

# Cal

SPRING 2025

# Communicator

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



**Bus Road-e-o  
Regional  
Champions**

**Bond  
Updates**

**Graduation  
Highlights -  
Class of 2025**

**Preschool  
Enrollment  
Options**

# A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Caledonia Families,

For schools, summer is a time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation. As one school year draws to a close with all of its celebrations, we are looking ahead to the next with all of the joys and learning it will bring. In the pages of this issue of the Cal Communicator, you will find information on outstanding achievements, end-of-year activities, and upcoming events. There's always something happening, and we invite you to remain engaged!

We are incredibly grateful to our voters for your strong support of the May 6 Non-Homestead Operating Millage renewal. Your continued trust and partnership allows us to keep doing what we love – helping kids grow, learn, and thrive! Thank you!



Caledonia is also blessed to have such a dedicated team of educators and staff who continue to go above and beyond. Their efforts have been recognized through local and state awards, and our team's commitment to fostering a supportive, enriching environment is what makes Caledonia Community Schools so special. And a special "thank you" to our parents and community for your words and other gestures of support and encouragement to our staff – these thoughtful expressions help provide inspiration on days that are challenging.

The long-anticipated opening of the new Dutton Elementary is just around the corner! Dutton students and staff have said goodbye to their current building for the final time – we honor the memories made there while looking forward to a bright new future. We are also excited to see our renovated Ralph E. Meyers Stadium welcome the community back under "Friday night lights"! Watch for "save-the-date" information for the ribbon cutting celebrations as both of these tremendous new facilities begin serving future generations here in Caledonia.

As you can tell, we are looking ahead with much excitement to a bright future – a future that builds on our district's rich legacy, and that sees our students continue leading the way with excellence in academics, the arts, and extracurriculars.

Thank you for being part of this journey! Your support helps us move forward – together – as we provide outstanding opportunities to help every student reach their full potential.

Go Scots!

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 2025 regular meetings include:

- Jul. 28, 2025
- Aug. 18, 2025
- Sep. 15, 2025
- Oct. 20, 2025
- Nov. 17, 2025
- Dec. 15, 2025

## Board of Education Members

Tim Morris  
President

John Brandow  
Vice-President

Brittany Barber Garcia  
Treasurer

Katie Isic  
Secretary

Shawn Collins  
Trustee

Jessica Kohn  
Trustee

Jennifer Nichols  
Trustee



[https://www.calschools.org/  
our-district/board-of-education/](https://www.calschools.org/our-district/board-of-education/)





# Bus Road-e-o



## Caledonia Bus Drivers Take Top Honors at Regionals

Caledonia Community Schools is proud to announce that our exceptional team of bus drivers reclaimed **first place at the annual Region 8 Bus Road-e-o Competition**, topping several other districts, including Grandville, Forest Hills, West Ottawa, and more. After finishing second to Grandville last year, the team was determined to bring the regional and county titles back home to CCS! It was a wonderful testimony to our drivers' remarkable precision, professionalism, and dedication to student safety.

**Special congratulations to Dan Ottenwess, who placed third individually** and advanced to represent our district at the **State Bus Road-e-o on June 14** at Mason Middle School. Also pictured are award-winning drivers Tim Nurenberg, Heather Vantil, Deanna Hall, Ethan Fitzgerald, Janice Steensma, Tari Johnson, Sue Mullan, and Dan Ottenwess (with Beth Pritchard proudly recognized though not pictured). Thank you to all of our transportation staff—your excellence keeps our students safe and Caledonia moving forward!



## UPDATE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PREFERENCES

Fill out transportation preferences for the 2025 - 2026 school year

**Deadline: June 27, 2025**

A form must be submitted for each student.

