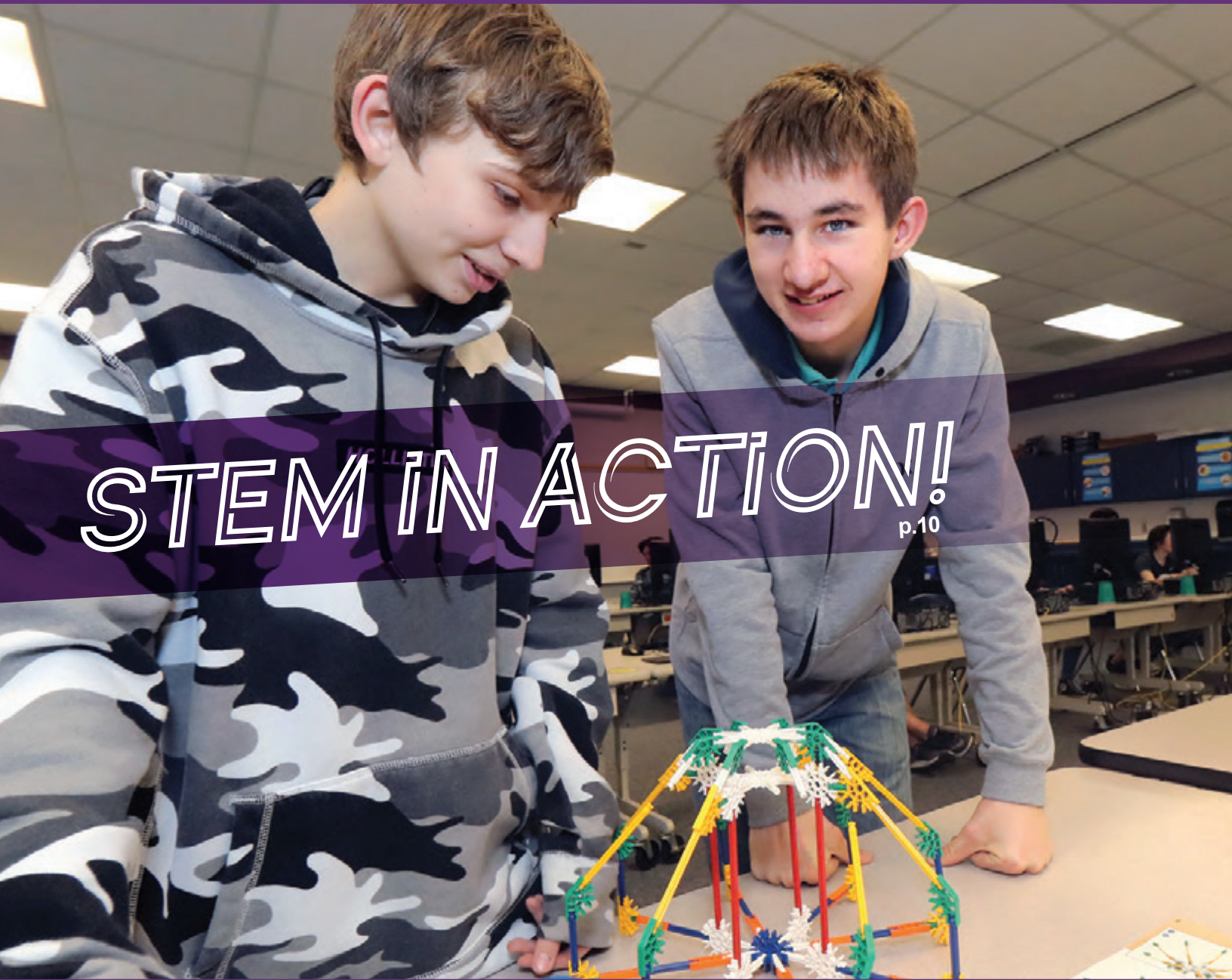


SPRING 2020

Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



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A letter from the Superintendent

Dear CCS Families,

Like you, we continue to adjust to the ever-changing landscape caused by COVID-19. Below are updates on essentials we want students, parents and our community to be aware of. We realize that by the time you read this, things may have changed, so we encourage you to visit our website at www.calschools.org to get the most up-to-date information on these topics.

