

SPRING 2024

Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



Strategic Plan
Refresh

Graduation
Celebrations

Bond
Updates

Building
Highlights

A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Caledonia Families,

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for our Caledonia community. Reflecting on the past several months, we have much to celebrate from student achievements to staff recognitions.

Our students have excelled in academics, the arts, and extracurricular activities, breaking records and showcasing their talents. We've enjoyed outstanding concerts, academic celebrations, memorable field trips, and the fun of field days. But most importantly, there has been tremendous learning in our classrooms every day as our students worked hard to develop new skills and gain the knowledge that will propel them into their future.

Our dedicated educators have also been recognized with prestigious awards, highlighting their commitment to providing top-quality education. Their passion and dedication make our district exceptional, and we are grateful for their contributions.

We recently celebrated the graduation of the Caledonia High School Class of 2024, marking a significant milestone in their educational journey. The support from our community is vital in making these successes possible, and your involvement plays a crucial role in shaping our students' education.

Looking ahead, we have begun the process to refresh our district's strategic plan for the next several years. Your input is invaluable, and we ask you to take a few minutes to provide your feedback on past achievements and future priorities through a survey included in this issue. Those insights will help us create a strong and vibrant future for our district!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our schools! Together, we build a community where every student can reach their full potential. 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:

- Jun. 17, 2024 • Oct. 21, 2024
- Jul. 15, 2024 • Nov. 18, 2024
- Aug. 12, 2024 • Dec. 16, 2024
- Sep. 16, 2024

Board of Education Members

Marcy White President	John Brandow Trustee
Brittany Barber Garcia Vice President	Tim Morris Trustee
Jason Saidoo Treasurer	Jennifer Nichols Trustee
Katie Isic Secretary	

Strategic Plan Refresh Community Survey

At its May 20 meeting, the Board of Education received an update on the accomplishments of our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan and a vision for the future. Caledonia Community Schools (CCS) is excited to announce that we are refreshing our strategic plan to guide the work of the District over the next several years. This process is designed to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our students, staff, and community.



Check out our new WEB PAGE!

WWW.CALSCHOOLS.ORG/STRATEGIC-PLAN

**TAKE OUR
SURVEY**



New survey out NOW!

Your feedback is crucial in shaping the future of our district. Participate in our survey **by June 28, 2024**, to share your insights and help us understand your preferred priorities.

**TAKE OUR
SURVEY**



**SHARE
YOUR
THOUGHTS**



Share your thoughts!

Your ideas can spark innovation, drive efficiencies, and lead to high-impact initiatives. Share your insights with us and help shape the future of Caledonia Community Schools!

**SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS**



**PUBLICATIONS &
PRESENTATIONS**



Miss a presentation? No worries!

Access to all the board presentations related to our strategic plan, showcasing our progress, achievements, and future objectives can be found on our website.

**FOLLOW
OUR
PROGRESS**



We've come a long way!

Stay informed about the progress of our strategic plan, see the milestones we've achieved, and learn about the steps we're taking to reach our goals.

Class of 2024

BY THE NUMBERS

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on this momentous achievement! From earning scholarships to pursuing future goals, our graduation class has a lot to celebrate!



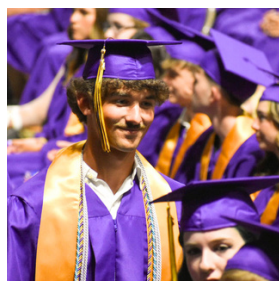
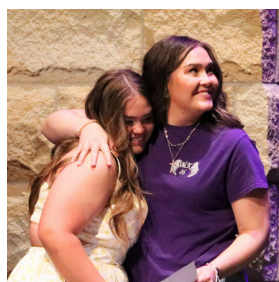
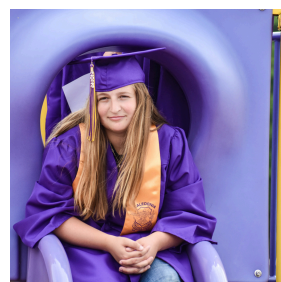
students participating in the graduation ceremony

75.2%
students
pursuing continued education



164
scholarships

offered to members of the senior class, with a projected 4 year value of over \$2.6 Million.