**Find the form in the PowerSchool Parent Portal under FORMS**



**Even if your child will not be riding the bus next year, we ask that you decline transportation on the form in PowerSchool.**



Questions? Please contact the CCS Transportation Department



# Bond Updates

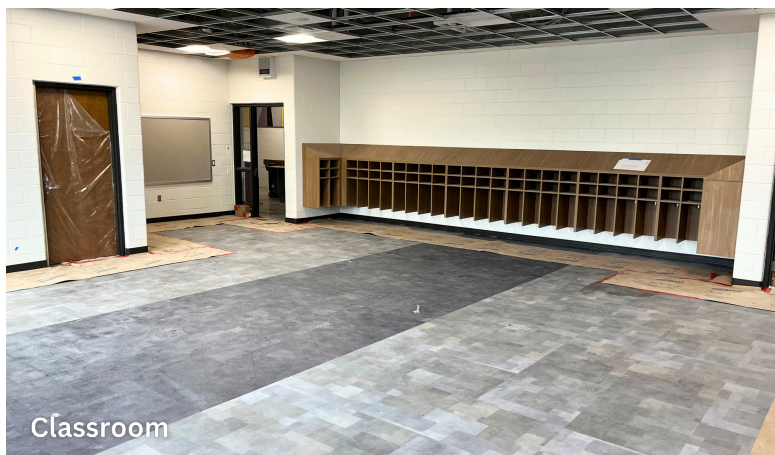
## Dutton Elementary

We're getting closer and closer to opening the new Dutton Elementary this August!

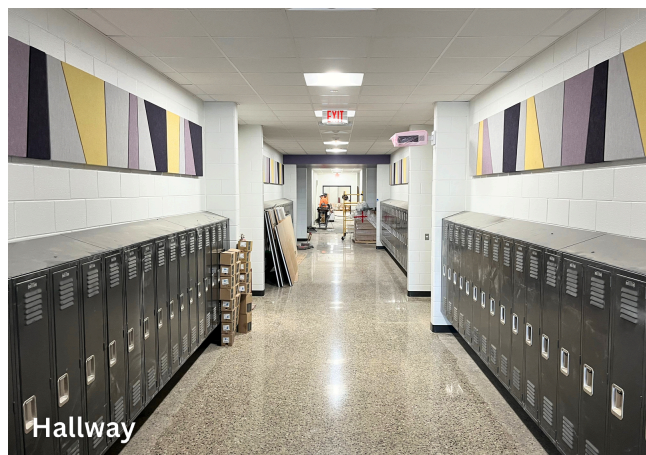
Inside the building, ductwork, lighting, wall panels, ceiling grids, and floor tile are complete. Crews are now focused on finishing wall tile and plumbing fixtures, applying final coats of paint, adding trim details, and installing the playground.



Entry



Classroom



Hallway



## A Bittersweet Goodbye

Students and families recently said goodbye to the current Dutton building. Teachers packed up classrooms, and students waved as they rode the bus home for the last time. It was a bittersweet moment filled with memories, excitement, and anticipation for the new chapter ahead.

## A New Chapter Begins at Dutton

**Coming Soon: Grand Opening of the New Dutton Elementary**

*Get ready, Caledonia — a brand-new school is about to open its doors!*

Before the first bell rings, we'll come together to officially open the doors with a **special Ribbon Cutting Celebration**. It will be a moment to recognize our shared commitment to education — and a chance to walk the halls of the future.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony — **DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
**Stay tuned — more details will be shared later this summer.**  
Follow our website and social media for updates.

DUTTON ELEMENTARY  
CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

COMING SOON



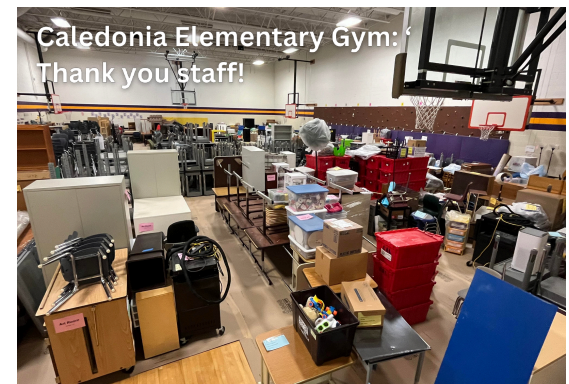
## Summer 2025: Building for the Future

We're making great progress on several exciting projects across the district this summer! Here's a quick look at what's coming:

- **Paris Ridge:** Playground upgrades
- **Classroom Technology:** Phased replacement (through 2027)
- **Caledonia Elementary:** Building renovation in progress
- **Kettle Lake Elementary:** Paving and playground improvements
- **District-Wide:** Monument signage installation
- **Bus Garage:** Canopy installation to protect our fleet and equipment

A special thank you to our staff who worked incredibly hard to clear classrooms at Caledonia & Dutton Elementary ahead of summer construction.

