

SUMMER 2021

Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



SUMMER SENDOFF

*A letter from the superintendent:
Wishing you a safe and fun summer*

Paris Ridge Elementary Panthers recognize Autism Awareness Month

CHS launches career pathways guide

Meet new faces in athletics



A letter from the Superintendent

Dear Caledonia Schools Community,

The 2020-21 school year will be one not many of us will forget. While we've faced many challenges and changes throughout the year, our students, parents, staff and community have worked tirelessly to prioritize student learning. As a district we have remained open for in-person learning for a majority of the school year and we are excited about the creative ways our staff found to celebrate our students. While it may not have been the year most planned, we still have had many success stories.

As your superintendent, I'd like to first thank our families for your patience, grace and cooperation as our teachers and staff members provided quality learning experiences for our students whether online or in-person. We have been amazed by the flexibility, tenacity and creativity that our students have shown as they navigated this new and challenging year. Caledonia students are resilient and we know that they will come through this difficult time having learned important lessons about themselves as learners and as young adults.

COVID-19 continues to provide valuable lessons on how we must quickly adapt and work together both inside and outside the classroom. This past year we have seen teachers bring experiences outdoors or find new ways to livestream events when capacities were limited. Students showed versatility as they continued to adapt even though they were faced with constant change. Our community has walked alongside our district and offered support when needed. Caledonia has shown we are a district and community that will rise to any challenge that life brings and continue to **Cultivate Agile Learners** along the way. We'd like to thank you for your unwavering support and patience this year.

We wish you a safe and healthy summer and look forward to seeing our students again in the fall.

Dr. Dedrick Martin
Superintendent



Some student photos in this edition were taken prior to the implementation of COVID-19 safety protocols.



A New Opportunity to Learn With Caledonia Connected

For those of you who missed our April Town Hall announcement, starting in the fall, Caledonia Community Schools will be launching a fully online K-12 school called **Caledonia Connected**. The online school option offers a solution for students and parents who are looking for an alternative approach to traditional face-to-face learning and will utilize Caledonia teachers to deliver instruction.

Education is a journey. The journey, as we've learned, can sometimes have unexpected twists and turns. As a district, we are committed to providing safe and engaging learning environments and preparing students for tomorrow no matter the circumstances.

Caledonia Connected is one of the many opportunities provided by Caledonia Community Schools that allows students the flexibility to engage in a learning style that works best for them.

The enrollment window took place from May 10-28. Families who were interested in choosing Caledonia Connected applied online to join in May. There will be an additional drop and add window from August 9-13 at 11:59 p.m. during which families can select full-time online learning or stay in face-to-face learning for the 2021-22 school year. Any changes after that can be made only at the second semester point.



From Left to Right: Andy Johnson, Jeff Uherek (both CEF Board Members), Dr. Martin, David Schnurstein, (CEF Board President), Denise Blunk (CEF Executive Director)

Thank You!

The Caledonia Education Foundation (CEF) desires to be known as “a community that stood by our district during the times that our students and teachers needed us the most.” CAL CARES is an initiative started this past year by the foundation to directly support Caledonia Community Schools (CCS). Thanks to donors and the strong base of the Foundation’s endowment, the Foundation gave CCS a \$75,000 donation this fall to help offset the expenses of the new K-8 math curriculum. This allowed CCS to reallocate funds to reinstate the Student Supports Coordinator position that helps with the coordination of mental, social and emotional services to meet the needs of students at a time when it’s so desperately needed.

In March, the CEF gave an additional \$10,050 to the district that was raised through our CAL CARES community campaign. This donation will provide transitional leveled reader resources for our K-8th



grade buildings as well as transitional activities for students, staff, and families as we transition to new middle school buildings in the fall.

The foundation also recently treated our staff with free pizza at Uccello’s. This was a way to thank the staff for all that they have done to go above and beyond this year to provide the safest and best possible learning environment for our students and for helping families navigate this challenging educational environment.

We’d like to thank the CEF and the donors who gave to CAL CARES to support the staff and students of Caledonia Community Schools. You are appreciated!



CHS Launches Career Pathways Guide

At Caledonia High School we believe it's important for students to recognize and understand that there is a difference between college and career. Some students will choose careers that don't require college, and it's important for students to be thinking about what they want to do in their careers and then work on the path that will help them succeed in attaining that goal, whether college or otherwise.

