACT & AP tests along with scholarship opportunities		Receive discounted or free breakfast & lunch

[www.familyportal.cloud](http://www.familyportal.cloud)



# Frequently Asked Questions About Free And Reduced-Price School Meals

Children need healthy meals to learn. Caledonia Community Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.45; lunch costs \$2.40 for elementary and \$2.65 intermediate, middle, and high school. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

## 1. Who can get free or reduced-price meals?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

## 2. How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway?

Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been

Federal Income Eligibility Chart for School Year 2022-2023

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	484
2	33,874	2,823	652
3	42,606	3,551	820
4	51,338	4,279	988
5	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	1,659
Each additional person:	8,732	728	168

told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Caledonia Food Service 616-891-0227** or [stonere@calschools.org](mailto:stonere@calschools.org).

## 3. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?

No. Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Caledonia Food Service, 9749 Duncan Lake Rd, Caledonia, MI 49316**

## 4. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are already approved for free meals?

No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Caledonia Food Service at 616-891-0227 immediately**.

## 5. Can I apply online?

Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit [www.familyportal.cloud](http://www.familyportal.cloud) to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Caledonia Food Service at 616-891-0227** if you have any questions about the online application.

Continued on p.6



## ***6. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?***

Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 5, 2022**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

## ***7. I get WIC. Can my children get free meals?***

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.

## ***8. Will the information I give be checked?***

Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

## ***9. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?***

Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

## ***10. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?***

You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Mrs. Sara DeVries (Business Manager, Caledonia Community Schools); 8948 Kraft Ave, Caledonia, MI 49316, (616)891-8185.**

## ***11. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. Citizen?***

Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.

## ***12. What if my income is not always the same?***

List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month,

but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime occasionally. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

## ***13. What if some household members have no income to report?***

Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

## ***14. We are in the military, do we report our income differently?***

Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

## ***15. What if there isn't enough space on the application for my family?***

List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact **Caledonia Food Service** to receive a second application.

## ***16. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?***

To find out how to apply for **Food Assistance Program (FAP)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office [https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnership/landing?language=en\\_US](https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnership/landing?language=en_US).

If you have other questions or need help, call **616-891-0227**.

Sincerely,

**Mimi Mahaney-Stalzer, Food Service Director,  
Caledonia Community Schools**



**2022-2023 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals**

Apply online: [familyportal.cloud](http://familyportal.cloud)

One application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil)

**STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more lines are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)**  
 Definition of Household Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related." Children in Foster care and children who meet definition of Homeless, Migrant or Runaway are eligible for Free meals. Read How to Apply for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals for more information. **PLEASE PRINT**

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Student?		School	Grade	Foster Child		Homeless Migrant, Runaway	
			Yes	No			Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway		
1) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**STEP 2: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FdPIR**  
 If NO > Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3). Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Write only one case number in this space)

**STEP 3: Report income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered "YES" to STEP 2)**  
 Unsure what income to include here? Flip the page and review the charts titled, "Sources of Income", for more information. The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income section. The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members Section.

**A. Child Income**

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by \_\_\_\_\_  
 All Household Members listed in STEP 1 here. Child Income \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How Often? Please put an X  
 Weekly  Bi-Weekly  2x Month  Monthly  Annually

**B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)**

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you enter "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How Often?				Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	How Often?				Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How Often?							
		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually			
1) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Household Members \_\_\_\_\_ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Children and Adults) \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member \_\_\_\_\_  
**STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature. Mail Completed Form to:**

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws.

Street Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone and Email (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Adult Signing Form \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_



**INSTRUCTIONS:** Sources of Income

Sources of Child Income	Examples
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
Social Security	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security Benefits.
- Disability Payments	A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits.
- Survivor's Benefits	
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money.
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.

