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Coleman Schools COMET NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

LEADing Together!



LEADING LIKE COMETS - GROWING FOR THE FUTURE!

Dear Coleman Parents/Guardians, Students and Community Members,

Thank you for spending a few minutes reading through the Comet News to see all of the progress and excitement throughout the district. You'll learn more in the next pages about our student and programming successes and how we continue every day to Grow for the Future! And in that vein, I'd like to share just a few recent highlights:

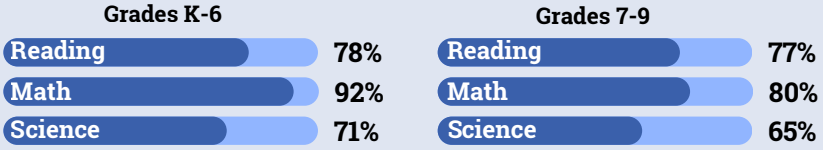
PSAT 8 Reading Leaders!

Our 8th graders outperformed the State average!

111 Credits Earned!

Our Early/Middle College students averaged a 3.5 GPA this Fall in these 111 credits!

Fall to Winter NWEA Scores
% of Students Meeting or Surpassing their Goal

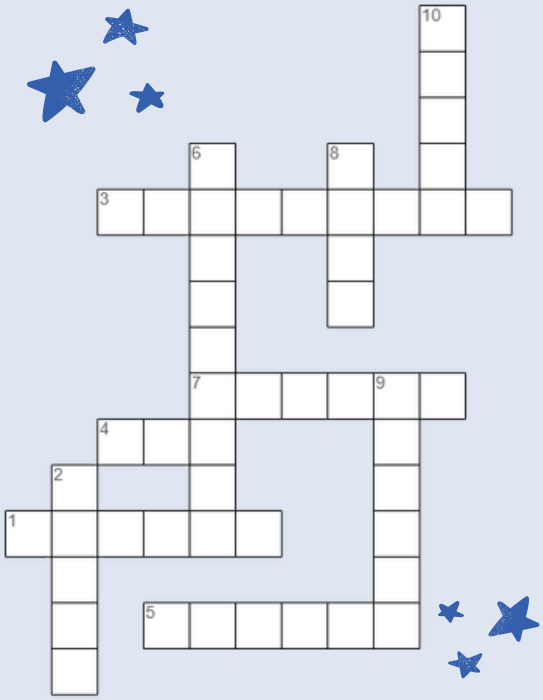


These and many other reasons you will find in this newsletter are why your children, friends' children, grandchildren and School of Choice families come to Coleman and remain here. We look forward to continuing to work with you for the growth of our students and community!



Jennifer McCormack

Superintendent/ Special Education Supervisor
jmccormack@colemanschools.net



THE COMET CROSSWORD

Read through the newsletter to find the answers!

(Solution on page 11)

ACROSS

1. Name of JH XC runner that set a new school 2 mile record this year
3. Lilyanah's snack
4. 4 Ag students earned their American ___ Degree this year
5. Members of this club helped design the cover of this newsletter
7. 6th graders visit _____ Lake annually

DOWN

2. Name of boys' basketballer that set a new school scoring record this year
6. Also known as "Hot Tub Monkey"
8. ____ Like a Comet!
9. The Jr/Sr High afterschool program
10. These panels will save us $7,000 annually

ON THE COVER:

(Designed with help from the new Comet CREATE Club!)

- **NHS setting up flags at the Veteran's Memorial for Veteran's Day**
- **Drama Club students in the fall performance of Clue**
- **Homecoming King Aden Aultman and Homecoming Queen Eliza Lewis**
- **Mr. Anderson and Wesson on the 100th Day of School**
- **Ms. Dittenber's table at the well-attended & fun Elementary Leadership Night**
- **Quiz Bowl students at a competition**
- **Culinary class prepping salads for the ReGrow program at the Family Center**
- **Ava enjoying an Ignite field trip to Leaman's Green Applebarn**

When you see this special 'LEAD Like A Comet' symbol, it means the art next to it was created by a student!