Food Service:

Our food service staff continues to provide carry-out breakfast and lunch free of charge to anyone 18 or younger. The days and times have been modified to every Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. from the Duncan Lake Middle School Cafeteria. (This is subject to change and any changes will be communicated on our website.) Adult meals will be available for purchase (cash only) during this same timeframe. Parents and students can obtain up to five days worth of meals at a time. Additional meal locations throughout the region can be found on our website under the food assistance tab in the COVID-19 section.

Shift to Distance Learning:

The Governor has asked that each school district and its staff provide instructional materials and opportunities for students to continue their education during the COVID-19 crisis. For many, that will mean our staff will continue to provide online learning resources to students and their families. For those who do not have access to the internet, we are exploring other options that may include providing loaner Google Chromebook devices, printed instructional materials or other recommended resources for parents to help with their student(s)' education. Please continue to check your emails and our website for ongoing changes.

Special Education:

Case managers are in contact with parents of students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) team is scheduled to meet during the closure period to consider utilizing a remote format such as phone or video conferencing. We strongly ask parents to consider remote participation whenever possible so all parents and staff members can minimize unnecessary health risk during this mandatory shutdown.

State Assessments and Standardized Tests:

Students in the state of Michigan will not take M-STEP and other state-mandated assessments. All state-mandated standardized tests, including the PSAT for ninth- and 10th-graders and the M-STEP, SAT and ACT WorkKeys (the three tests that make up the Michigan Merit Exam for 11th-graders) will not be given this year based upon the approved waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for the state of Michigan. How this will impact our students specifically has yet to be determined. Please remember to keep checking our website for enrichment and parent resources, as well as various updated information.

Advanced Placement Students:

The college board has determined the 2019-2020 exams will be available to be taken online and at home. A comprehensive explanation can be found at the AP Central website. Parents should be receiving more communication from their child's individual AP teachers and can reach out to Mrs. Scott with other questions at scottd@calschools.org.

Field Trips/ High School Interim:

We have canceled all field trips, including high school interim, for the remainder of the year. These trips involve many logistics including deposits that make it impossible to move forward during these uncertain times. More information will follow from the individual buildings regarding field trip cancellations.

Athletics:

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has directed all member schools to suspend activities in all sports for all seasons. We suspended practices, scrimmages and competitions/games, as well as strength training, conditioning and any other organized sessions and activities in all MHSAA in-season and out-of-season sports. In addition, all youth leagues are canceled.

Public Events:

Face-to-face public events such as School Board Meetings, STEM Fest, Literacy Fest and Dialogue with Doc Martin are canceled. We are exploring a range of options to make future board meetings remote and still allow for public access. Please check our website for details.

Social-Emotional Supports:

The district Student Support Team has been encouraged to identify social-emotional resources for families that can be posted on our district website and shared, as needed, with individual students and/or families.

School Cleaning and Disinfection:

The district's custodial staff worked diligently at the start of the closure to clean and disinfect district facilities. It is essential we strictly adhere to our building closures for staff and students so they can keep our buildings clean before our students return.

Internal Transfer Process/Student Enrollment:

Please refer to the district's website for both the internal transfer process for specific building request changes for your child as well as new student enrollment. Registration for the internal transfer process ends on April 30, 2020.

School Bond and Operating Millage Renewal:

There will be two proposals on the upcoming May 5, 2020 ballot, a school bond and operating millage renewal. These two proposals were approved by our board and placed on the ballot before we knew the full impact the coronavirus pandemic would have on our schools, our families and our community. While the timing is not ideal, we believe these proposals are critical for the education, health and success of our students and community moving forward. Please visit our website to learn more about these proposals and the upcoming election.

Please realize any and all information is subject to change as we continue to receive guidance from local, state and federal agencies.

