CULTIVATING COMET CONNECTIONS

Sharing our journey of growing for the future

Jen McCormack, Superintendent/ Special Education Supervisor

OCTOBER
2025

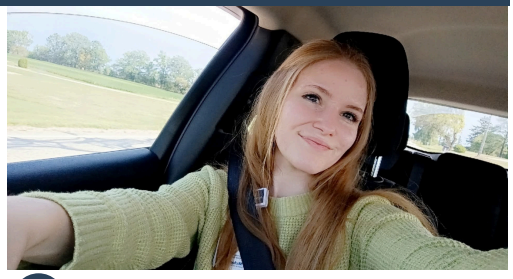


Superintendent's Message

Thank you for contributing to the start of another year of fun and learning! At Coleman Community Schools, we are committed to Growing for the Future and helping every student shine through Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Agriculture. Thank you for your continued partnership in making CCS the hub of our community as our students LEAD like the Comets they are.
~ Jen McCormack jmccormack@colemanschools.net

Spotlight: Comet Alum Erika Kehr

Erika Kehr, Comet Class of 2019, is currently a MyMichigan Hospice Supervisor of Volunteers receiving her Associates degree in Business Studies at Delta College. She loves providing her patients and their families unique and individual comfort during difficult times. Erika feels Coleman Schools prepared her for her leadership roles through Agriscience and FFA; that her Art teacher Mr. Dexter pushed her to approach everything with a creative mindset. Mr. Cronk gave her a lifelong statement "It takes as much energy to be miserable as it does to choose to be happy". She credits Mr. Steve Fox with helping her finally "get" math and saving her time and money that would have been college pre-requisites. And, she made a point to share that how her Mom and Grandparents raised her allows her to show love to others. #LEADLikeAComet



www.colemanschools.net

989.465.6060

LEAD Like A Comet

At Coleman Community Schools, we believe in growing leaders at every level through our Standard of Sustained, superior performance with happy & loyal staff, students, families and community. As part of this, we LEAD Like a Comet which reminds us of the four pillars that guide the learning and culture for students and adults alike every day:

- Learn – Strive for academic excellence and lifelong learning.
- Engage – Participate fully in school and community activities.
- Assist – Support classmates, staff, and neighbors with kindness and teamwork.
- Dialogue – Communicate openly and respectfully to build stronger connections.

When we LEAD, we create a school community that shines bright—just like a Comet!



Friday Night Lights

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the recent T-Mobile Friday Night Lights contest. Your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to showing your Comet Pride truly represented Coleman in such a positive light. Unfortunately we are not moving on to the next step in the contest, but thanks to your support, we were incredibly fortunate to win $5,000 toward our football scoreboard. While $25,000 or a million dollars would have been amazing for our facilities, this prize is still a tremendous positive, and it highlights the power of our community when we come together.
We are so grateful for the time, effort, and spirit you poured into this contest. You reminded everyone what supporting our students is all about, and we couldn't be prouder of our Comet family. We'll tweak our work and go for it again next year!

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Funding

You may have heard a lot of conversation over the wait for a State and Federal budget since July 1st. Late last week a State budget was approved and we will have more information on what that means this week for schools including Pathways/DHHS, the School-Based Health Clinic and funding in general. We are fortunate to be a CEP district which means with your help in filling out the Educational Benefits Food Service form, we will continue to fund FREE breakfast and lunch to our students for the entire school year. The Federal government is still on shutdown, but we do know we will receive our Title funding this year.

The wait for a budget emphasizes the importance of the work between our Business Office team, Board and Superintendent who work together to maintain a healthy fund balance each year. This is important in times like these because it allows us to operate without borrowing and paying interest. Coleman Schools has not borrowed for its general fund balance in over 13 years, keeping more of our resources directly in classrooms and student programs.

We are committed to advocating for the continuation of the services for our students need and adequate funding to support their learning, health and safety.

Staff Recognition Dates: *Please help us in recognizing the Comet Staff throughout the year with a short note, pat on the back or small token of thank you on each of their special Recognition days. Click the link for dates.*





Learning Updates

Each year, proposals are made by teaching staff on specific K-12 Content Committees to the District Curriculum Committee and then to the Board of Education for any materials or curriculum purchased to further student learning. All content areas are included on a 5-year rotation schedule. Last spring, K-12 Science and K-12 Physical Education completed their proposals, guided by evidence-based practices and determining what will help students best reach their potential and State Standards.

New equipment arrived for the weight room and gym classes as well as Powerlifting. Both Elementary and Jr/Sr High Science courses have hands-on materials to help student get excited to learn and stay engaged, including full kits, animal specimens for dissection and physics items including 3-D printing materials and programmable robots.

Comet Staff Spotlight: Doug Mogg & Troy Waddington

Coleman Schools has SO many dedicated staff members.

This time around I would like to recognize Mr. Doug Mogg for working as Custodian all summer, subbing during the school year and "unretiring" more than a couple of times because he likes being with us so much!