UPCOMING EVENTS

March 9th & 11th - Girls' Basketball Regionals
4 PM @ Coleman Jr/Sr High School

March 12th - Kindergarten Registration Night
6:30 PM @ Coleman Elementary School

March 17th - Fine Arts Night
6:30 PM @ Coleman Jr/Sr High School

March 30th - April 6th - Spring Break

April 16th - 18th - Drama Club Spring Musical
6/7 PM @ Coleman Jr/Sr High School

April 25th - Prom
7 PM @ TBA

May 5th - Senior Decision Day
1:30 PM @ Coleman Jr/Sr High School

May 7th - Kindergarten Round-Up
By Appt @ Coleman Elementary School

May 8th - Drive Your Tractor to School Day

May 9th - Agriscience Flower Sale
9 AM - 12 PM @ Coleman Agriscience Center

May 13th - Senior Honors Night
6 PM @ Coleman Jr/Sr High School

May 17th - Class of 2026 Graduation
2 PM @ Coleman Jr/Sr High School

May 28th or 29th - Softball Districts
TBD @ Coleman Jr/Sr High Softball Field

May 29th - Last Day of School (Half Day)
ES Release: 11:30; Jr/Sr High Release: 11:20

May 29th - Baseball Districts
TBD @ Coleman Jr/Sr High Baseball Field

June 3rd - Baseball Regional Semifinals
TBD @ Coleman Jr/Sr High Baseball Field



THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO . . . "WHAT?"

While I was driving a bus one morning, a kindergartener pointed out the window and said to me, "Hey, my dad works there!" I ask the student "Where?" the student said "At Hot Tub Monkey!" . . . he was pointing at the Huhtamaki parking lot.
- Mr. Cowell, Transportation Supervisor



Ready, Set, Register!

COLEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten REGISTRATION NIGHT!

Enrolling Developmental Kindergarten, too!

March 12th 2026
6:30 pm

Coleman Elementary School

This event is just for grown-ups - but kiddos are invited to attend Kindergarten Round-Up on May 7!

Enrolling Your Student?

Don't forget to bring:

- Registration paperwork (available online or in school offices)
- Birth certificate
- 2 Proofs of Residency
- Immunization Record
- Vision/Hearing Screening*
- Oral Health Screening*

*Kindergarten only



Find information, fill out paperwork, request a tour, or ask a question on our inquiry form at:

colemanschools.net/enrollment

Schools of Choice

Don't live in Coleman? No problem!

Any K-12th grader may apply to CCS under the Schools of Choice laws of Michigan. Application must be made to the school district no later than the end of the first week of each semester or else a release from their resident district is required.

Are you a
Homeschooler?
There's options for you, too!

Contact us to find out how you can enroll your homeschooled student in one or more of our classes or unique programs for just a few hours a day!





Building for the Future!



SCOREBOARD

The football scoreboard was replaced in November, thanks to generous donations from C.W. Gordon Auto Sales, United Bay Community Credit Union, Robinson Industries, T-Mobile, and the Class of 2025. Thank you for making it possible!



STAGE FLOOR

Getting the stage floor stripped, sanded, and resurfaced (thanks to a grant from MACF) was just one part of the Cultivating Comets project! More projects including locker rooms, playgrounds, and gymnasium are next up when funding is secured!



SOLAR PANELS

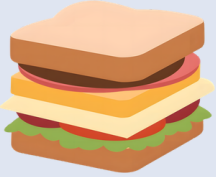
Coleman Schools is saving money on our energy use every day! All costs for these solar panels, both immediate and future are covered by NorthStar - and will save us approximately $7,000 per year.



BOND PROJECTS

We are deep in the midst of planning! Work will commence immediately on June 1st, renovating and recofiguring several areas of the Jr/Sr High, including HVAC systems. Look forward to a Ribbon-Cutting event in the Fall!

