

Cal

WINTER 2025

Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



THANKFUL HEARTS,
THRIVING COMMUNITY

Cal Community
Center

New Director
Special Programs

Points of
Pride

Enrollment
Updates

3

4

6

10

A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Caledonia Community,

Happy New Year! I hope your winter break was filled with joy, relaxation, and cherished moments with loved ones! As we return and step into the second half of our school year, it's important to take a moment to express the gratitude we feel for this incredible Caledonia community.

Our schools are thriving because of all of you — our families, staff, and community members. Your dedication, support, and involvement create an environment where every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. Whether it's volunteering in the schools, supporting learning at home, attending a performance, or cheering on our athletes, your contributions do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do!

This winter, we're looking forward to the much-anticipated opening of the Cal Community Center. This facility represents our community's shared commitment to growth and connection. We can't wait to welcome you to this new space and celebrate together during the upcoming Grand Opening!

We're also grateful for the valuable feedback you provided during the Strategic Plan Refresh process. Your voices are shaping the future of Caledonia Community Schools, ensuring we continue to meet the needs of every learner.

As we embrace this new year, let's carry forward the warmth and community spirit that make Caledonia such a special place! Please stay engaged and connected, and know that together we are making a difference in the lives of our students — our future — every day.

Thank you for being part of this learning community! Here's to a wonderful second semester filled with growth, achievement, and togetherness!

Go Scots!

Sincerely,



Dirk Weeldreyer
Superintendent

Board of Education Regular Meetings

The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education will hold its organizational meeting on January 27, 2025, to set the regular board meeting schedule for the year. After this date, visit our website for the full list of meeting dates and times. All meetings are held at the Administration Office, 8948 Kraft Ave.

Board of Education Members

Brittany Barber Garcia	Jessica Kohn
John Brandow	Tim Morris
Shawn Collins	Jennifer Nichols
Katie Isic	



[https://www.calschools.org/
our-district/board-of-education/](https://www.calschools.org/our-district/board-of-education/)

Grand Opening of the *Cal* Community Center

The Cal Community Center is now in its final stages of preparation, and we're getting more and more excited about welcoming the community to this remarkable space! As of the time of publication of this issue of the *Cal Communicator* we don't yet have an exact date for the Grand Opening, but it should be right around the corner. Major construction is complete and we're into the last stages of the project including testing, inspections, and certification. As soon as these final steps are complete, we'll be able to announce the official Grand Opening date.

Creating the Cal Community Center has truly been a labor of love as we envision being able to bring our community together with something for everyone. From the state-of-the-art competition pool for our Caledonia swim team to a leisure pool for recreational swimming, the facility promises to be a hub of activity. In addition, it will feature programs led by the Caledonia Resource Center and YMCA, creating countless opportunities for fitness, recreation, and connection.

Stay tuned for updates and visit our website for the latest information. We can't wait to celebrate this milestone with you and officially open the doors to this amazing addition to our Caledonia community. Thank you for your patience and support—great things are just around the corner!

Coming Soon!



Cal New Location! Resource Center

9757 Kraft Ave, SE, Caledonia MI 49316

The Caledonia Resource Center office and select senior activities are moving to the new Cal Community Center. Follow their website for the most up-to-date information on class schedules.

www.calschools.org/resourcecenter



New Director of Special Programs

Aimee Studders

Hello, Caledonia Community Schools! My name is Aimee Studders, and I am honored to be selected as the new Director of Special Programs for Caledonia Community Schools. Over the past year, I've had the privilege of serving this incredible district as the Assistant Director of Special Programs, and I'm excited to continue working alongside such dedicated colleagues, students, and families.



My journey in education began in 2002 as a paraeducator in a self-contained classroom, where I fell in love with the process of teaching and learning. After five years in the classroom, I transitioned to administration, gaining extensive experience in urban districts. These experiences have shaped my passion for breaking down barriers to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality instruction that meets their individual needs.