Honoring Top Students

Congratulations to our "Gold" students who earned a grade point average of 4.0 or above! Summa Cum Laude students are as follows:

Teresa Abraham
Tyler Ambrose
Pete Andrulis
Kala Bisterfeldt
Grace Bryant
Alyssa Bursch
Megan Bushart
Alyssa DeFields
Mackenzie DeVries
Benjamin Diegel
Kaylee Dunwoody
Katherine Eardley
Ian Fedewa
Rishi Garigipati
Reese Geister
Sydney Greene
Chloe Groves
Jaxson Higgins
Cassandra Honsberger
Kloe Kimbrell
Sarah Kirk

Bedi Komera
Lauren Kosiorowski
Jackson Kozak
Katherine Langejans
Paige Mulder
Micah Nagel
Allison Perna
Langley Peterson
Jared Porter
Collin Pyper
Corbin Raffler
Emery Rewa
Ali Salih
Emily Sorstokke
Christopher Streit
Maeson Strzyzewski
Carter Tufts
Kyan VanderWoude
Taylor Venhuizen
Joseph Volpe
Taylor Walter



You can find a list of all students honored at the Senior Recognition Night on our website at <https://www.calschools.org/schools/cal-hs/student-services/class-of-2024/>

Bond Updates

Exciting news surrounding our bond projects! The new Dutton Elementary is coming together beautifully, with walls going up and significant progress on electrical and piping work. The Cal Community Center is set to open late this fall, and the pools and locker rooms are looking fantastic with all the new tile work. At Caledonia High School, the new connector is almost enclosed, with the curtain walls beginning to be put up. We're thrilled to see these projects taking shape!

Follow our website and social media for updates all summer long. Stay tuned for more exciting developments and progress reports!



Cal Community Center



New Dutton Elementary



CHS Connector

New Emmons Lake Principal

Nathan Walters

My name is Nathan Walters, and I'm excited to join Caledonia Community Schools as the new Emmons Lake Principal! The passion and pride of the Caledonia community and our team at Emmons Lake have truly inspired me. Our team is dedicated to doing what's best for kids, and my mission is to support our staff as we empower our students and families to reach their full potential. I'm eager to build on our foundation of Capturing Kids' Hearts, ensuring all students feel a sense of belonging and joy in learning.



I attended Calvin College, now Calvin University, where I majored in Elementary Education and earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership. I began my career as a 5th grade teacher in Kentwood Public Schools. After completing my master's degree, I transitioned to administration with Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, serving as the Dean of Students at their Early Childhood Center, which serves kindergarten through second-grade students. These experiences, and the incredible people who supported me along the way, have shaped me into the leader I am today.

Personally, I find joy in teams, athletics, and competition. I enjoy watching sports and staying active by playing basketball and golf. My family and my girlfriend, Justice, are my greatest sources of joy. We are excited to put down roots in Caledonia and meet all of you soon!

Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center



Our supported preschoolers and students in Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) had an opportunity to visit Legacy Farms for a day of riding. The kids showed incredible bravery as they enjoyed their time with the horses.

This memorable experience helped build their confidence and created lasting smiles.



Caledonia Elementary

The Caledonia Elementary PTO sponsored a fantastic end-of-year spring celebration party for all students, featuring exciting bounce houses and delicious Kona Ice! What a fun event for our students, filled with laughter, excitement, and sweet treats. Thank you to our dedicated parents who go above and beyond to make such wonderful events possible for our students!



Dutton Elementary

The kindergarten students from Dutton had a fantastic field trip to Post Family Farm! They enjoyed planting flowers, taking a hayride, eating delicious donuts, and playing in the sunny outdoors. It was a fun and memorable day for the kids! The hands-on activities helped them learn about nature and agriculture in a delightful setting. This experience will surely be a cherished memory for them!

Emmons Lake Elementary



Students at Emmons Lake Elementary had a great time participating in Field Day where they engaged in a variety of activities that promoted physical fitness and teamwork. The event allowed students to challenge themselves, enjoy friendly competition, and create lasting memories with their peers. Field Day was a great success, thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the enthusiastic participation of our students.

Kettle Lake Elementary

The Kettle Lake library came alive with excitement during the "Book Tasting" event hosted by librarian Sarah Streit. Students from grades 2-4 explored a variety of new books, including graphic novels, curriculum-aligned nonfiction, adventure, fantasy, and interactive "You Choose" books. This event continued to spark enthusiasm for reading, allowing students to dive into different genres in a fun and imaginative setting.



Paris Ridge Elementary

Students at Paris Ridge Elementary spent an afternoon with Caledonia High School's food science students and farm animals! The high schoolers gave presentations on each animal, covering diets and how they contribute to human needs, like milk, meat, and goat's milk soap. The elementary students also had hands-on experiences making homemade butter and planting green bean seeds. It was an educational and engaging experience that brought learning to life!