CCS FUN FACT:



All K-12 students receive FREE lunch and breakfast daily!



Track Our Transformation:

To follow along with our projects, see pictures, or contribute, visit the webpages below!

BOND

colemanschools.net/bond

FACILITIES

colemanschools.net/facilities

CULTIVATING COMETS

colemanschools.net/cultivating-comets

LEAD LIKE A COMET

MAKENZIE HEINZ
11TH GRADE
ACRYLIC PAINTING



LOOKING FOR DISTRICT COMMUNICATION?

colemanschools.net

ColemanComet Mobile App (ask a secretary about Rooms!)

@Coleman Community Schools

Can't find what you need? Call or email us! Contact info is on the back cover.



IMANI DAVIS
11TH GRADE
DIGITAL PAINTING

YOUR FEEDBACK IS ESSENTIAL!

We're updating our Strategic Plan, which includes Instruction, Facilities, Communications, and Technology. We welcome readers to take a few minutes and share their perspectives on district:

- **Strengths** (What's our competitive advantage?)
- **Areas for Improvement** (What can we improve on?)
- **Opportunities** (What opportunities should we invest in?)
- **Threats** (What external things impact us?)

Your feedback will be used to set goals and guide our plan for the next 5-10 years. The survey can be taken at this QR Code or at the link below:

https://forms.gle/EFdDFLnRvqJcFe9WA

Coming Soon!

A NEW FUND TO SUPPORT AGRISCIENCE & CULINARY!

The district Agriscience program, now in year twelve, and Culinary program, now in year three, have grown students from leaders in the classroom to college- and career-ready adults through the industry-level skills and certifications taught in these programs. With an eye toward building onthe SAE and FFA projects, certifications, field trips and conventions in perpetuity, we have launched the Coleman Community Schools CTE Endowment Fund held at the Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF). Donations to this endowment are spent at 5% a year solely on our Coleman CTE programs and those who donate can determine if they want to identify a particular program for the donation. For more information or to donate, please visit colemanschools.net/endowment or scan the QR code.



Lilyanah is enjoying a snack of blueberries, a part of the new elementary program funded by Chartwells and the Fresh Fruits & Vegetables state grant! Students receive a fresh fruit or vegetable to sample 3 times per week.

CCS FUN FACT:

15 of our Culinary students earned their ServSafe Manager certification so far this year!

Athletics Recap

FALL SPORTS

Our **cross country** teams were small but mighty! **Imani Davis**, **Landon Hauk-Powell**, and **Jaxon Lewis** set personal records at the regional meet, and **Eli Baker** finished 18th with his own personal record, later racing at the Meet of Champions in November. The **JH cross country** 2 mile school record was broken by 8th grader **Sophie Ellison** at the Northern MI Meet of Champions, who finished 6th overall.

The Comet **volleyball team** finished the season eighth in the conference, and three girls received all-conference honorable mentions at the end of the season: Sophomores **Kendall Allen** and **Klaira Sysak**, along with Senior **Tori Kennedy**.

Despite a tough schedule featuring five playoff teams, our **football team** played hard! Highlights include their dominant win versus Breckenridge, and an Academic All-State team honor. Individual standouts were:

- **Logan Glazier:** All-State Defensive Back and MDN second-team Dream Team.
- **Aden Aultman** Academic All-State Team
- **Brayden Schrank** & **Dakota Lattimer** MDN first-team

We also saw great performances from our **JH Volleyball team** and our **sideline cheer team**, who kept everyone's spirits up when the weather was not cooperating during the football season.









Boys' Basketball Pic by Haydn Naylor 11th Grade

WINTER SPORTS

Our **wrestling** team is crushing it against big schools this year! Freshman **Savannah Lattimer** won her weight class at the Standish-Sterling tournament. At the Flint Legends tournament, **Easton Loudenslager**, **Konar Curtis**, and **Adam Muddiman** finished 3rd and **Donovan Potter** took 4th. The team finished 6th as the smallest school in the field! We will host the team district meet on Thursday, February 12th.