Since relocating from Massachusetts, my family and I have fully embraced life in West Michigan, settling in Hudsonville. My husband and I keep busy with our two teenagers. We also have our lovable goldendoodle, Bennett, who keeps us entertained. In my downtime, I enjoy exploring Lake Michigan, traveling, and spending time with family.

I am thrilled to continue building on the strong foundation of Caledonia's Special Programs. Together, we can ensure every child is supported to thrive and succeed. Let's go Scots!

Caledonia Community Schools STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



We are thrilled to announce the completion of Caledonia Community Schools' refreshed Strategic Plan! This updated plan will guide our efforts over the next several years, ensuring we continue to meet the needs of our students, staff, and community.

Stay connected to our progress, celebrate the milestones we achieve, and engage with the implementation of our renewed strategic vision by visiting our website. Together, we'll make Caledonia an even better place to learn, grow, and thrive!



Culture of Educational Excellence

Caledonia Community Schools will facilitate rigorous and standards-aligned educational experiences that promote continuous improvement and success for all students.



Culture of Connections & Community

Caledonia Community Schools will cultivate a welcoming and engaging environment for all that nurtures the whole child and strengthens connections both within the school and across the broader community.



Culture of Stewardship & Sustainability

Caledonia Community Schools will support district programming with a continuous commitment to responsible stewardship, fiscal sustainability, systemic improvement, and long-term planning.

www.calschools.org/strategic-plan-refresh/

New Caledonia High School Assistant Principal

Katie Dorband

Hello, Caledonia Community Schools family! My name is Katie Dorband, and I am thrilled to step into the role of Assistant Principal at Caledonia High School. It's an honor to continue serving this incredible school community, where I've spent the past six years in various roles, including high school counselor, student support coordinator for mental health, and Multi-Tiered System Support Coordinator. These experiences have deepened my commitment to building meaningful relationships, implementing evidence-based systems, and using data to drive student success.



My journey in education began over 20 years ago, and it's been an amazing adventure. I've had the privilege of working in K-12 settings in counseling, teaching, and administrative roles, including five years in administration in the Detroit area. Through every experience, my passion has remained steadfast: helping students thrive and reach their fullest potential.

On a personal note, my family and I are proud to call Caledonia home. My husband and I have three wonderful boys who attend Caledonia schools, and we love being part of this vibrant community. When I'm not at school, you'll likely find me cheering on my boys at their activities, walking my dogs, or enjoying a good cup of coffee.

I'm so excited to collaborate with our students, staff, and families to make this year at CHS one to remember. I can't wait to continue building on the tradition of excellence that makes Caledonia such a special place!

New Caledonia High School Assistant Principal

Olivia Johnson



My name is Olivia Johnson and I am honored to serve as the Assistant Principal at Caledonia High School! My mission as an administrator is to positively influence the lives of our students, staff, and the wider community. During my time with Caledonia Community Schools, I've had the privilege of witnessing our exceptional high school staff nurture excellence, promote exemplary instruction, and create personalized learning environments to help students reach their full potential. I am excited to work alongside our staff to make a lasting impact on the future of our students.

I attended Grand Valley State University, where I majored in Special Education and Elementary Education, and later earned a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. I spent seven years teaching in a special education classroom at the high school level, and for the past two years, I have had the privilege of leading the Caledonia Transition Program. These experiences have provided me with invaluable opportunities to grow my leadership skills.

Outside of the workplace, I enjoy spending time with my husband, two daughters, and our dog. We love traveling up North in the summer, doing home renovation projects, spending time outdoors, attending local events in Caledonia and the surrounding communities, and connecting with our extended family. I'm excited for this journey and look forward to meeting all of you!

Points of Pride

Follow Our Website: www.calschools.org/our-district/points-of-pride/

Paris Ridge Elementary School Receives i-Ready Super Stretch School Award

Paris Ridge Elementary School is one of just four schools in the state to earn the prestigious i-Ready Super Stretch School award from Curriculum Associates. This honor recognizes the outstanding growth of our students, with 56% achieving their stretch growth goal — more than a standard year's progress.