In closing, we realize during extraordinary times, we must be willing to take extraordinary measures. We are asking all of our families to work with us through this difficult time period for our district, state and nation. As such, we are asking all district stakeholders to practice patience and understanding as we continue to provide you with relevant and factual information in the rapidly changing environment. Remember we all recognize the word "community" is in our name and as a school community, we will work to support each other, our students and our families over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dedrick Martin
Superintendent



CCS School Bond Proposal Highlights

CCS has a **PROVEN** track record of success inside and outside the classroom and this proposal will allow us to build on our proud tradition of excellence and keep Caledonia a great place to raise a family.



“The COVID-19 public health crisis has changed our world and caused disruption for our community, families and kids. While all of us are focused on the crisis at hand, we need to plan for the future for our kids. They’re counting on us.” — Dr. Dedrick Martin, Superintendent

The CCS School Bond will make it possible to:

- ✓ Invest in much-needed security and safety enhancements and repairs to update aging buildings so our kids can learn in a safe environment
- ✓ Invest in athletics, performing arts and continuing education that bring our whole community together and create new facilities, including a community center with a swimming pool and a multi-use gymnasium for year-round programming
- ✓ Provide the latest technology to complement our strong Career and Technical Education programs to prepare students for college and careers



What you need to know about the CCS School Bond Proposal:

The Caledonia Community Schools Bond Proposal is a fiscally responsible proposal that will allow us to repair and invest in our schools and facilities without increasing existing property taxes. On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, residents of our district will be asked to consider an \$88,090,000 bond proposal that will allow CCS to invest in necessary updates to aging equipment, buildings and facilities. Funds generated by the bond would help the district to protect our general fund budget and keep money in the classroom.

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Safety & Security



- ✓ Make security enhancements – including cameras and high-tech video monitoring equipment – at all buildings
- ✓ Create a safe learning environment with new HVAC, electrical and plumbing updates
- ✓ Improve traffic flow, parking and pedestrian safety

Repairs & Upgrades



- ✓ Replace roofs and aging infrastructure and renovate buildings and facilities
- ✓ Make technology upgrades to improve student learning
- ✓ Make classroom upgrades that allow students to gain skills, real-world on-the-job experience and compete for jobs whether in skilled trades, agriculture or high-tech computer science fields

New Facilities, Buildings & Equipment

- ✓ New athletic/community center with a swimming pool and multi-use gymnasium that will bring the community together and encourage healthy lifestyles
- ✓ Replace 64-year-old Dutton Elementary with a neighborhood school in a new location better suited for serving students and their families
- ✓ Support our award-winning arts, band and music program with new equipment and upgrades that will contribute to well-rounded students





Caledonia Lifelong Learning On the Move



Our goal is to bring quality “Lifelong Learning” to our community and the surrounding area all year long. While the Caledonia Resource Center is currently closed to comply with the COVID-19 mandate, we are looking forward to serving learners of all ages as soon as it’s safe to hold in-person classes and camps.

We anticipate having a variety of activities to keep students busy later this year. Your child can learn something new like guitar or yoga or improve skills in one of our many sports camps. Check out our website to see availability.

We also anticipate adult learners will have many opportunities to enhance

learning from developing artistic skills, exploring the world through travel excursions, and getting in shape in a fitness class.

Learners of all ages can connect to their communities through our programs. Your experience in our Community Education programs is very important to us. Whether you are registering for an activity you have frequently participated in, or trying something for the very first time, we have something for you!

For the most up-to-date information, sign up for emails and follow us on social media and www.inspiremenow.org.

We look forward to seeing you again in one of our classes later this year!

While the Caledonia Resource Center is currently closed to comply with the COVID-19 mandate, we are looking forward to serving learners of all ages as soon as it’s safe to hold in-person classes and camps.