Our **boys' basketball** team is battling for a division title with a 6-5 record, boosted by their historic win over Meridian - their first in roughly 20 years! **Logan Glazier** set a school record with 43 points in a single game and was named the December Morning Sun Male Athlete of the Month. **Aden Aultman** has become a machine in scoring and rebounding!

We are seeing boys' & girls' **bowling** averages scream up, and our teams playing well. Sophomore **Landon Hauk-Powell** has the third-highest average in the conference, and **Cody Cole** set a personal best of 158 against Central Montcalm.

Girls' basketball started with two big wins over Byron and Carson City-Crystal. Sophomores **Klaira Sysak** and **Kendall Allen** have been leading in scoring, averaging 10 and 11 points respectively, and freshman **Olivia Hegel** started the holiday break by scoring a personal best of 9 versus St. Charles.

Our **competitive cheer** team is just getting its competitions underway, but finished second at the Brethren Invitational.



The Jr/Sr Art classes showed off their work at a special Fall art gallery hosted by the Family Center!



This year's new Creative Writing class has produced some excellent projects so far!

SPARKS

SPARKS AT THE NEXT LEVEL ignite

The Clare Gladwin RESD provides Coleman students with Afterschool and Summer Programs at the Elementary (SPARKS) and Jr/Sr High (Ignite), offering students a safe and engaging place to learn and grow after the school day ends.

These programs blend academic support and social skill development with fun! Students participate in a wide range of activities as well as fun family events and field trips, and are encouraged to explore new interests, build confidence and develop positive relationships with peers and caring adults.



Hello from our leaders at Coleman Elementary!

"Leader in Me" is a program that helps kids learn how to be leaders in their everyday lives. It's about developing skills like being responsible, kind, and a good problem-solver. It encourages kids to think about how they can make a positive impact on their school and community.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE HOW OUR STUDENTS LEAD EVERY DAY!

I love being a part of a Leader in Me school! It brings our students together and helps create a leader-filled community - Mrs. Young



I like being at a Leader in Me school because the teachers and staff encourage us to be leaders - Lily



CONGRATS TO PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS!



In September, 7th graders participated in an essay contest sponsored by the VFW. The topic was "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?" The Coleman Post #1071 winners were announced: 1st place was Kaylee Whitmore, 2nd place was awarded to Conrad Peters, and Jase Howdyshell earned 3rd place. Each winner was awarded a cash prize, courtesy of the VFW.

Congratulations to our essay winners, and a special thank you to VFW Post #1071 for their generous prize donations!

LEADING LIKE COMETS - GROWING FOR THE FUTURE!



CONGRATS NEHS INDUCTEES!

Coleman Elementary School has been home to an active chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) since 2008. Students can be nominated by staff beginning in 4th grade. Those who regularly and consistently demonstrate excellence in the NEHS tenets: Scholarship, Responsibility, Service and Leadership are considered for membership. Congratulations to our NEHS members!

18 returning members

+16 new inductees

34 current members!

Thank You

FOR MAKING THE MYSTIC LAKE TRIP POSSIBLE!

2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the annual 6th grade trip to Mystic Lake YMCA Camp in Lake, MI. This trip, first organized by former Coleman Schools' teacher, Mrs. Sue Thering, is a much anticipated opportunity for 6th graders. Thank you to the CES PTO and the community for your fundraising support toward the cost of the upcoming May trip. Proceeds from the annual Apple Pie Sale, held in November each year, help to offset the costs of this annual experience.