Design work is also moving forward for future improvements at Calplex (parking and fields) and Duncan Lake. These projects are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026.



## Ralph E. Meyers Stadium: 75 Years of Tradition

**#WeAreCAL | Connecting Generations | A Story Worth Telling**

Caledonia's stadium has stood for 75 years — a place where traditions began, legacies were born, and memories were made. This summer, we celebrate its remarkable journey and **officially open a new chapter** with the **Grand Re-Opening of Ralph E. Meyers Stadium**.

Built with the support of the 2023 bond, this revitalized space is more than a field — it's a **symbol of community pride, investment in our students, and the next 75 years of Fighting Scots excellence**.

We'll also honor a legendary team in Caledonia history:

**The 1950 Fighting Scots Football Team — undefeated and unscored upon!**

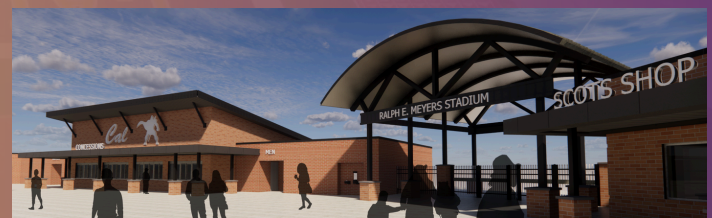
Their story reminds us how far we've come and the powerful legacy that still shapes our future.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**08.26.25**

**Ralph E. Meyers Stadium  
6:30 P.M. | All Are Welcome**

**Tradition. Legacy.  
Community.**





# Class of 2025

## BY THE NUMBERS

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 on their momentous achievements! From earning scholarships to pursuing future goals, our graduating class has a lot to celebrate!



students participating in the graduation ceremony

# 80%

of students pursuing continued education



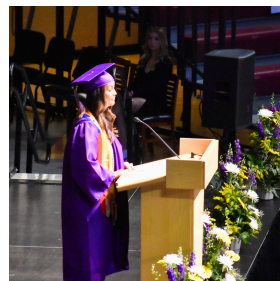
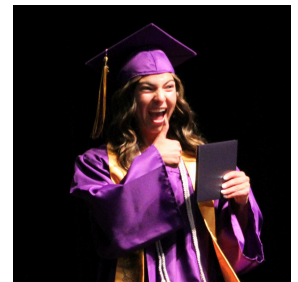
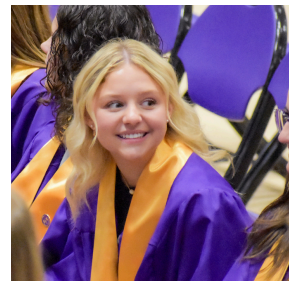
# 214

## scholarships

offered to members of the senior class, with a projected 4 year value of over \$3.4 Million.

### Commencement Address:

In her moving commencement speech, Alpha Beta Award winner Isabella Wierzbicki reflected on the importance of intentionality, empathy, and gratitude. Her words left a lasting impression on our community and offered a powerful reminder that success is defined not by accolades, but by how we treat others.