Inspiring people, enriching lives, connecting community

THE PURPOSE OF CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RESOURCE CENTER IS TO:

- identify the lifelong learning needs of the members of the Caledonia community.
- provide, cost-effective and engaging lifelong educational, social and recreational opportunities.
- responsibly maximize the use of school resources, buildings and facilities while promoting partnerships and community involvement.
- promote growth, inspire all learners and enrich the lives of everyone.



Connect with us

The Caledonia Community Schools Resource Center is currently closed.

Stay connected with us to receive updates on when classes and programs will be offered again.

9749 Duncan Lake Ave., Caledonia MI 49316
(616) 891-8117 • inspiremenow.org

 Caledonia Resource Center

 Cal_Resource_Center



Two Proposals One Future

There will be two important proposals on the Tuesday, May 5, ballot. We hope you will take the time to learn about these proposals.

What to expect for the May 5, 2020 election:

- There will be very limited opportunities to vote in person. Polls will not be open at a precinct level, according to the State of Michigan.
- The State of Michigan will mail an absentee ballot application to every registered voter.
- Registered voters will need to return their absentee ballot application to receive a ballot by mail.
- Absentee ballots will be due by Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – Election Day!

Remember to register to vote so you receive an absentee ballot application.

1. What you need to know about the Caledonia Community Schools Bonding Proposal:

- ✓ This is a fiscally responsible proposal that will allow CCS to repair and invest in our schools and facilities without increasing property taxes.
- ✓ A 30-year bond continuation would generate approximately \$88,090,000 for necessary upgrades and updates to aging equipment, buildings and facilities to keep students safe, warm and dry.
- ✓ It will allow us to make necessary safety upgrades and add safety-related equipment like cameras and replace the 64-year-old Dutton Elementary with a neighborhood school in a new location away from an industrial park and better suited for serving elementary students and their families.

2. What you need to know about the Operating Millage Renewal Proposal:

- ✓ The non-homestead renewal only applies to rental properties, business properties and vacation homes – homeowner and agricultural property taxes will not be impacted.
- ✓ A five-year millage renewal of the current 18 mills will support day-to-day operations, like teachers, support staff and school counselors.
- ✓ Without the operating millage renewal, the school district would experience an estimated \$10.2 million loss in revenue each year and require significant cuts to programs and services for our students.

Learn more about the Caledonia Community Schools Bond and the Operating Millage Renewal proposals on the May 5, 2020, ballot at:



www.calschools.org



facebook.com/CALSCHOOLS

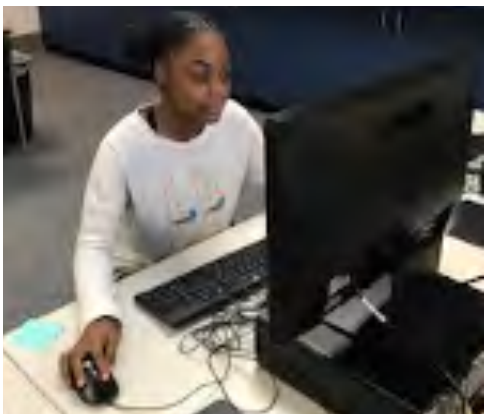
STEM OVERVIEW



Students: Marley Johnson, Noah Ayers, Lillian Hall, Hadleigh McLain and Jameson Palmer working on the "Prototype" step of the Design Thinking Process



Student: Omar Aganovic holding his completed balsa wood bridge



Student: Jayla Triplett working on her Tech Trep
Course: Digital Media Editing and Graphic Design

Caledonia Community Schools is focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as part of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Using input from students, parents, staff and community members, CCS created a new Strategic Plan which included a strong focus on STEM education. A districtwide STEM Leadership Team was formed and charged with increasing opportunities for students to explore STEM activities and their connections to 21st century careers. The STEM Leadership Team met with business and community leaders and used Design Thinking to identify the following problem statement:

Due to rapid advancements impacting the demand of STEM-related careers, students must be equipped with the necessary skills to be successful, contributing global citizens. Caledonia stakeholders will promote interdependence with businesses, our community and schools to identify and provide innovative real-world learning opportunities. As a result students will be agile critical thinkers who are engaged and persevere while acquiring problem-solving skills that meet the demands of future careers and opportunities.

