



FALL 2024

Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



BRIGHT FUTURES

**Strategic Plan
Refresh**

**Bond
Updates**

**Food Service
Updates**

**Security
Updates**

A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Caledonia Community,

What a fantastic start to the school year it has been! The energy and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and families as they have returned to school have set the stage for a wonderful year filled with robust learning, outstanding achievements, and community spirit!

A great school district is made up of great people, and here in Caledonia more than 700 staff members, along with innumerable volunteers, strive each and every day to provide the best experience possible for our students! Instructional staff, parent volunteers, custodians, maintenance staff, food service, transportation and technology departments, coaches, and other support staff have dedicated themselves to making a lasting impact on the next generation. When you get a chance, please thank them for all that they do!

There are so many great things happening as we kick off this year, and we invite you to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Homecoming is coming up on Friday, September 27 and we look forward to welcoming home Caledonia's very own Olympian, Alena Olsen, as our honorary captain for the evening! Alena was an important part of the bronze medal-winning US Rugby Sevens team in Paris this summer, and her incredible journey from Caledonia to Paris and the Olympic podium was thrilling to see.
- Please check out the information on the next page about our upcoming strategic plan Community Town Hall meetings. As we develop plans for the future of our school district, we'd love to have your input!
- We are also looking forward to the opening of the Caledonia Community Center coming up in a few months. Watch for more specific information about the Grand Opening coming soon!

We are also very excited about the wonderful progress on our various bond projects! You will find more on the work at the Cal Community Center, the new Dutton Elementary, and the recently completed Caledonia High School connector later in this issue of the [Cal Communicator](#).

We encourage you to stay engaged and connected! Whether you're attending a school event, participating in a Town Hall meeting, or simply staying up-to-date via our website, district app, and social media, your involvement makes a difference. Together, we are creating a supportive and dynamic environment where every student can thrive and excel!

Let's continue to build on this strong start and make this year one of the best yet for Caledonia Community Schools. Go Scots!

Sincerely,

Dirk Weeldreyer
Superintendent

Board of Education Regular Meetings

The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education holds regular board meetings monthly at 6 pm in the Administration Office located at 8948 Kraft Ave.

Remaining 2024 regular meetings include:

- **Sep. 16, 2024**
- **Nov. 18, 2024**
- **Oct. 21, 2024**
- **Dec. 16, 2024**

Board of Education Members

Marcy White
President

Brittany Barber Garcia
Vice President

Jason Saidoo
Treasurer

Katie Isic
Secretary

John Brandow
Trustee

Tim Morris
Trustee

Jennifer Nichols
Trustee

Strategic Plan Refresh COMMUNITY TOWN HALLS

Join us in shaping the future of Caledonia Community Schools. Whether your passion lies in education, community well-being, or how we sustain and organize our district's resources, your insights are invaluable. We invite you to participate in one or both of our Community Town Halls, where your voice will help guide our district's direction. **Your Voice Matters!**

Session #1

- **Wednesday**
September 25, 2024
6:00 - 7:30 PM
- **Focus:**
Teaching & Learning
Whole Child / Whole Community
- **Location:**
CHS South Learning Commons

Session #2

- **Monday**
September 30, 2024
6:00 - 7:30 PM
- **Focus:**
Fiscal Sustainability
Organizational Coherence
- **Location:**
CHS South Learning Commons

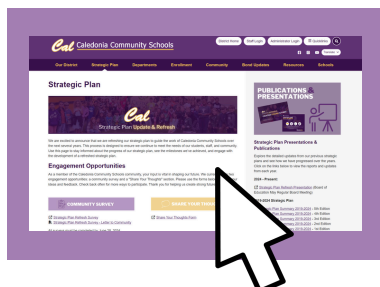
Can't make both? No worries!

Each session stands alone, so join us for the topics that matter most to you.

RSVP and let us know you will be there!