Sources of Adult Income	Examples
Earnings from work	Salary, wages, cash bonuses / Net income from self-employment (farm or business) / If you are in the U.S. Military / -Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)
Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	-Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing -Unemployment Benefits -Workers compensation -Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -Cash assistance from State or local government -Alimony payments-Child support payments -Veteran's benefits -Strike benefits
Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income	-Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) -Private pensions or disability benefits -Annuities -Regular income from trusts or estates -Investment income -Earned interest -Regular cash payments from outside household

**Optional:** Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your child(ren)'s race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your child(s) eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity (check one):  Hispanic or Latino  Not Hispanic or Latino  
 Race (check one or more)  American Indian or Alaskan Native  Asian  Black or African American  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPRI) case number or other FDPRI identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them investigate violations of program rules.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-177ax2Mail.pdf) (https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-177ax2Mail.pdf), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA (1) by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).  
 \*Only use this address if you are filing a complaint of discrimination.  
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**DO NOT FILL OUT: For School Use Only**

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12

Total Income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Bi-Weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2x Month Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Househoid Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Categorical Eligibility: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility: Free Reduced Denied

Determining Official's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Confirming Official's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Verifying Official's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

BENEFITING OUR KIDS THROUGH THE CAL ED FOUNDATION

# CALAPALOOZA

'THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR'

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

@ CAL FOOTBALL STADIUM SOUTH LOT



PARKING AND SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE IN CALPLEX AND HOLY FAMILY PARISH LOTS



SCHEDULE

**3:00 PM**

KID'S DANCE PARTY w/ LIVE DJ

**4:00 PM**

PEP RALLY w/ PEP BAND, CHEERLEADERS, HEAD COACH, PLAYERS & SURPRISE GUEST

**4:30-6:30 PM**

LIVE MUSIC BY JACK'S LABEL MAKER

**5:00 PM**

HOMECOMING PARADE

**6:30 PM**

HONORED ALUMNA PRESENTATION

**6:30-8:00 PM**

LIVE DJ

**7:00 PM**

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME VS. EAST KENTWOOD

**BE THERE OR BE SQUARE**



WWW.CALAPALOOZA.COM

## New Community Flyer Process

Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, we are rolling out a new process for all community flyers. We are asking nonprofit organizations that would like to have community flyers distributed virtually to our families to please use the new submission form on our website. These flyers will be posted to our website and pushed out to the community section of our Caledonia Community Schools App. We will no longer be including flyers in our building newsletters. To distribute flyers virtually, visit [calschools.org](http://calschools.org).