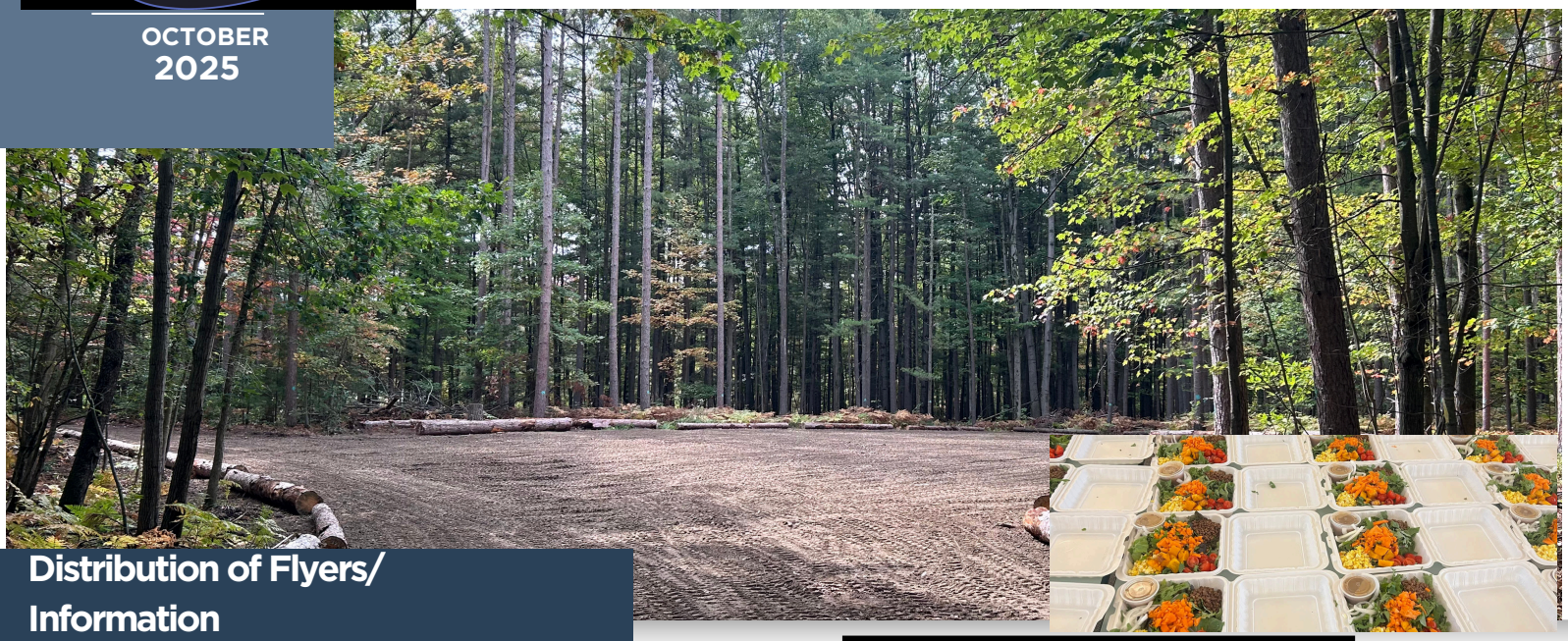
Mr. Troy Waddington, Maintenance, jumps in anytime something is needed, spending time above his typical schedule to assist.

Thank you so much to both of them!

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Distribution of Flyers/ Information

One of our key goals is to act as the "Hub of the Community" in order to support all of the amazing organizations, programs and activities that take place for our students and families in Coleman and the surrounding areas. As a public school we also want to ensure we use our instructional time wisely and that we follow a position of neutrality by law. If one organization is allowed to distribute information, all organizations must be allowed to distribute information in the same manner. At times, some parents/guardians may not wish for their child to receive certain information.

To assist parents in having more say over what is given to their child(ren) and to reduce the time teachers spend distributing these items weekly, beginning October 13th the District will have a page of its website dedicated to notices/flyers from organizations that would have typically gone home with students. Parents/Guardians can access this website at any time and it will be publicized a minimum of six times throughout the year through social media or email. Per policy, flyers directly linked to the school's classes, extracurriculars or organizations that are directly connected to supporting the school such as PTO and Sports Boosters, may still be sent home with students.

All organizations and community groups supporting the Coleman Community School students and wishing to have information posted on the website should continue to submit the items to jmccormack@colemanschools.net or kberthume@colemanschools.net for review and consideration of approval no less than 5 days prior to the date you would like the item posted.

Student Spotlight: Donovan Potter & Killian D'Artgnan

Donovan Potter, Junior, serves as Student Board Representative with Killian D'Artgnan, Senior, to represent the entire 7th-12th grade student body and bring forward ideas those students share. Killian has served for the past year while Donovan is beginning this year. Last Friday Donovan spoke at the Midland Business Alliance Leadership Day, speaking to adults who stated, "He is a well-spoken young man. Listening to him speak about mental health & being there for friends made me tear up. He has a bright future!"

Growing For The Future!

We are continuing to grow our programming to offer even more opportunities to our students. You can see above some of the food prepared by our Culinary program students in collaboration with ReGrow Midland that provides food at low cost to our area available at the Coleman Family Center. North Bradley and Fike Rd. School Forest properties are getting some TLC to allow for small numbers of Agriscience student and bus parking so students K-12 can learn more about Forestry and their outdoor spaces. Cross country trails will be added at the North Bradley property to combine efforts for the students.
The Cultivating Comets multi-phase grant is seeking donations/grants toward our locker rooms, playground and auditorium. And soon we will be going out to bid for the bond projects to take place at the Jr/Sr High in Summer 2026. See our website for more information.

Religious Education

Recently some families have asked questions regarding religious education with organizations outside of the school day for their children. Parents have the right for their children to attend up to 2 hours per week of religious education, if they so choose, per State law and Board policy. Those interested must submit a letter in advance to the school office with the date, your name, your child's name, dates/times the student will be attending and your signature.

If your child will be transported by someone other than yourself from school to the religious education classes and back, please include that information in the letter. We will ask for identification from those transporting other than parents, so please make sure they are aware.

As always, should you have any questions, please contact the school office. We're happy to help.