Kraft Meadows Intermediate School



Mrs. Sackett's sixth-grade science class concluded their unit on chemical and physical changes with a fun and tasty experiment: making s'mores! The students applied their new knowledge in a deliciously engaging way, observing the chemical changes firsthand as they roasted marshmallows and melted chocolate. Learning has never been this sweet!

Duncan Lake Middle School

Mrs. Argoudelis' 8th grade geometry students at Duncan Lake Middle School were tasked with a project to design a container to sell a new cereal for a food company. The unique container had to be chosen from shapes such as a right triangular prism, regular octagonal prism, square pyramid, cone, and cylinder. Students had to create a design to hold 10 cups of cereal as well as calculate a cost analysis. They did great work and great math!



Caledonia High School

Our LINKS students from Caledonia High School and their peers had a fun surprise during their recent field trip to Patterson Ice Arena when Deputy Stewart, our School Resource Officer, joined in for a few laps around the ice. This special addition made the day even more memorable as everyone enjoyed skating and spending time together.

UPDATE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PREFERENCES

Fill out transportation preferences for the
2024 - 2025 school year



Find the form at www.calschools.org



Even if your child will not be riding
the bus next year, we ask that you
complete at least the first 6 questions
on the Transportation Preference
Form found on our website.

Deadline: **June 28, 2024**

A form must be submitted for each student.

Questions? Please contact the Caledonia Transportation Department



Points of Pride

Caledonia Community Schools is dedicated to cultivating agile learners who are empowered with 21st Century Skills and prepared to compete in a global environment. We are extremely proud of our schools and our students' accomplishments, that are highlighted on the Points of Pride page on our website. Visit this page regularly to stay updated on the exceptional achievements of our staff and students.

State & National Qualifiers - 2023/2024



National Blue Ribbon School - Caledonia Elementary (2023)
National Blue Ribbon School - Dutton Elementary (2021)
Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools (2024)
Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools (2023)
of Hope Awards (2023)
Star Awards (2022-2023 SY)
- Dutton Elementary
Caledonia Elementary
24

www.calschools.org/our-district/points-of-pride



9749 Duncan Lake Ave., Caledonia MI
(616)891-8117
www.inspiremenow.org
Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Add Caledonia Resource Center to your CCS App!

Programs Offered

Adult Enrichment	Theater Programs
Adult Health & Fitness	55 and better programs
Youth Enrichment	A.W.O.L. programs
Youth Sports	Caledonia Senior Center
Summer Camps	Caledonia GlobeTrotters

Calapalooza 2024!

Save the Date! This year's Calapalooza will be held on September 27, from 3:00-7:00 PM. Thanks to the Caledonia Education Foundation for hosting this annual community party. Enjoy food trucks, a pep rally, games, music, a parade, and more! Don't miss out on the fun!



Caledonia Community Schools DISTRICT CALENDAR

2024-2025 School Year

- **8/19:** First Day of School
- **8/23:** No School
- **8/30 - 9/2:** Labor Day Break
- **10/31:** AM Half Day for Students/
PM Staff Professional Development
- **11/27 - 11/29:** Thanksgiving Break
- **12/20:** AM Half Day Students/
PM Teacher Records Day
- **12/23 - 1/3:** Holiday Break
- **1/20:** No School for Students/
Staff Professional Development
- **2/17 - 2/18:** No School (Winter Break)
- **3/14:** No School for Students/
Staff Professional Development
- **4/4 - 4/11:** No School (Spring Break)
- **4/28:** AM Half Day Students/
PM Staff Professional Development
- **5/26:** No School (Memorial Day)
- **5/30:** Last Day - AM Half Day for Students/
PM Teacher Records Day

CHS Veterans Memorial DATABASE

Caledonia High School (CHS) proudly acknowledges the selfless service of all veterans. If you or someone you know has served our country and has ties to Caledonia Community Schools or resides in the Caledonia area, please consider filling out the form below. Your contribution will ensure their names and information are commemorated in the database for the CHS Veterans Memorial Wall being built at Caledonia High School.



Veterans Website Page:
www.calschools.org/community/veterans

Paid for by Caledonia Community Schools
8948 Kraft Ave SE
Caledonia, MI 49316



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#calpride

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- ✓ **Kindergarten**
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Caledonia Administration Office

8948 Kraft Ave SE • Caledonia, MI 49316
616-891-8185



www.calschools.org



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