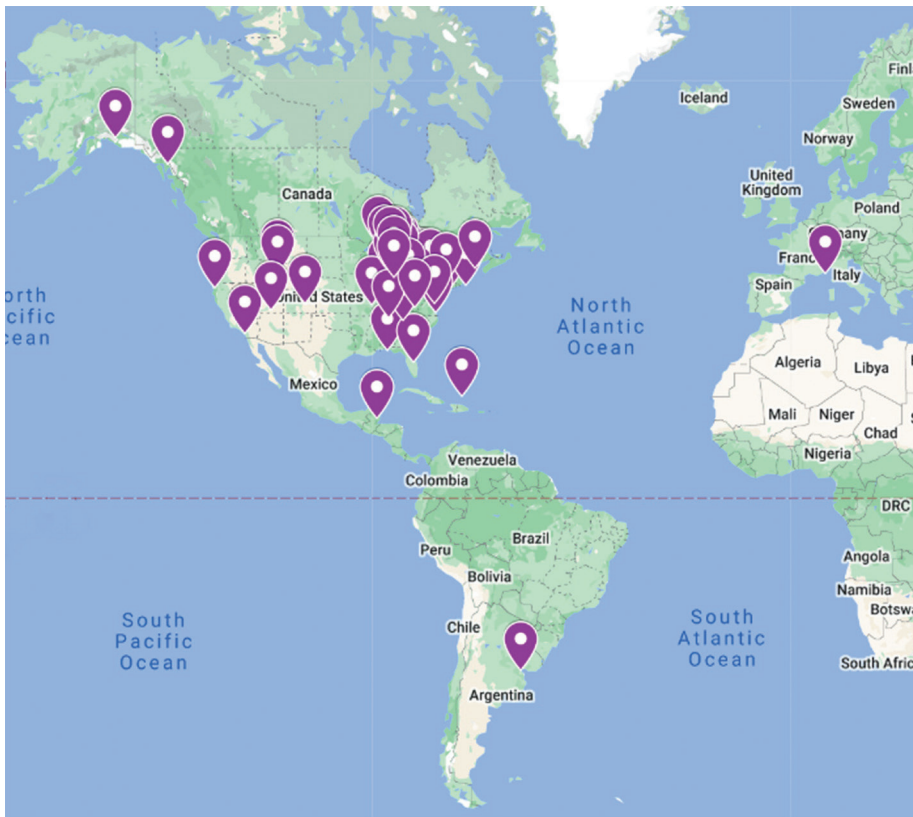
## START & END TIMES

Caledonia Community Schools  
2022-2023 School Year



	Full Day Times	Half Day Times
Duncan Lake Early Childhood	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Caledonia Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Dutton Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Emmons Lake Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Kettle Lake Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Paris Ridge Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Kraft Meadows Intermediate	7:35 am - 2:30 pm	7:35 am - 10:45 am
Duncan Lake Middle School	7:35 am - 2:30 pm	7:35 am - 10:45 am
Caledonia High School	7:40 am - 2:36 pm	7:40 am - 10:55 am





## Students, Families Share Summer Travels Through Summer of Scots

This summer we asked families to submit photos of their staycations, vacations, day trips or other summer activities with students wearing their #calpride. It was a huge hit! We had over 70 submissions to post on our social media accounts this summer. Check out the map below to see where our Scots traveled and a few of the photos we shared on social media. Thank you to everyone who shared photos!

# CCS Launches Professional Development to Create Positive School Culture

As of 2019, with the collective creation of the school district's Strategic Plan (2019-2024), we have been guided by our "whole child" focus to "promote student and community health and wellness, and to identify and establish school/community partnerships that directly support academic and nonacademic goals."

The pandemic created some physical disconnection and amplified the need for students to feel connected while at school. As a district, we have been working to create a positive culture and climate districtwide. We have made this our mission because we believe every student in our schools should feel connected to a positive environment with trusting adults throughout their day — and throughout their time at Caledonia Community Schools.

## The Launch

Part of this intention was to launch Capturing Kids' Hearts professional development to all district staff beginning the summer of 2022. It was a great opportunity for our staff to come together districtwide and learn about the important role each of us plays in the lives of our students and how we can collectively create a positive culture and climate across the district.

Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) is an immersive, participatory experience. Teachers, staff and administrators learn and practice skills they will use and model in their classrooms, schools and districts, including:

- How to build meaningful, productive relationships with every student and every colleague.
- How to use the Capturing Kids' Hearts EXCEL Model to create a safe, effective environment for learning.
- How to develop self-managing, high-performing environments using team-building skills and a Social Contract.
- High payoff techniques for dealing with conflict, negative behavior and disrespect issues.

These research-based processes improve the five key indicators of school performance: fewer discipline referrals, improved attendance, higher student achievement, lower dropout rates, and



higher teacher satisfaction. Schools that implement Capturing Kids' Hearts processes report:

- Strengthened student connectedness to others by enhancing healthy bonds with staff members.
- Consistent rules of conduct with reduced disciplinary escalations and referrals.
- Dramatic reduction in truancy and dropouts.
- Reduction of negative behaviors such as isolation, violence and substance use.
- Significant improvement in student academic performance.
- Districtwide improvements in test scores.
- Higher rate of job satisfaction among teachers.
- Increased teacher retention and improvement in teacher recruiting.



## Our Promise

Capturing Kids' Hearts will continue to be part of new employee onboarding going forward. We will continue to learn and adapt as we implement these systems, as we know it's important that students do not feel invisible in our schools.

CKH gave our staff a common language while speaking to the heart of who we want to be for our students, families and community. When we build a culture of trust and caring, our students will thrive even more in the academic environment.



# Meet the Caledonia Community Schools 2022 School Board Candidates

Each of the Caledonia Community Schools 2022 school board candidates up for election in November was given a list of questions they had the opportunity to answer. We hope these questions help our community get to know the candidates and allow you to make informed decisions when voting. Please note all candidates were given the same set of questions and their answers are their own. Six of the seven candidates on the ballot responded.

## Vote Nov. 8!

Votes for school board candidates may be cast on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8. The seven candidates are running for three six-year terms. If you are unsure of your polling location, please contact your local township office or visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).