This past year, Caledonia High School worked to develop six distinct Career Pathways to guide our students. Much of this work evolved out of conversations with our STEM community engagement group and work done by our student services department at CHS. Career Pathways are careers

that are grouped together because many of the people in them share similar interests and strengths. All pathways include a variety of occupations that require different levels of education and training.

Selecting a Career Pathway provides a focus students can begin exploring to determine a tentative career "fit." By identifying with a pathway, students are aided in selecting courses, extra-curricular activities and part-time employment that matches with their goals.

Career Pathways provide a plan for all students regardless of their interests, abilities, talents or desired levels of education. The following six Career Pathways have been developed by the state of Michigan and have been adopted by Caledonia High School.



Arts & Communication



Business & Technology



Engineering & Industrial



Health Sciences



Human Services



Natural Resources



Elementary Students ‘Caught Being Inclusive’

Our Paris Ridge Elementary Panthers recognized Autism Awareness Month in April. Staff created a great video to kick off the month and introduced their “Caught Being Inclusive” challenge for students. Teachers handed out puzzle pieces when they “cauzht” students being inclusive in hopes to fill a bucket located in the main office. Prizes were awarded to all students when they filled the bucket half-way, and students earned the opportunity to throw a pie in Mr. Vydareny’s face if they filled it all the way up! Students were especially excited to hear they had filled the bucket to the top with over 2,000 puzzle pieces, and had a great time watching Mr. V get several pies in his face! Lots of other great activities went on throughout the month including classroom time to bring more awareness about autism to students. The month ended with a fun-filled Spirit Week. Students learned about each other’s passions outside of school and got a glimpse of the future through “Dress as what you want to be when you grow up” day. The staff found so many creative ways to shed light on how important it is to be inclusive and empathetic toward others. Way to go Panthers!



Bond Work Continues

In May 2020 the community passed the \$88 million bond for infrastructure and other improvements within the school district. We have come a long way in a year, from having the outline of a plan and budget that passed the vote, to this summer when we will be completing the first \$20 million of work in the district.

The bond projects are divided in two areas:

1. Tower-Pinkster Architects and the Christman Company Construction are remodeling buildings, upgrading building systems and security as well as creating/ building a replacement for Dutton Elementary.

2. Stantec/C2AE architects and the Rockford Construction Co. are working on the future community center building, which includes pools, a gym, meeting rooms, exercise facilities and offices/ facilities for a resource center and senior programs.

Seven projects are underway this summer.

1. The remodeling of Duncan Lake Middle School began in March with the demolition of the old locker rooms and the media center. These areas have begun construction for the new science wing and upgraded media center. The long list of other updates at Duncan Lake will be starting through the end of school and through the summer.
2. Additions at Kraft Meadows Middle School also began in March with the addition of four classrooms on the west side of the building and a significant expansion of the cafeteria. Interior work and a large modification of the parking lots at Kraft Meadows will begin soon. The building will reopen this fall as Kraft Meadows Intermediate School reflecting the changed grade structure.
3. The Caledonia Schools Administration building began with heavy demolition and construction at the site of the former Glenmor High School. This work is well underway, and we are looking forward toward scheduling the moving of staff this fall.
4. Caledonia Elementary and Kettle Lake Elementary schools are getting new classroom Vertical Unit Ventilators that will supply the heating and add air conditioning to classrooms in these buildings. This work involves some major changes in ceilings and

behind walls for both buildings so air conditioning will be ready for the start of school. Additional work at these schools will be done next summer.



5. The replacement of parking lots and paving is scheduled to start in June at Caledonia High School (north), Emmons Lake Elementary, Operations/Transportation and the bus loop at Caledonia Elementary School. Paving work will also be completed at Duncan Lake, Kraft Meadows, and the (new) administration building. Please be patient as we close access roads and parking areas this summer, knowing they will be much improved in August.
6. The design and development of the community center building on Kraft Avenue is on schedule as this project transitions into its next phases in May and June. Construction drawings and bidding of the construction work is on track to take place this summer.
7. We began design on the new elementary school replacing Dutton Elementary in February. We are looking toward that facility opening its doors for the 2024-25 school year, welcoming the class of 2037 as kindergarteners in a new school building.

This is the first summer of four years of work as a result of the 2020 bond and we look forward to massive improvements in the years to come.

