

SUMMER 2022

Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



SUCCESS STARTS AT CCS

*Recent news
from CCS*

*Update on our
district-wide
bond work*

*A tribute to our
graduating class*

*Meet our new
principals and
technology
director*



A letter from the Superintendent

Dear Caledonia Schools Community,

We're wrapping up our first full in-person school year since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March of 2020, and I couldn't be more proud. Throughout the last two years, our Caledonia Community Schools family has risen to the many challenges we've faced and worked hard to be safe and healthy, keep our students in school and create a learning environment to help them succeed.

We have a lot to celebrate as a result. Consistent with previous years, Caledonia High School finished on a strong note again. The 348 graduates for the Class of 2022 had nearly 186 students (53.4%) who graduated as either Magna Cum Laude (grade point average of 3.5 or above) or Summa Cum Laude (grade point average of 4.0 or above). Additionally, 77% of our graduates are moving on to pursue higher education, and 23% of our graduates are joining the workforce, serving in our armed forces, or having other plans. As of May 26, 110 Fighting Scots reported receiving 209 scholarships with a 1-year value of \$941,532, and a potential 4-year value of over \$2,892,559!

As part of their last week of school, students resurrected the tradition of the Senior Walk. This longtime tradition provides an opportunity for Cal students to wear their caps and gowns and take one last walk with other seniors through the hallways of the CCS elementary school where they began their education. It was wonderful to see our students participate in this opportunity, reflect on their educational journeys, and thank the teachers and staff who helped get them to where they are today.

As you'll see in our final edition of the Cal Communicator for this school year, our CCS community has achieved so much. Some highlights: Bari Kane, school counselor, was named West Michigan Counselor of the Year; the Caledonia boys and girls track relay teams broke two school records, and our students fundraised for various important causes. We also hired multiple new staff members who are committed to student success and learning.

With a note of gratitude, when voters approved the Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal in May 2020, they protected Caledonia Community Schools from losing funding year over year. Without the buffer created by the millage renewal, CCS would have lost over \$1.2 million, or roughly \$227 per pupil, over the first three years of the millage. Given the unforeseen challenges brought on by the pandemic, and the rapid inflationary costs that we have all experienced, this would have placed the district in a very difficult position with regard to maintaining the high level of educational quality and service that our students deserve. I want to thank our community again for supporting our students and the future of our district. You can read more on our website about how the operating millage renewal is keeping the district fully funded in the coming school year and through 2025.

While this year has certainly provided some challenges, it's been a great year of learning at school, and we have a lot to look forward to in the coming year! Congratulations to our graduating students and their families. We are excited about another fantastic school year. Have a fun and safe summer!

Respectfully,

Dr. Dedrick Martin

Superintendent

Caledonia Community Schools



Fine Arts Center Named for Orchestra Program Founder



On March 24, during the high school orchestra concert, the Caledonia High School Fine Arts Center (FAC) was renamed in honor of Pete Delille, who retired in 2013 after decades of distinguished service as the founding director of the CCS Orchestra Program. Members of the CHS band, the CHS choir, the Caledonia Board

of Education and the CHS administration surprised Delille with this honor. It was a great night for our students, staff and community to celebrate the rich musical traditions of Caledonia. The FAC will now be known as the Peter V. Delille Fine Arts Center.



High School Girls Get First-Hand Look at Amazon Facility

In honor of Women's History Month, 10 Caledonia High School girls explored Amazon's new fulfillment center in Caledonia. It was a great opportunity for our students to get a first-hand look at high-tech job opportunities, and they even were able to name one of the automated warehouse robots after Caledonia High School. This "Amazoning" experience will help guide these students as they contemplate future careers in STEM. We'd like to thank Amazon for recognizing the need to teach women and girls the importance of leadership and opening their minds to the many opportunities available to them.

CCS Counselor Honored as West Michigan Counselor of the Year

Bari Kane, a counselor for CCS, has been named West Michigan Counselor of the Year by the West Michigan Counseling Association. Kane has worked at CCS for 18 years and is a counselor at Duncan Lake Middle School. She was previously a fourth-grade classroom teacher at Paris Ridge Elementary.

As the number of school-age children reporting poor mental health increases, having effective and passionate counselors in school has grown even more important. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 in 3 high school students had experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2019, a 40 percent increase since 2009. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues affecting students.