John Brandow



Dr. James Ernest



Tim Morris



Dr. Jennifer Nichols



Mary Anne Timmer



Eric VanGessel

## Candidate Q&A

All candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

**What background and/or experience do you feel will be beneficial to bring to the Caledonia Board of Education should you be elected?**

**Brandow:** As a resident of Caledonia for the last 23 years, I have sat on several boards. In doing so, I have learned to be an effective communicator and a good listener. I will join together with others on the board to work with parents, teachers and district staff to achieve success for the Caledonia Community Schools and our students. Already having two kids graduate and four more throughout the district, I believe in a quality public education for students.

**Ernest:** As a Caledonia resident since 2003 and the grateful father of two Cal graduates, I am now ready to give back to my community. As a scholar, educator, and publisher with extensive training in philosophy, languages, history and theology (BA, MA, PhD), I can help the school board oversee curriculum deliberations and find intelligent, balanced solutions for difficult issues around the intersection of culture, religion and education. My pastoral education (MDiv) equips me to lead through confusion and conflict to win-win solutions. My experience as vice president and editor-in-chief of a book publishing company gives me valuable institutional leadership experience.

**Morris:** As a Caledonia Township resident since 1995, I appreciate the privilege of serving the Caledonia community as a Board of Education Trustee for the past 10 years. My current positions on the Board are Treasurer and Chairperson of the Finance and Operations Committee. Before serving on the school board, I served Caledonia as a Township Planning

Commissioner for seven years. My 35-year board service history extends to charitable, nonprofit organizations, including Home Repair Services, Arthritis Foundation Michigan Chapter and Adoptive Family Support Network.

**Nichols:** As an optometrist, I work with students to improve their visual function and quality of learning. I have been a part of the parent-teacher-doctor team (both as a doctor and parent) and appreciate the hard work our teachers invest to ensure all students get the education they deserve. As a business owner, I understand the importance of a balanced budget, knowing when to invest and when to save, and when to pay more to retain great employees. These experiences give me a perspective that values family and parent involvement as well as empowering teachers with resources to educate each student as an individual rather than simply push them through a system.

**Timmer:** I believe my previous experience serving on the Caledonia School Board as a Trustee (2010-2016), along with my finance background, affords me valuable expertise to serve again. I have been an active member of the Caledonia community since 1994. I participated in helping create our school district's first strategic plan. I also served on the community board that successfully won the millage to build our new Caledonia public library. Most importantly, on a personal note, we raised our children in the Caledonia school system, K-12.

**VanGessel:** As a member of this community since 2013, father of a Cal student and husband of a Cal teacher, I see excellence from residents, public employees and students

every day. I would like to support that tradition of excellence by serving as your Caledonia School Board Trustee. My banking background (23+ years) and extensive business training (BA & MBA) will help guide the district's complex financial affairs. My prior experiences as an elected Village Trustee, roles on the Planning Commission, Cal Ed Foundation and PTO VP provide a strong foundation of community service that will continue with your vote.

**What are the challenges you see facing public schools and how do you see yourself being an advocate for Caledonia Community Schools?**

**Brandon:** One of the challenges I see is the safety of our children and staff. I will continue to advocate for safety measures to be added and work on building and sustaining current measures already in place. Another challenge I see is teacher and staff shortages. I will help build a positive work environment for our teachers and seek ways to continue building and investing in them. It is critical to our children's education that we not only attract new quality teachers but also retain the ones we currently have on staff. Teachers are the backbone of our district, and we need to see they receive the support and respect they need to do their jobs.

**Ernest:** Public schools face economic and cultural challenges. I focus on the latter. Culture warriors want to make schools another theater in the struggle between right and left. Some people disrespect educators and education. Some aim to siphon public funding from the public schools to private alternatives. Public education is an essential institution in a democratic society. We must unite to keep it strong. I will stand up for nonpartisan education and for keeping our gifted and committed educators free to teach our young people. Education will equip them to flourish and to bring flourishing to their communities and their nation.