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!

Preschool, Young Fives, Kindergarten and new school-age students



Preschool

For 3- and 4-year-old preschool enrollment and questions, contact Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center at 616.891.6220

For all other enrollment questions, contact the Enrollment Department at 616.891.8185

Enroll online at www.calschools.org



Enrolling now helps us better plan for a successful 2021-22 school year!

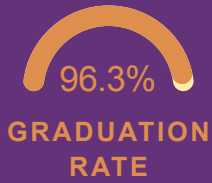


www.calschools.org

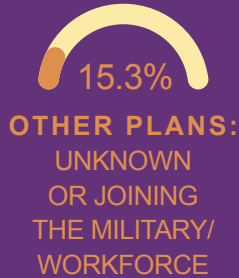
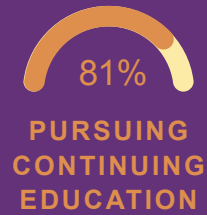


facebook.com/CALSCHOOLS

CLASS OF 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



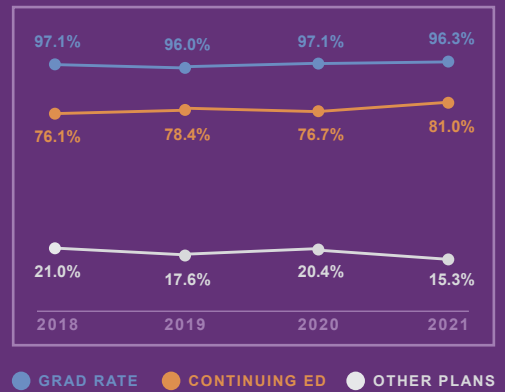
378
SENIORS



TOP 5 POST-SECONDARY PLANS:

1. GRCC
2. MSU
3. WMU
4. GVSU
5. FSU

GRADUATE TRENDS 2018-2021



Celebrating High Honors

Our seniors have worked very hard to overcome the challenges of this school year. Our 59 Gold Status graduates have earned top marks this year. We're proud of all our graduating seniors, and our Silver and Bronze status graduates are highlighted on the Caledonia High School website.

Top Graduates

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Emma Andrulis | Presley Gilchrist | Lexus Lawlor | Alex Roe |
| Tanner Barry | Collin Gootjes | Alexander Le | Jessica Salinas |
| Sam Blunt | Aidan Grinstead | Savannah LeRoux | John Schwartz |
| Sammie Burmeister | Ethan Hance | Noah McCrath | Cole Smith |
| Zachary Carlson | Isaac Hautala | Ella Mealey | Elise Smith |
| Mya Carrow | Sammie Heath | Kathryn Meeuwenberg | Morgan Stanton |
| Joe Coble | Marisa Helsten | Danielle Miron | Remington Steenwyk |
| Emily Dean | Madalyn Higgins | Kamden Mulder | Andrew Tafelsky |
| Nicole DeVries | Paige Irons | Jessica Peckham | Nathan Trees |
| Katelyn Dickerson | Lauren Kane | Olivia Perez | Maci VanderLaan |
| Cameron Downer | Colby King | Lindsey Peters | Matthew VanNoord |
| Isabelle Elliot | Conner Klein | Kennedy Phelps | Aidan Vire |
| Natalya Fairless | Wesley Knipping | Mackenzie Reibold | Abby Vonk |
| Brayden Folkersma | John Kotarski | Brendan Reuter | Jadyn Waggoner |
| Olivia Garreau | Nicole Lanser | | Alexis Wilcox |

2021-22 Calendar dates



| August 2021 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 6 |

| September 2021 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 19 |

| October 2021 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | 20 |

| November 2021 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 18 |

| December 2021 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | 13 |

| January 2022 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | 20 |

| February 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 17 |

| March 2022 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| | | | | | | 22 |

| April 2022 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | 14 |

| May 2022 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 21 |

| June 2022 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| | | | | | | 3 |

| Legend Key | |
|---|-----------|
| | Full Days |
| | Half Days |
| | No School |
| Snow Day Make up dates: February 24 & 25 | |