CCS is proud of Bari for achieving this honor and serving all our students so well. We're fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring counselor at CCS, especially as mental health issues have become more prevalent in school-age children and technology and social media have presented new challenges. Thank you to Bari for her hard work, and congratulations!



Families Learn About Issues Impacting Students

In March, CCS students and families learned about real-life issues facing children during a virtual facilitated discussion hosted by our school district. The discussion centered around "Childhood 2.0," a documentary released in 2020 about issues that impact the lives of children, including cyberbullying, online predators, suicidal ideation and more.

"Because we spend so much of our lives online, it's important for students to better understand how social media works and how it can negatively impact us, from our thinking and emotions to our relationships with others," said Dr. Dedrick Martin, superintendent of CCS. "Our hope in having these important discussions is for students and parents to better understand the pressures of online exposure and to learn strategies for caring for themselves in this digital age and feel more open to talking about these issues."

Data show that even before COVID-19, mental health challenges were the leading cause of poor life outcomes for young people, with up to 1 in 5 children ages 3 to 17 nationwide having a mental, emotional, developmental or behavioral disorder, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. The pandemic added to these challenges for our nation's youth.

Families were encouraged to watch the documentary together during midwinter break, and during the panel discussion were given the opportunity to ask questions about the documentary.

If you were unable to join us for the Childhood 2.0 Facilitated Discussion, you can find a link to the recording and FAQ document on the CCS website.

What's Happening at CCS!

New School Record

The Caledonia boys and girls relay

broke two school records this year! What outstanding accomplishments.



Special Education at KMIS

Kailee Bisbee's Autism Spectrum Disorder and Cognitive Impairment room at Kraft Meadows Intermediate School had

the opportunity to hear, see and try some orchestra instruments. What an amazing experience for our students to explore something new!



Cancer Walk

Recently, Duncan Lake Middle School held a music expo to help raise funds for its annual Cancer Walk held in May. The students paired their passions with a purpose and were able to raise a total of \$853 for Van Andel Institute.

Visit to Township Offices

Second graders recently took a field trip to the Caledonia Township Offices. They were able to see the fire trucks and learn about fire safety, visit the water department to learn about supplying safe water to our community, and visit the township offices to learn about leadership roles and how voting in our community works.

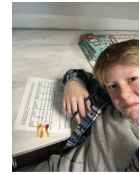
Elementary Art

Check out these amazing pieces of art brightening the hallways of Dutton Elementary School. Our students are so creative!



Eighth-Grade Science

Eighth graders at Duncan Lake Middle School are learning about the causes and impacts of earthquakes. They studied elastic rebound by measuring gummy worms before they are stretched, when they are stretched and finally after they have been stretched and have rebounded. This helps students understand how the earth responds to the stress of tectonic plates moving and how earthquakes occur on faults.



Twos Day

Second graders at Kettle Lake Elementary School celebrated a TWOfally TWOrific 2/22/22!



Wearing tutus, tie dye, tube socks, tennis shoes and ties, they spent the day learning with activities focused on the number two! They solved math facts with the number two, added doubles, read two syllable words and searched the room for homophones. Grade 2 ended 2/22/22 with a dance party at 2:22!

Choir Practice

Check out our Kraft Meadows Intermediate School sixth grade choir students hard at work preparing musical selections



for the upcoming spring concert. Not only does music foster creativity, but it also provides an opportunity each day for students to look beyond a textbook and create something beautiful together that can be shared with the world.

Fundraising

Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center hosted its annual "Waddle A Thon." Students and staff waddle (run, walk, skip, dance and play) in a room filled with balloons, ducks, and friends.





Bond Work Continues Across District

Construction continues this summer on projects funded by the \$88 million bond passed by voters in May 2020. Construction is slated to begin this summer on the new Dutton Elementary and the Cal Community Center.

Some of the other highlights we are looking forward to for the summer of 2022 include:

- 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.
- Replacement of all the remaining school monument signs.
- Several landscaping projects throughout the district.
- Several security improvement projects throughout the district.

Work at Duncan Lake Middle School will also continue with door, door frame and fire glass upgrades surrounding the new central classroom areas as well as continued improvements to the new main entrance on Kraft Avenue.