The school and community STEM team identified three main goals:

1. The development and implementation of STEM curriculum in all schools
2. Establishing STEM pathways and partnerships to support students with STEM careers
3. Establishing partnerships with Higher Education institutions to promote STEM education and careers

The focus on community partnerships was intentionally designed to promote the importance of real-world experiences for students.

Caledonia Community Schools hosted a STEM Launch on Friday, February 28, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at CHS South. Business leaders in the community attended a STEM workshop to identify specific needs and partnership opportunities, followed by a STEM Community proclamation by Dr. Dedrick Martin, CCS Superintendent, along with special guests State House Representative Alberts and State Senator Brinks.

STEM IN ACTION

By: **Ben Thompson and Becky Sowerby**
CCS STEM Teachers

Caledonia Middle School students have been using the Tech Trep online program to learn many valuable skills. Students have been working on skills in the areas of computer programming (coding), video game creation, entrepreneurship and how Google programs such as docs, spreadsheets, slides and sites are capable of enhancing students' education.

Teachers have used two programs, Scratch and Minecraft, to teach students how to code and write computer programs. In both programs students learn how to write code to create something new or manipulate something that has already been created. Students have enjoyed using both programs because they are user-friendly and good at helping students understand how to write code.

Google Ninja is especially helpful for the younger students to help them understand the suite of programs Google offers from word processing to personal website development. This builds on what students are doing in other classrooms with Google Suite and helps them be more productive in all classes.

Students learn how to create their own businesses, including marketing, research, hiring employees and developing a vision statement in "Becoming a Trep." Students are challenged to use the interests and talents they already have to decide what type of business they would enjoy starting. Some students have created businesses they could start in middle school such as babysitting, yard work, snow removal, or jewelry design and production.

Design Thinking is used to look at problem areas for classmates and redesign something, such as lunch, to make it more user-friendly for their peers. The steps of Design Thinking are embedded in the process: Empathy, Reframe the Problem, Ideate, Iterate, Build and Test, Pitch, Gain Feedback and Start the Process Over. Students have created many interesting models of how they can improve lunch for their classmates. Another hands-on design activity is the balsa wood project for each grade. Sixth grade students create airplanes, seventh grade students create bridges and eighth-grade students create towers. When the building phase is over, the students test them to see how they perform their functions. This is a highlight for the students!



Students: Allison Pern and Hailey Dykstra testing their balsa wood tower



Student: Dakota Cole using the Wacom Tablet and Pen to work on her assignment using GIMP



Student: Dakota Cole shows off her finished assignment in her Digital Media Editing and Graphic Design course.



CCS Shows Strong Year of Growth and Proficiency

Recently released data from the 2018-2019 school year shows Caledonia Community Schools experienced another strong year of proficiency and growth on our state testing. The report on mismischoolsdata.org shows all of our elementary, middle and high schools received an “A” for Proficiency based on state standardized tests. Our schools also rate well on progress and growth toward becoming even more proficient. We are committed to continuous improvement and keeping pace with peer districts at all levels.

The report also showed our high school graduation rate is an “A” and increased from 93% to 95% last year.

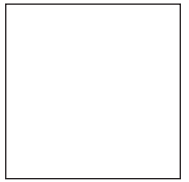
MI School Data is the State of Michigan’s official public portal for education data and offers parents a way to easily view and compare education metrics. Please visit mismischoolsdata.org to see individual school scores and trends.

“The report also showed our high school graduation rate is an “A” and increased from 93% to 95%.”

School	Proficiency	Growth	Graduation
<i>Caledonia High School</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>Duncan Lake Middle</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Kraft Meadows Middle</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Caledonia Elementary</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Dutton Elementary</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Emmons Lake Elementary</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Kettle Lake Elementary</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Paris Ridge Elementary</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>n/a</i>



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



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Learn more about the Caledonia Community Schools Bond and the Operating Millage Renewal proposals at:



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