**Morris:** CCS's two biggest challenges are teacher/staff shortage and community trust. This district is facing a continuing staffing crisis at all employment levels. The board needs innovative leadership to identify solutions that attract and maintain our district's most notable human asset, our staff. When parents are unhappy with a district's direction, their voices are felt throughout the community. A rift of mistrust sets in when parental voices are seemingly ignored. State law will restore this trust: Parents/guardians hold natural, specific legal rights to consent on behalf of their children. The Board of Education shall not limit these rights.

**Nichols:** There are many challenges facing public schools, including the post-pandemic learning gap, declining enrollment leading to budget shortages and a lack of trust between school systems and their communities. If elected, I commit to true transparency. I commit to making eye contact with parents when they express concern. I will work for a commonsense curriculum that emphasizes reading, writing and arithmetic as well as adding vocational skills back into the schools. I will work to ensure the decisions of the board reflect the family values of our community.

**Timmer:** Financial resources often are the biggest challenge of a public school system. I will help provide continued fiscally responsible leadership as well as advocate for the per-pupil foundation grant to continue to be an amount reflecting the economic times of the 21st century. A challenge directly related to our Caledonia schools is the rapid population growth in the township and the effect this growth has on our schools, with the challenge of keeping schools as excellent as they have been, focusing on efforts to ever improve.

**VanGessel:** Historical "caps" on state funding for Caledonia, small non-homestead tax base, population growth and high inflation have put immense strains on the district's budget. A

financially strong, well-respected school district is a necessary ingredient of every vibrant family friendly community (like Caledonia). The taxpayers have historically provided the financial support that helps CCS exceed the academic performance of our peers. However, these achievements are fragile – high construction and facility improvement costs could have long-term implications. Prudent financial leadership by the School Board and consistent funding for Cal Schools is an essential part of providing first-in-class academic results.

**How do you view the role of the Caledonia Board of Education within the school district and community as a whole?**

**Brandon:** The most important responsibility of the Caledonia Board of Education is to constantly work with our community to improve student achievement in our district.

**Ernest:** The school board is a mediating institution that provides stability by ensuring two-way communication between educators and the community. The schools cannot be accountable to each individual member of the community. So, the residents entrust oversight of the school district to elected trustees who make up the school board. Trustees do not bring their own agenda or try to take over the jobs of the educators. They speak to the educators for the community and vice versa. Trustees labor to establish and maintain conditions in which the educators can do their good work of educating our young people.

**Morris:** The role of the Board of Education is fundamental. Michigan public school boards' function is to operate as an independent governmental entity (with few specific legal limitations) solely to educate every student. Consider the district's 2022-2023 school year \$63.4 million budget, and one may begin to understand why Caledonia voters should closely evaluate their Board of Education candidates. Responsive and committed leadership is needed moving forward. "As goes the schools, so goes the community."

**Nichols:** The role of the school board is to be the voice of the community in public education. That means providing the best education possible for our students and ensuring the values of those who elect them are expressed and upheld. It is also the role of the school board to ensure Michigan laws are upheld including MCL 380.10 which states: It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children.

**Timmer:** I believe in placing students' needs above politics. School boards are intended to operate in a nonpartisan fashion. As stated by the Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan school boards have only the powers given to them by the Legislature and are obligated by provisions of the federal and state constitutions designed to protect people's rights. One of my favorite parts of living in Caledonia is the strong sense of community as evidenced by the word "community" in our district's name. Our school board is a "community member" – its' primary responsibility is to ensure students' needs are identified and reached.

**VanGessel:** A school board position is designated as a nonpartisan role. The fundamental intent is that this role transcends political influence and affiliations. It also means 1) focusing on the best interests of the students and 2) being vigilant in the use of taxpayer funds. Endorsements for party affiliated candidates do not align with the intent of a "nonpartisan" role. A school board trustee must also be attentive and responsive to parental concerns. In doing so, the trustee should encourage civility in conduct and fact-based decisions. In this way, the best interests of the overall school district will be achieved.

*Please note: Candidate Ian Rice did not submit answers as of press time.*





## ***Caledonia Community Schools Remains Fully Funded for 2022-2023 School Year***

**W**hen Caledonia voters approved the five-year Non-Homestead Operating Millage in 2020, they protected Caledonia Community Schools (CCS) from losing funding year over year due to a state law that ties local tax rates to inflation rates, also known as the Headlee Amendment.