LEAD LIKE A COMET

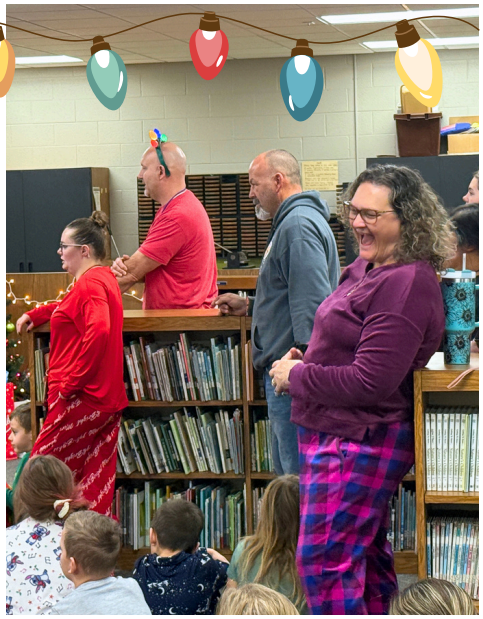
RIDDIC PHILLIPS
KINDERGARTEN
CRAYON & PAPER ART



COLEMAN'S LARGEST PAJAMA PARTY

How do you make the last few days of school before the holidays fun and engaging? According to students, you host a Pajama Day and get the adults to participate, too! Pictured are some of our students and staff as they participate in the annual Holiday Sing turned pajama party!





DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD - JOSIE BALLIET



Congrats to senior Josie Balliet for earning the DAR Good Citizen Award this year! This award recognizes seniors who demonstrate dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their communities.

STEPHEN WARD
2ND GRADE
MARKER DRAWING



"THE DIRT" ON AGRISCIENCE CLASS

This summer, we grew and maintained donated corn that was planted in the land lab last Spring with plans made by last years' students, under the guidance of Jacob Rivard, a Coleman Ag Alumni.

Many students exhibited livestock at both Isabella and Midland County fairs. At the Midland County Fair, our students once again helped serve the Livestock Dinner at the Buyer's Auction.

In September, ten students volunteered at the Midland County Project RED. Students helped to teach 344 students, from 15 classes and 7 school districts various agriculture, food and natural resources related topics.

Ag 1 students raised broiler chicks! Morning and afternoon students worked together to learn team communication skills. Birds were raised to approximately seven pounds and then were sold to the community.

Year 2 and 3 students have a variety of projects going from bat tracking, dog digestion, steer and swine feed studies, raising salmon, to studying bug movement within tree species. All Ag 2 students completed their OSHA-10 Safety Certification.

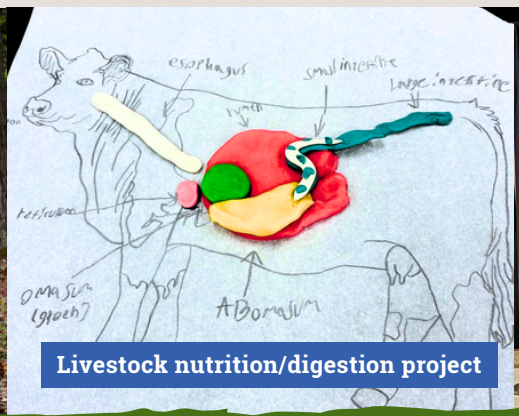
Ag students utilized our school forest property by hosting a district-wide Fall Fest! Every elementary student participated in educational fall-related agriculture activities led by Ag students - and then we all enjoyed donuts made by the Culinary class!

In October, ten students traveled to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis with Mr. Fischer. Students listened to keynote speakers, attended leadership sessions and workshops, met with college and industry representatives and attended a rodeo and concert. Four of our members received an American FFA Degree, the highest degree that our organization can bestow. Less than 1% of the over one million FFA members earn this degree.



Fall Fest picture by Lucas Bovee
10th Grade

1st graders at Fall Fest



Livestock nutrition/digestion project



Congrats to our American FFA Degree recipients!

COMET CROSSWORD SOLUTION



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Haven't done the job before but think you might be great at it? A little nervous about learning something new? We are willing to train for the right person!