Federal holidays 2021/22

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Sep 6, 2021 | Labor Day | Nov 25, 2021 | Thanksgiving Day | Dec 31, 2021 | New Year's Day (obs.) | Feb 21, 2022 | Presidents' Day |
| Oct 11, 2021 | Columbus Day | Dec 24, 2021 | Christmas Day (obs.) | Jan 1, 2022 | New Year's Day | May 30, 2022 | Memorial Day |
| Nov 11, 2021 | Veterans Day | Dec 25, 2021 | Christmas Day | Jan 17, 2022 | Martin Luther King Day | Jul 4, 2022 | Independence Day |

Meet Derek Pennington, New Caledonia High School Varsity Head Football Coach

I am honored and excited to be the new Head Football Coach at Caledonia High School. Before coming to Caledonia, I was the head coach of Zeeland East for the past 13 seasons. In Zeeland, I had a very successful tenure that included four conference championships, two district championships, a regional championship and a state semi-finalist



team in 2018. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to lead Zeeland East to its most successful period in school history.

My family and I are excited to have recently settled into a new home in Caledonia. I have two children who will be attending Caledonia High School this fall. Georgia, my daughter, will be in ninth grade and my son Derek Jr. will be in 10th. My wife

Katie is also an educator and serves as the principal of Holland High School.

My vision for Caledonia football is that we provide a life-changing experience for all of our players. The program will be built on the core values of hard work, commitment, resilience and teamwork. I want our players to build lifelong friendships and learn lessons that will serve them well after they graduate.

Since being hired in December, I have been busy organizing speed and strength workouts for our

athletes and leading an effort to redesign the high school weight room with huge help from our athletic boosters. My desire is not only to make an impact on our football program, but with all athletes in 7th-12th grades in Caledonia.

As for Friday nights in Caledonia, we want our football games to be a great community event where we all support the Fighting Scots and celebrate all the things that make Caledonia a great community for our students. I am very excited to start our summer training program and camps! Go Scots!

Meet new Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Todd Bloemers

My name is Todd Bloemers, and I feel blessed and excited to be named the new Head Girls Basketball Coach at Caledonia High School. We have wonderful student-athletes and families who are passionate about providing opportunities and resources for our athletes to maximize their growth and development. I look forward to working in partnership with all stakeholders in the program to help Caledonia Girls Basketball reach its full potential.



My short-term goals for our Girls Basketball Program are foundational. Our athletes need to get stronger and more explosive. With that said, we will provide resources and opportunities to focus on strength training and development this off-season. Further, I intend to focus on building relationships with our players as we enter summer basketball workouts and camps, which will provide an awesome opportunity

to communicate goals and specific areas of improvement for our players and our program.

I would like to thank the high school administration for this opportunity, and I look forward to the process of advancing our basketball program in the years to come. Go Scots!

Currently, I teach Physical Education at Duncan Lake Middle School. Prior to this school year, I spent fourteen years as an English teacher at Caledonia High School. My past coaching experiences include four years as the Girls JV Basketball Coach and eight years as the Boys Varsity Basketball Coach. In addition, I have spent the past few years coaching youth basketball and soccer in various capacities.

I have been a Caledonia resident for most of my life, and I am a 1998 graduate of CHS. My family loves Caledonia High School athletics! My son Owen and daughter Avery are in fifth and third grade, respectively, at Kettle Lake Elementary. One of their favorite things to do is tag along with dad in the gym and spend time with our high school athletes. Coaching truly is a family affair! My wife, Beth, works for West Michigan Lighting. Her support for my passion to coach has enabled our family to build lifelong relationships through sports.

A yellow rectangular poster with a firework pattern in the corners. The text is centered and reads: "Save the Date September 24th, 2021". Below this, it says "Caledonia Education Foundation is hosting the biggest party Caledonia has ever seen!". At the bottom, it lists "FOOD TRUCKS - LIVE MUSIC - ENTERTAINMENT - AND MORE" and "Event Sponsor: wildwood family farms" with a small bee logo and the tagline "real. good. food.".

Save the Date
September 24th, 2021

Caledonia Education Foundation is hosting the biggest party Caledonia has ever seen!

FOOD TRUCKS - LIVE MUSIC - ENTERTAINMENT - AND MORE

Event Sponsor: **wildwood family farms**
real. good. food.



Paid for by Caledonia Community Schools
9753 Duncan Lake Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FENTON, MI
PERMIT NO. 1776



Have a Great Summer!

All of us at CCS wish you and your families a safe and relaxing summer! Keep up with us at www.calschools.org and facebook.com/CALSCHOOLS.