Strategic Plan Refresh Updates



Follow Our Website

To keep up with the latest developments, **please visit our website at www.calschools.org/strategic-plan-refresh**. There, you'll find updates on the progress, milestones achieved, and opportunities to engage with the plan.

Share Your Feedback:

Your feedback is important to us! We encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas through the **feedback form available on our website**. Your insights will help shape the future of our schools and community.

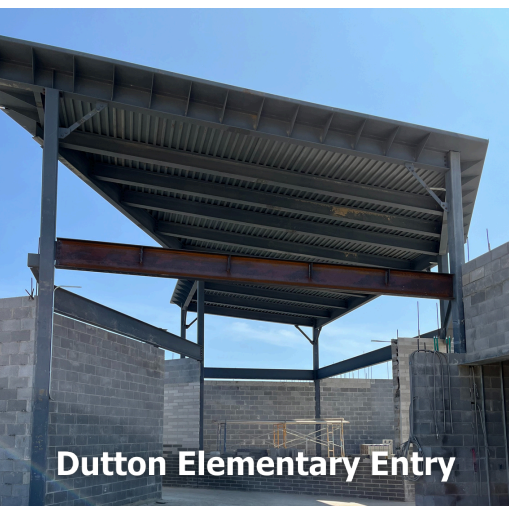


Bond Updates

We're thrilled to share that several key bond projects were completed over the summer, ensuring our facilities were ready to kick off the school year. The CHS connector is fully operational, providing a seamless transition between buildings for our high school students. At the New Dutton Elementary, construction is progressing swiftly, with walls in place and preparations underway to enclose the building. Additionally, several new signs have gone up across our district, enhancing navigation and school spirit.

We're particularly excited about the nearly finished Cal Community Center, which will soon become a vibrant hub for our community. We can't wait to celebrate its Grand Opening with you—stay tuned for more details!

Thank you for your continued support in making these improvements possible. Together, we're building a brighter future for Caledonia!



Dutton Elementary Entry



New Signage



CHS Connector



Dutton Elementary Gym



Dutton Elementary Future Playground

www.calschools.org/bond/

Cal Community Center



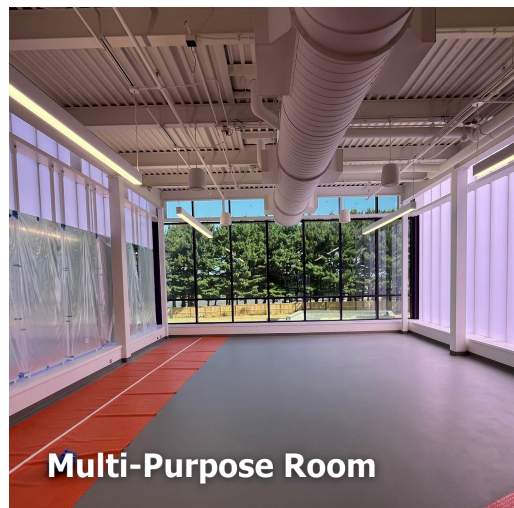
Spa



Competition Pool



Fitness Center



Multi-Purpose Room



Front Stairway

The excitement is building as we get closer to the opening of the new Cal Community Center! As the pictures above demonstrate, it is going to be a beautiful facility and is nearing completion! Look for more information coming soon about our plans for a Grand Opening celebration!

The facility will be home to a wide range of programs offered by the Caledonia Resource Center, and through a partnership with the YMCA we will be able to bring even more opportunities to our residents. Whether you're looking to join a fitness class, enjoy a swim, or simply engage with others in the community, the center will offer something for everyone. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about our partnership with the YMCA:

Q1. I am eager to use the facility! How can I join?

A1. The YMCA will be managing memberships and programs in a shared arrangement with the district and will be opening membership opportunities soon. There will also be special and drop-in rates for programs such as group fitness, swim lessons, and day camp. Please note that although a membership will be required for general use, membership will not be required to enter the facility for those accessing Caledonia Resource Center programs or school district activities such as swim meets.