## Honoring Top Students

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

Sophia Anderson

Luke Athearn

Michael Berger

Greta Betz

Ethan Buer

Malia Burke

Rory Cobb

William Cook

Nathen Cox

Adysen Daman

Noah DeRosia

Drew Diebolt

Hannah Dupuis

Aidan Edgar

Alexa Elliot

Sophia Gauthier

Jennifer George

Silas Haan

Elizabeth Hilton

Alexander Hochwarth

Noah Irish

Lukas Keson

Gretel Knipping

Colin Kowatch

Nirdhvaitha Kumar

Mason Langeland

Danielle Le-Tran

Joshua Maier

Hailey Markwat

Tyler McAllister

Samuel Miersen

Elise Miller

Nathan Montross

Andrew Moore

Cameron Myers

Alivia Neubauer-Keyes

Copelin Okrangley

Peter Paarlberg

Erin Peckham

Owen Petersen

Thomas Platschorre

Allie Poe

Kayli Price

Finn Radtke

Logan Reimbold

Rian Restau

Sebastian Rissley

Addison Russell

Meghan Ruthven

Juliana Ryder

Ranveer Singh

Olivia Stauffer

Owen Straight

Andrew Tava

Claire Teunessen

Justin Trees

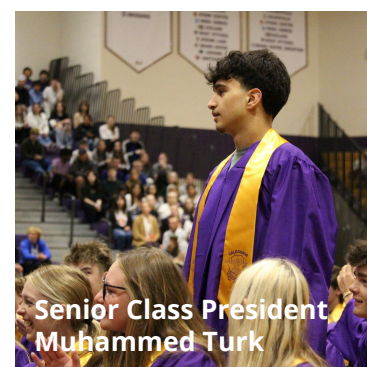
Adela Turpin

Kenna VanLente

Susanna Vire

Emily Vu

Isabella Wierzbicki



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-pages/seniors/>



# Building Updates



## Caledonia High School

Senior Perk Day gave the Class of 2026 a fun preview of what's to come as they prepare to enter their final year at CHS! With sweet treats, chances to win gift cards, and the official launch of their senior year theme—The Great Escape, organized by senior parents—there was lots of fun in store. It was a great way to kick off their exam week and start the countdown to their senior year!



## Duncan Lake Middle School

Leadership was on full display at Duncan Lake Middle School as students in Mrs. Veitch's Cal Leadership class wrapped up the semester with a series of engaging partner activities! From Chicken in the Hen House and Cereal Thursday to Family Feud and sunglass decorating, these student-led events showcased creativity, collaboration, and initiative. A big shoutout to our Cal Leaders for making a meaningful impact through fun and connection!



## Kraft Meadows Intermediate School

Students at Kraft Meadows Intermediate School took on an exciting engineering challenge by designing and 3D printing custom bases for mousetrap cars. This hands-on project combined creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving as students explored real-world STEM concepts. It was a fun and engaging way to bring engineering principles to life!



## Paris Ridge Elementary

As the school year wrapped up, our incredible third graders at Paris Ridge celebrated with a Glow Party! Surrounded by neon lights and laughter, students marked the end of a year filled with hard work, learning, and growth. It was a glowing sendoff to an unforgettable year! We're so proud of everything they accomplished and can't wait to see what they'll do next year. Way to go, Scots!





## Kettle Lake Elementary

To kick off Teacher Appreciation Week, the Kettle Lake PTO organized a warm and spirited welcome for staff members! Students lined the halls and walkways, greeting teachers with high fives as they arrived for the day. It was a simple but meaningful gesture that brought big smiles and set a joyful tone—thank you to our amazing parents for celebrating our dedicated staff in such a special way!



## Emmons Lake Elementary

Emmons Lake Elementary came together for a powerful S.O.A.R. Assembly, continuing their focus on building character through the values of Safety, Ongoing Kindness, Acting Responsibly, and Respect. May's spotlight was on Respect, and students were recognized with Super Eagle and Super Kids Awards for consistently modeling this important trait. Thank you to the families who joined in the celebration—it's this kind of support that helps a culture of respect take flight!



## Dutton Elementary

Field Day fun was in full force at Dutton Elementary with a special speed trap set up by our School Resource Officer, Deputy Stewart. He used a radar to clock runners throughout the day and issued "speeding tickets" to the fastest student in each class. Lincoln Jonkman earned top honors as the fastest of them all—way to go, Lincoln, and thanks to Deputy Stewart for adding excitement to the day!