This achievement highlights the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the support of our families. During the celebration, Curriculum Associates presented a banner to commemorate their success, and students cheered each other on as door prizes were awarded. Congratulations to Paris Ridge on this incredible accomplishment!



Caledonia Schools Earn MI HEARTSafe Designation



We are thrilled to announce that all nine schools in the district have earned the prestigious MI HEARTSafe School designation for 2023-2026! This honor is presented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Department of Education, the American Heart Association, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and the Michigan Alliance for Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death of the Young.

The MI HEARTSafe designation recognizes our commitment to creating a safer learning environment and helping prevent sudden cardiac death. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff and community to prioritize the safety and well-being of all students and staff members.

We are proud to be recognized for taking proactive steps to ensure our schools are prepared to respond to cardiac emergencies.

Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center

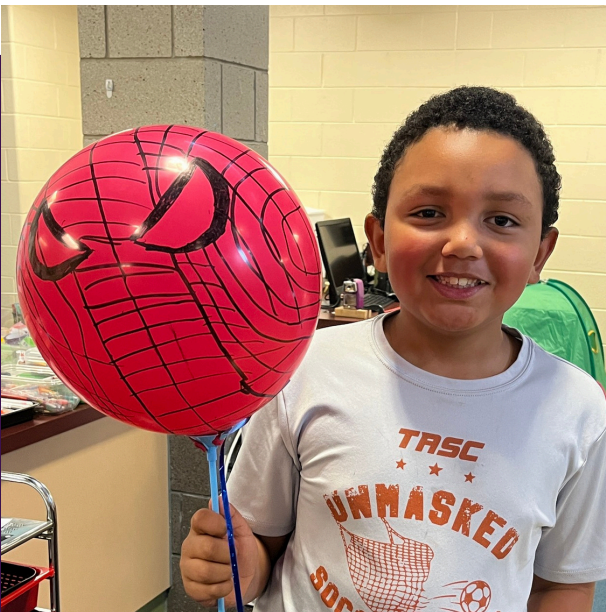


Mrs. Trisha's preschoolers have been diving into the wonders of the coral reef! They explored ocean layers through a fun experiment, practiced patterns by creating colorful fish, studied clown fish, and painted watercolor ocean scenes. Using recycled materials, they also crafted their own vibrant coral reefs. Curiosity and creativity are thriving as these young learners discover the magic of the underwater world!



Caledonia Elementary

Young Fives at Caledonia Elementary explored the letter "X" in the most adventurous way! After reading *How I Became a Pirate* by Melinda Long, students created their own treasure maps, complete with an "X" marking the spot of their treasures. Using their fingers to rip paper, they added rivers, ponds, trees, caves, and trails — bringing their maps to life with creativity and imagination. What an exciting way to learn!



Dutton Elementary

Learning took flight this November at Dutton Elementary! Third-grade students read an inspiring biography about Tony Sarg, the creative mind behind the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons. After exploring his fascinating work and watching how today's parade balloons are made, our young designers got to work on their own masterpieces, showcasing creativity, imagination, and artistry. These amazing creations were a true highlight of the season!

Emmons Lake Elementary



Emmons Lake Elementary students celebrated the season of gratitude with a special Friendsgiving before Thanksgiving break. They gathered with classmates to reflect on what they are thankful for, enjoy time together, and create festive crafts. The day was filled with laughter, shared stories, and a sense of community, reminding everyone of the importance of friendship and gratitude. It was a heartwarming celebration that brought students, teachers, and staff together to appreciate the bonds that make Emmons Lake such a special place to learn and grow.