Q2. Do local taxpayers receive a discount?

A2. Absolutely! There will be a 10% discount on the YMCA "branch only" membership rate at the Cal Community Center for taxpayers of Caledonia Community Schools. Please note that the YMCA has six other branches throughout the Greater Grand Rapids area and a full YMCA membership gets you access to all the branches, while a Cal Community Center "branch only" membership applies to the Caledonia Community Center location.

Q3. Will Silver Sneakers memberships be accepted?

A3. We understand how important the Silver Sneakers program is to many of our community members. While Silver Sneakers memberships won't be accepted at this facility, there are discounted rates for seniors. We are hoping to have alternative options in 2025, potentially partnering with insurance providers.



FREE meals for all enrolled CCS students for the 2024 - 2025 School Year

It's more than just free meals...

Even though meals are free this year, it's crucial for our district to know which families qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. **Completing this form** helps in several ways:

The Federal Free/Reduced Meal Application determines the amount of federal funding for the district, impacting **ALL** students.

7 Reasons to Complete the Free & Reduced Lunch Application



Increased funding to support your child's school



Discounts for fees associated with college application process



Discounted fees for SAT, ACT & AP tests along with scholarship opportunities



Discounts on pay-to-participate fees for qualifying student athletes



Additional funding for technology and internet access



Receive discounts on fees associated with credit recovery



Discounts on Chromebook Care Plans for qualifying families



A new application is **REQUIRED** each school year. So, even if you applied a year ago, a new application must be submitted for the 2024-25 school year.

<https://caledonia.familyportal.cloud>

Contact our food service department at 616-891-0227 for additional assistance.

Please fill out and return the form on the next page or fill it out online at the link above.

New Food Service Director

Meaghan Beyer

We are pleased to introduce Meaghan Beyer, our new Food Service Director at Caledonia Community Schools, brought to us by Chartwells. A Registered Dietitian with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Michigan State University, Meaghan has a rich background in school nutrition, having previously led successful food service programs at Spring Lake and Grand Haven Area Public Schools. Meaghan is excited to bring her expertise to Caledonia, focusing on enhancing the dining experience for our students with nutritious and appealing meal options. She looks forward to working closely with the community to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every student can enjoy healthy and delicious meals.



2024-2025 Education and Nutrition Benefits

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

Apply online:

<https://caledonia.familyportal.cloud>

STEP 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need more space for names

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Student? Yes No	School	Grade	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway	If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.
1) _____	---	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) _____	---	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) _____	---	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) _____	---	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) _____	---	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STEP 2: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR?

If NO > Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3).

Case Number: _____
(Write only one case number in this space)

STEP 3: List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions). Skip this step if you answered "YES" to STEP 2.

A. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

Child Income	How Often? Please put an X
\$ _____	Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> 2x <input type="checkbox"/> Month <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Annually <input type="checkbox"/>

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often received? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	How often received? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually	Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How often received? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually	Check if no SSN <input type="checkbox"/>
1) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
2) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
3) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
4) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
5) _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Total Household Members (Children and Adults) _____	Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member (if Applicable) _____						

STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: School Office

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Street Address (if available) _____	Apt# _____	City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone (Optional) _____	Email (Optional) _____
Printed Name of Adult Signing Form _____				Signature of Adult _____		
				Today's Date _____		

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME: for additional information in income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application

Sources of Child Income	Examples
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
Social Security	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security Benefits.
- Disability Payments	A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits.
- Survivor's Benefits	
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money.
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.