- **STAR Leos Club Advisor***
- **HS & JH Robotics Advisor***
- **LEGO League & LEGO League Jr. Advisor***
- **Paraprofessional**
- **Potential Jr/Sr High Social Studies or English Teacher***

***Hiring for 2026-27 school year**

Apply at colemanschools.net/employment!

NEWS FROM THE PTO

We had an awesome fall this year! We had a popcorn day, apple pie and gift card sales, and the Christmas Shoppe. Thank you for all who participated, donated, and attended - keep an eye out for more events coming up this year! We have a few vacant seats available on the PTO board for the 2026-2027 school year. If you're interested, we meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:30 pm, reach out to a PTO member, or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/ColemanPTO

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE BOARD SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Coleman Board Scholars Program is a long-standing Coleman Schools tradition to award students who display academic and citizenship excellence. We ask for your help in honoring students for their years of maintaining high academic standards.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE: (Must be received by March 6th 2026)

Online/Credit Card:

Scan the QR code to make a donation online, or visit this link: https://square.link/u/E1WLIzoM

Cash/Check:

Please make your check out to: Coleman Community Schools Attn: Board Scholars, fill out this Donor Form, and mail or drop it off to 4823 N. Coleman Schools Dr., Coleman, MI, 48618

Donor's Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

$_____ **Amount Donated** **Yes, I would like a copy of the program sent to me (please check)** _____

Donor's Contribution in honor/memory of: _____

All donors will be listed in the program - along with the person they are honoring if one is named.

This year's program is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Berthume at (989) 465-6060.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Board Members

President: Lorie Fox
Vice President: Travis Aultman
Treasurer: Miles Cameron
Secretary: Angela Brooks
Trustee: Jennifer Murray
Trustee: Nathan Clarke
Trustee: Sean Long



Questions? Compliments? Ideas? Concerns?
Contact the Board at anytime by sending an email to:
boardofeducation@colemanschools.net

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

Coleman Community Schools Board Meetings are open to the public and held in the Jr/Sr High Auditorium starting at 6:30 pm. To access meeting agendas and official minutes, please visit the Board of Education page on our district website.

February 23	**May 18***
March 16	**June 15* (6 pm)**
April 20	**July 20***

*Held at the Board of Education Office

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE — 4823 N. Coleman Schools Dr.

Phone: (989) 465-6060 **Fax:** (989) 465-9853

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am - 4 pm

Superintendent/Special Education Supervisor: Jennifer McCormack . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2104**
Board/Superintendent Administrative Assistant: Kerry Berthume . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2108**
Business Manager: Sara Hegel . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2102**
Payroll/Benefits Specialist: Carmen Grzegorek . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2101**
Community Relations Specialist/Business Office Assistant: Natalie Kalitta . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2105**
Special Education Secretary: Macy Seifert . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2256**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — 1010 E. Washington St.

Phone: (989) 465-6179 **Fax:** (989) 465-6852

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm

Principal: Cindy Araway . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2252**
Head Secretary: Linda Lovejoy . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2200**
MTSS Coordinator: Amy Klopf . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2254**

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL — 4951 N. Lewis Rd.

Sr. High Phone: (989) 465-6171 **Jr. High Phone:** (989) 465-6177 **Fax:** (989) 465-9222

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am - 4 pm

Principal: Jennifer Hess . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2451**
Head Secretary: Nancy Sian . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2400**
MTSS Coordinator/Athletic Director: Kevin Cliff . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2452**
Athletic Secretary: Kaleigh Boggs . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2300**

BUS GARAGE — 5200 W. Comet Ln.

Phone: (989) 465-6811

Transportation Supervisor: Michael Cowell . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2502**
Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor: Cody Wright . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2500**

AGRISCIENCE BUILDING — 4858 N. Coleman Schools Dr.

colemanag@colemanschools.net

Instructors: Eric Fischer & Marie Zwemmer . . . . . **(989) 465-1891 x2700**

CULINARY BUILDING — 320 E. Railway St.

Instructor: Chef Jacob Moore . . . . . **(989) 442-4116**