Kettle Lake Elementary

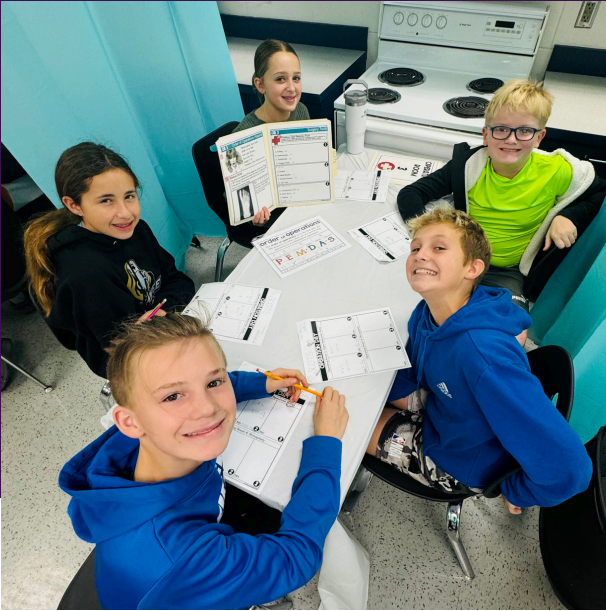
Our Kindergarten students at Kettle Lake Elementary had a blast with thematic activities celebrating the Thanksgiving season! They expressed their gratitude in the sweetest way by decorating feathers to showcase the special people in their lives. These beautiful feathers came together to create a class turkey full of love and thankfulness!



Paris Ridge Elementary

World Record Achieved! Paris Ridge Panthers joined forces with Speed Stacks for the 3-Day Cup Stacking Challenge from November 12-14, aiming to break a Guinness World Record. With enthusiasm and teamwork, our Panthers stacked their way to greatness — and the results are in! We're thrilled to announce that Paris Ridge students helped set a new WSSA World Record in Sport Stacking for the most cup stackers participating in a three-day period. Congratulations to our Panthers for being part of history!

Kraft Meadows Intermediate School



The Home Economics room at Kraft Meadows turned into a high-stakes operating room this week, thanks to the creativity of Mrs. Sackett and Mrs. VanderMark! Armed with their Order of Operations skills, students worked tirelessly to “save” some very important lives. Rumor has it, Post Malone and Taylor Swift owe their survival to these quick-thinking math whizzes. Who says math can’t be life-saving? Great job, Kraft Meadows students — you’re officially celebrity heroes!



Duncan Lake Middle School

Our middle schoolers had an amazing time at Fall Frenzy! From dodgeball and basketball tournaments to Mario Kart, Plinko, board games, a photo booth, and delicious food — there was something for everyone. A huge thank you to the Student Council, Mrs. Visser, and Mrs. Burgers for organizing this unforgettable event!



Caledonia High School

Andrew Barnum, a junior at CHS, is taking his talents to the next level in Woodworking Independent Study with Mr. Scholten. Having completed all other woodworking courses, Andrew took on an incredible challenge this semester: creating a custom guitar for his science teacher, Mr. Howell!

Under the expert guidance of Mr. Scholten, Andrew brought his vision to life, crafting a true masterpiece. From concept to completion, this project showcases the dedication, creativity, and skill that make CHS students shine. Amazing work, Andrew!

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR ENROLLMENT

Caledonia Community Schools Enrollment for PreK - 12th Grade

School-Age Students (Young 5's - 12th Grade)

- **February 1, 2025:** Online enrollment begins.
- **School-Age Enrollment Questions:** Contact Ginnie Washburn at 616.891.8185.

Preschool Students (3 & 4 Year Olds)

- **January 7, 2025:** Fall 2025 enrollment opens for current and past DLECC families.
- **February 1, 2025:** Fall 2025 enrollment opens for all new families.
- **Preschool Enrollment Questions:** Contact Catey Reed at 616.891.6220.

Preschool Informational Nights:

- **Preschool & Early Learning Expo:** January 6, 2025, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Caledonia Township Branch. Meet area preschool and learning agency reps to explore educational options for your child.
- **DLECC Open House:** January 22, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm (Weather Delay Date: January 29, 2025).