Sources of Adult Income	Examples
Earnings from work	Salary, wages, cash bonuses / Net income from self-employment (farm or business) -If you are in the U.S. Military: -Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) -Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing
Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	-Unemployment Benefits -Workers compensation -Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -Cash assistance from State or local government -Alimony payments-Child support payments -Veteran's benefits -Strike benefits
Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income	-Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) -Private pensions or disability benefits -Annuities -Regular income from trusts or estates -Investment income -Earned interest -Regular cash payments from outside household

OPTIONAL: Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPRI) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf) (<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA

(1) by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination

DO NOT FILL OUT: For School Use Only

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ Household Size: _____ Categorical Eligibility: _____ Eligibility: _____ Free _____ Reduced Denied _____

Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annual

Determining Official's Signature _____ Date _____ Confirming Official's Signature _____ Date _____ Verifying Official's Signature _____ Date _____

START & END TIMES

Caledonia Community Schools
2024-2025 School Year



	Full Day Times	Half Day Times
Duncan Lake Early Childhood	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Caledonia Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Dutton Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Emmons Lake Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Kettle Lake Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Paris Ridge Elementary	8:45 am - 3:40 pm	8:45 am - 12:00 pm
Kraft Meadows Intermediate	7:35 am - 2:30 pm	7:35 am - 10:45 am
Duncan Lake Middle School	7:35 am - 2:30 pm	7:35 am - 10:45 am
Caledonia High School	7:40 am - 2:36 pm	7:40 am - 10:55 am
Caledonia Transitions Program	7:20 am - 2:15 pm	7:20 am - 10:30 am

Enhancing Security

Starting this school year, all Caledonia schools will implement the Raptor Visitor Management System to enhance the safety of our students and staff. This system, already in use at many local schools, will require visitors entering beyond the secure vestibule to check in with a valid ID, undergo a safety screening, and wear a visitor badge during their visit. Our top priority is maintaining a secure learning environment, and we appreciate your support as we implement this new measure.



Required Annual Notices

As part of our commitment to transparency and compliance, we want to remind our community that all required annual notices are available for review on our website. You can find this important information, including compliance documents, policies, and notices, on our District Transparency Page or in our Student Handbooks. We encourage you to visit these resources to stay informed about our school district's operations and responsibilities.

www.calschools.org/our-district/annual-reports/

Follow Best Bus Safety Practices

School Buses With Overhead Red and Yellow Lights (With or Without Bus Stop Signs)

Yellow lights are flashing:



Prepare to stop



Red lights are flashing:

Stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus



Red lights turned off:
Proceed



ALL School Buses
Yellow Hazard Lights

Yellow hazard warning lights are flashing:
Proceed with caution



Yellow lights are flashing:



Prepare to stop



Caledonia Resource Center Opportunities



REGISTER FOR FALL CLASSES NOW!



The Caledonia Resource Center is committed to enriching the lives of every member of our community by providing innovative, cost-effective, and engaging lifelong educational, social, and recreational opportunities.

Programs Offered

A.W.O.L. programs
Caledonia Senior Center

Adult Enrichment
Adult Health & Fitness
Youth Enrichment

Youth Sports
Summer Camps
Caledonia Theatre Programs

55 and Better Programs
Caledonia GlobeTrotters

Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

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



/Caledonia Resource Center



Follow us on the District App

CALAPALOOZA 2024

~ music ~ parade ~ games ~ food trucks ~ pep rally ~ booths ~ broadcast ~
homecoming ~ honored alumnus ~ marching band ~ football

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

EVENT SCHEDULE:

3:00 PM – KID'S ACTIVITIES & FOOD TRUCKS

3:30 PM – GAMEDAY BROADCAST BEGINS

4:00 PM – PEP RALLY

5:00 PM – HOMECOMING PARADE

6:00 PM – CAL 100 CLUB CHECK PRESENTATION

6:10 PM – HONORED ALUMNUS AWARD

7:00 PM – FOOTBALL GAME KICKOFF



caledoniacef.org/calapalooza



CALAPALOOZA celebrates homecoming and community while raising funds to further the opportunities for our students.

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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[caledonia_community_schools](https://www.instagram.com/caledonia_community_schools)