We are working through a challenging construction environment that we believe will continue into the foreseeable future. Supply chain issues, manufacturing delays and staffing availability have changed the way we budget and set timelines for various projects.

We continue to work closely with our owner's representatives Plante Moran-CRESA, technology advisors Communications by Design, Architectural firms Tower-Pinkster (schools construction)/Stantec C2AE (Cal Community Center) and the engineering firm Structure TEC to keep the bond projects on time and within budgets. Our construction firms The Christman Company (schools) and Rockford Construction (Cal Community Center) have been an integral part in helping us keep our schedules and costs in line.

These construction challenges, especially the availability and pricing of steel, have led to extended design timelines for the new Dutton Elementary and the Cal Community Center.

Bond information, updates, and pictures can be found on our website. If you have any questions about anything bond related, our team can be reached directly at 2020Bond@CalSchools.org.



Enrollment Now Open!

Enrollment for PreK-12th Grade

School Age Students

For school age enrollment questions, please contact Ginnie VanPolen at 616.891.8185.

Preschool Students

For preschool enrollment questions, contact the Early Childhood Center at 616.891.6220.



ENROLL ONLINE AT calschools.org



BENEFITING OUR KIDS THROUGH THE CAL ED FOUNDATION

CALAPALOOZA

'THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR'

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
@ CAL FOOTBALL STADIUM SOUTH LOT

FREE ADMISSION

15+ FOOD TRUCKS OPEN: 3:00-8:00 PM

SCHEDULE

3:00 PM KID'S DANCE PARTY w/ LIVE DJ	5:00 PM HOMECOMING PARADE
4:00 PM PEP RALLY w/ PEP BAND, CHEERLEADERS, HEAD COACH, PLAYERS & SURPRISE GUEST	6:30 PM HONORED ALUMNA PRESENTATION
4:50-6:50 PM LIVE MUSIC BY JACK'S LABEL MAKER	6:30-8:00 PM LIVE DJ
	7:00 PM HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME VS. EAST KENTWOOD

www.CALAPALOOZA.com

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

Caledonia Community Schools

2022 - 2023 Projected School Calendar

August 22 *First Week of School	November 23 Thanksgiving Break	November 25	March 31 Spring Break	April 7
September 2 Labor Day Break	September 5	December 19 Christmas Break	January 2	May 29 Memorial Day

Class of 2022

BY THE NUMBERS

We're so proud of the Class of 2022! From earning scholarships to pursuing future goals, our graduating class has a lot to celebrate.

Photos by Rae Radtke



Total graduates:

348



268

students

(77 percent of graduates) are pursuing continuing education



110

students

reported receiving 209 scholarships with a one-year value of \$941,532 and a potential four-year value of \$2,892,559.

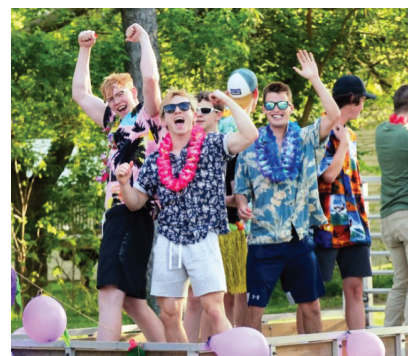


80

students

(23 percent of graduates) are joining the workforce, military or have other plans

*Numbers reflect data gathered May 26, 2022





Honoring Top Students

Congratulations to our 50 “Gold” students who earned a grade point average of 4.0 or above!
Summa Cum Laude students are as follows:

Brinlee Barry

Emma Bartnick

Daniel Battey

Gavin Betz

Alec Bisterfeldt

Suzie Bryant

Lindy Bujak

Zachary Burgess

Grant Cawson

Spencer Chapp

Autumn Ciminski

Katie Clarey

Benjamin DeGood

Austin Deller

Ryan Doan

Matthew Fisher

Philip George

Sasha Grimes

Sara Hag Ali

Grace Heffner

Carson Herzog

Jonah Hilton

Drew Johnson

Kendall Kaplan

Kelsey Kirkbride

Grayden Knoop

Aidan Kowatch

Payton Lee

Lily Li

Jeffrey Liggett

Ryan Linton

Laura Lubahn

John Malinowski

Alayna Marvin

Donavan Mattson

Thomas Munson

Caleb Paarlberg

Bella Paoletti

Colin Pearson

Grant Peek

Camden Raffler

Taylor Rinke

Laura Robotham

Ella Schuler

Lola Schuler

Benjamin Taylor

Collin Witvoet

McCoy Ziehl

Erin Zielke

Amelia Ziesmer

You can find a list of Silver and Bronze students on our website, calschools.org.