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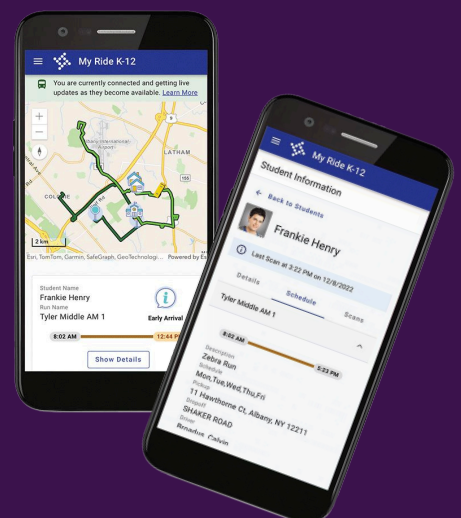
Enrolling now helps us better plan for a successful 2025-2026 school year!

Enroll **ONLINE** at
www.calschools.org

Introducing: My Ride K-12 App



- **Download the My Ride App**
- **Create an Account**
- **Select CCS**
- **Enter Your Student ID #**
- **Select Your Student's School**
- **Add Siblings the Same Way**



Download today for bus routes and real-time tracking!



www.calschools.org/resources/my-ride-support/

KINDER/Y5 Connect NIGHT

5:00 - 6:00 PM for Kindergarten

At Your Zoned* Elementary Building

Caledonia, Dutton, Emmons Lake, Kettle Lake and Paris Ridge

5:30 - 6:30 PM for Young Fives ONLY

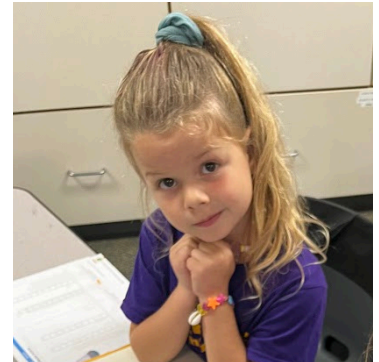
at Caledonia Elementary

This is for families interested in learning more about Kindergarten and Young Fives at CCS! For families interested in the Young Fives program, please note that Young Fives is offered ONLY at Caledonia Elementary.

03.25.25

Join us for an exciting night designed for our Kindergarten and Young Fives (Y5) families! Come connect with our dedicated staff, explore our classrooms filled with engaging activities, and discover the essence of our Kindergarten and Young Fives programs here in Caledonia.

We're eager to meet the Future Fighting Scots and introduce your little ones to the educational adventure that awaits them at Caledonia Community Schools (CCS). Don't miss this chance to experience the warmth of our community and envision the growth and joy in your child's learning journey. Let's embark on this exciting adventure together at CCS!



KNOW YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ZONE FOR KINDERGARTEN NIGHT!

Planning to attend Kindergarten Night? To help new parents determine which elementary school their child will attend, we have a map on our website showing our elementary school zones. This map is based on the geographical location of your home address and will guide you to the right school for your visit.

To find the map and learn which school you should visit, go to www.calschools.org/enrollment/ and look for "Elementary School Zones." Click on the map for a larger, detailed view.

If you have any questions about school zones or enrollment, please reach out to our Enrollment Department at washburng@calschools.org. We can't wait to welcome you and your future kindergartner!



*Elementary School Zones

Visit our website to view Elementary Boundary Lines
calschools.org/enrollment/elementary-zones



Questions?

Contact our Enrollment
Department at 616-891-8185

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



Success starts at CCS!

ENROLL NOW!

Enroll online at www.calschools.org

#calpride

- ✓ **Preschool**
- ✓ **Young Fives**
- ✓ **Kindergarten**
- ✓ **All School-Age Students**

Caledonia Administration Office

8948 Kraft Ave SE • Caledonia, MI 49316
616-891-8185

 www.calschools.org

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