## Caledonia Elementary

Thanks to a generous donation from Eastbrook Homes, the Caledonia Education Foundation (CEF), several construction partners, and Project Jade, new communication boards have been installed on the playgrounds at all five elementary schools, including Caledonia Elementary, as well as at the Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center (DLECC). These boards are designed to ensure that all students — especially those with communication challenges — can express themselves and engage fully during playtime. This effort is part of a broader initiative to foster inclusion and accessibility across our schools.



## Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center

For 21 days, Mrs. Johnson's preschool class was on egg-citing watch duty, learning all about chick development and eagerly monitoring their eggs. At last, the big moment arrived—crack, peep, surprise! Their chicks hatched last week, and the classroom was filled with joy as students met and gently held their new feathered friends for the first time.

# BIG STEPS FOR LITTLE LEARNERS: PRESCHOOL OPTIONS AT A GLANCE

## For 4-Year-Olds

(Children who turn 4 on or before 9/30/25)

- FREE Preschool
  - Monday–Thursday, Full Day
- Tuition-Based Preschool
  - Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Morning, Afternoon, Extended, or Full Day
  - Tuesday, Thursday: Extended or Full Day

## For 3-Year-Olds

(Children who turn 3 on or before 9/1/25)

- Tuition-Based Preschool
  - Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Morning, Afternoon, Extended, or Full Day
  - Tuesday, Thursday: Extended or Full Day

## For Children Under 3

(Must be at least 2 years 9 months to begin)

- Little Scots Playgroup
  - Tuesdays & Thursdays: Tuition-Based Morning Session



*Enroll  
Now!*

- To apply for Free Preschool, go to: [preschool.kentisd.org/Apply](https://preschool.kentisd.org/Apply)
- To enroll in Tuition-Based preschool or Little Scots Playgroup, go to: [www.calschools.org/enrollment/pre-school-enrollment](https://www.calschools.org/enrollment/pre-school-enrollment)

## Cal Resource Center

### Programs Offered

Adult Enrichment	Theater Programs
Adult Health & Fitness	55 and better programs
Youth Enrichment	Caledonia Senior Center
Youth Sports	Caledonia GlobeTrotters
Summer Camps	Adults Without Limits programs

**Add Caledonia Resource Center to your  
CCS Mobile App!**

**Visit our Website to learn more about all of  
our offerings & sign up today!**

## Renovations at Duncan Lake

We're excited to announce that the former district administration offices at Duncan Lake Middle School have been thoughtfully renovated — and will officially open this fall!

The redesigned space will provide a **new programming space** for the Caledonia Resource Center and a **new home** for the Caledonia Education Foundation.

The Early Childhood Center will benefit from expanded office and storage space, which will open up existing areas for a new multi-use room.

This work also provides **expanded classroom and office space** for DLMS, as they move into the area previously used by the Resource Center. Additional renovation work at DLMS is planned for **Summer 2026**.



**New Programming  
Space - Coming Fall 2025**  
Former Administration Offices

9757 Kraft Ave, SE  
Caledonia MI (616)891-8117  
[www.calschools.org/resourcecenter](https://www.calschools.org/resourcecenter)





# Get in the Game!

Caledonia Youth Sports Association

## WWW.CALEDONIAYOUTHSPORTS.COM

### Visit the CYSA website for:

- Member League Links
- Registration & Season Info
- Cal-Plex Info & Scheduling
- Merchandise Sales
- Special Programs
- Concessions, and more...



### CYSA Member Leagues:

- AYSO Region #675
- Caledonia Youth Baseball/Softball League
- Caledonia Youth Football
- Caledonia Youth Lacrosse Club
- West Michigan Galaxy



Cal-Plex is a Caledonia Community Schools owned property, which is leased and maintained by CYSA.

# CALAPALOOZA 2025

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

## 3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

CHS RALPH E. MEYERS MEMORIAL STADIUM  
SOUTH PARKING LOT  
330 JOHNSON STREET SE



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

Organized by the Caledonia  
Education Foundation (CEF)



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](http://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



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