Voters approved a 19.4399-mill renewal of the district's Non-Homestead Operating Millage in May 2020. State law limits the amount school districts can levy in property taxes for operating millages to 18 mills each year, so the extra 1.4399 mills has served as a buffer against losing tax revenue due to the Headlee Amendment, also known as a Headlee Rollback. CCS estimates it would have lost over \$1.2 million, or roughly \$227 per pupil, over the first three years of the millage without that buffer.

“By avoiding this loss in revenue, we were able to fully address numerous unforeseen challenges brought on by the pandemic and the rapid inflationary costs we have all experienced throughout these challenging past few years,” said Dr. Dedrick Martin, CCS superintendent. “I want to thank our community again for supporting our students and being proactive about the future of our district.”

Being able to levy the full 18 mills through the Non-Homestead Operating Millage means CCS can receive the full per-pupil foundation allowance from the state. These funds are critical to keeping money in the classroom by supporting day-to-day operations, like programs, curriculum materials, facilities and teacher salaries.

All funds from the Non-Homestead Operating Millage are tracked and available on the district website to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. CCS has received a clean financial audit for over 20 years and has an “AA” bond rating from Standard & Poor's.

With two years remaining on the current Non-Homestead Operating Millage, the district is projecting there will be enough of a buffer to protect against future Headlee Rollbacks and allow the district to stay fully funded until the millage expires in 2025.



# Follow Best Bus Safety Practices

**W**e are pleased to announce that you will continue to see hazard light stops in addition to the traditional red light stops in our Caledonia community. Michigan law permits school bus stops to be made under certain prescribed conditions, which allow for either red light or hazard light stops as provided in MCL257.1855. There are many instances where a school bus can safely perform a hazard light stop and allow traffic to flow when students do not have to cross the roadway and all criteria are met according to Michigan law.

The Transportation Department is working together to provide the safest and most efficient transportation for

our students, with safety being our number one concern. **Please keep our kids safe by approaching school buses with caution and observing the light systems.**

In the event that you observe a reckless driver ignoring the flashing red lights, please assist our transportation department by contacting the Kent County Sheriff Department at (616) 632-6100, to report the location, approximate time, make, color or model of the vehicle. While our drivers are trained to report these violations, we encourage everyone to be vigilant regarding bus traffic safety and our students.

## School Buses With Overhead Red and Yellow Lights

(With or Without Bus Stop Signs)

**Yellow lights are flashing:**

Prepare to stop



**Red lights are flashing:**

Stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus

**Red lights turned off:**

Proceed

**All School Buses**

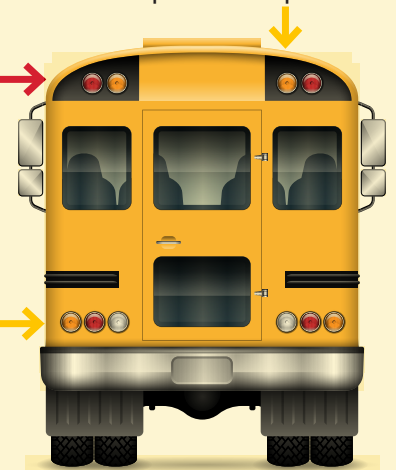
**Yellow Hazard Lights**

**Yellow hazard warning lights are flashing:**

Proceed with caution

**Yellow lights are flashing:**

Prepare to stop



## Connect with Caledonia Community Schools!

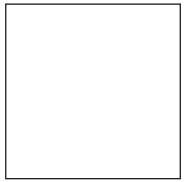
Stay connected and up to date on all things Caledonia Community Schools by following our social media channels.







Paid for by Caledonia Community Schools  
8948 Kraft Ave SE  
Caledonia, MI 49316



# Get Ready to Learn

*Caledonia Community Schools is excited to welcome our students back for the 2022-2023 school year!*

**Keep up with us at:**

 [www.calschools.org](http://www.calschools.org)

 [facebook.com/CALSCHOOLS](https://facebook.com/CALSCHOOLS)

 [@CALEDONIA\\_COMMUNITY\\_SCHOOLS](https://@CALEDONIA_COMMUNITY_SCHOOLS)