New Principals, Technology Director Join CCS

CCS has bolstered its dedicated staff by hiring two new principals and a technology director. Dana Champion will become Emmons Lake Elementary's new principal and Lance Jones will join CCS as principal at Paris Ridge Elementary. They will begin their new positions at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Scott Vugteveen has been hired as technology director for the school district.



Dana Champion

Champion came to CCS in 2017 as an Intervention Specialist. She previously worked as a special education teacher at Knapp Charter Academy for five years, working with students in grades K-8. Champion has her bachelor's degree in special education with a minor in elementary education from Grand Valley State University, as well as a master's degree in educational leadership with a special education administration concentration from GVSU.

"I am so excited to join Emmons Lake as principal and continue my passion for fostering growth for all students," Champion said. "My experiences have shown me that when we work together as a team, we can create an

environment where all students can be successful. I'm eager to meet the students and families and learn more about what makes Emmons Lake such an incredible place to learn and thrive."

Jones most recently served as the principal of Lakeview Community Schools' Lakeview Elementary School. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Wayne State University and a master's in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University. "My journey in education has continued to prove how fortunate I am to work with students, their families and the educators that impact these groups each day," Jones said. "Joining an amazing community is a true blessing, and I am excited to help Paris Ridge Elementary students learn, grow and build positive relationships as they progress through their young lives."



Lance Jones



Scott Vugteveen

An IT professional with 29 years of experience, Vugteveen earned his Bachelor's degrees in history and secondary education from Calvin College. He has combined his passion for teaching and learning with his background in the IT field. For the last 21 years, Vugteveen has worked in the Technology Department at Kentwood Public Schools.

"I'm excited to bring my skills and expertise to a great school community with a commitment to student achievement," Vugteveen said. "As our world continues to rely more and more on technology, it plays a crucial role in our schools, and I look forward to serving CCS students and staff."

” Our Story ”

#WeAreCAL



Send Us Your Alumni Stories!

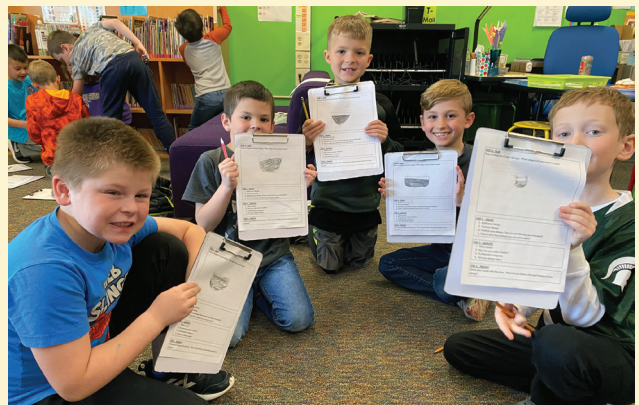
Our alumni are doing great things, and we want to hear about it and share it with our community!

Do you have an inspirational, impactful, exciting, entertaining or encouraging story to share with your school community? Are you alumni who has accomplished something great or achieved a new milestone? Do you know of alumni who are making a positive impact in the community that more people should hear about?

Please fill out the form on our website and we'll do our best to share this with families via social media, our website or in the Cal Communicator.

New Community Flyer Procedure

Starting in the 2022-23 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 form on our website to submit your flyer. 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. Parents will be directed in newsletters to our website to view community updates.



Website: <https://www.calschools.org/community/community-events-flyers/>



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

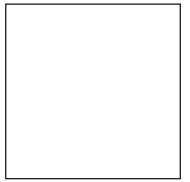


Photo by Chris Robotham



See you next year!

We Hope You Have a Fun and Safe Summer!

Keep up with us at:

 www.calschools.org

 facebook.com/CALSCHOOLS

 @CALEDONIA_COMMUNITY_SCHOOLS