

Summer 2023  
**Communicator**  
CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



**JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE**

**District Voters  
Approve  
Supplemental  
Bond**

**Honoring Top  
Students**

**District Points  
of Pride**

**Building  
Updates**



# A Letter From the Superintendent

## Dear Caledonia Schools Community,

As we embark on another exciting summer, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support and dedication to our district. The recent passage of our supplemental bond, thanks to your support, will pave the way for an even brighter future for our students.

Our community's commitment to education and our students is truly remarkable. This bond will be used to replace Dutton Elementary and make necessary improvements to buildings and facilities in our districts, as well as invest in technology that will help Caledonia students succeed. This represents a significant step forward in ensuring top-notch educational experiences for all.

I also want to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Class of 2023. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to their education, and we are proud of their accomplishments. They have exemplified the values of perseverance, resilience, and academic excellence throughout their time at Caledonia Schools.

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, I am filled with excitement and optimism. Our dedicated educators, staff, and administrators are committed to fostering a nurturing and

inspiring environment where every student can thrive.

At this time I would like to formally announce that I will be embarking on a new position at the regional level and stepping down as the CCS Superintendent at the end of this school year. It has been a privilege to serve this incredible community, and I am grateful for the support and partnership we have shared. The Board of Education is seeking an Interim Superintendent to continue our mission of providing excellent education to our students by Cultivating Agile Learners.

I encourage you to stay involved and engaged in our district. Your support is vital to our collective success. Together, we will continue to create a strong and vibrant community for our students to grow and succeed.

Wishing you a wonderful summer filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable moments with loved ones. Go Scots!

With gratitude,

Dr. Dedrick Martin  
Superintendent



## Board of Education Meetings

The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education meets monthly on the third Monday at 6 pm in the Administration Office located at 8948 Kraft Ave., unless noted differently. Remaining 2023 meetings include:	<b>June 19, 2023</b>
	<b>July 31, 2023</b>
	<b>Aug. 14, 2023</b>
	<b>Sept. 18, 2023</b>
	<b>Oct. 16, 2023</b>
	<b>Nov. 20, 2023</b>
	<b>Dec. 11, 2023</b>

## Board of Education Members

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

Thank you, Caledonia, for supporting our schools!



Thank You



## District Voters Approve Supplemental Bond

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that the Caledonia School supplemental bond has been successfully passed! On behalf of Caledonia Community Schools, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the voters of our district for their tremendous support. This achievement will have a transformative impact on our schools, benefiting our students and community for years to come.

The approved bond will allow us to replace Dutton Elementary, improve our buildings and facilities, and invest in cutting-edge technology for our students. We are proud to emphasize that this bond will not raise tax rates for residents. It is a fiscally responsible investment, reflecting our commitment to transparency and wise resource management.

Passing this bond is an investment in the future of our students and the prosperity of our community. It will enhance their educational experience, equip them for success in the job market, and attract families and businesses, ensuring the strength of our community. We express our deepest gratitude to the leaders and volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to promote this bond and secure community support.

Thank you to everyone in our community who supported this bond. Together, we will continue to build upon the achievements of our district, making Caledonia a place where families choose to send their children for an exceptional education and a thriving community.



### Sneak Peak:

Note: This rendering is a representation of a conceptual design. The final design may be different as the district moves through the final stages of the design process.

# Class of 2023

BY THE NUMBERS

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 on this momentous achievement! From earning scholarships to pursuing future goals, our graduation class has a lot to celebrate!



Total Graduates:

# 324

# 72%

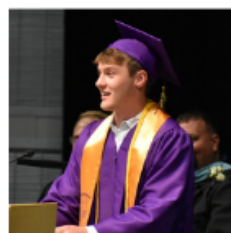
students  
pursuing continued  
education



# 198

scholarships

received by members of the  
senior class, with a projected 4  
year value of \$4.48 Million.





## Honoring Top Students

Congratulations to our 65 "Gold" students who earned a grade point average of 4.0 or above! Summa Cum Laude students are as follows:

Erin Asper  
Taryn Briones  
Connor Cammet  
Thomas Carey  
Isaac Clark  
Hailey Clarke  
Jonathan Collins  
Matthew Collins  
Gabrielle Dark  
Abigail Dean  
Matt DeGraaf  
Addison Deveney  
Macey Douma  
Anna Eliassen  
Blake Elliot  
Madelyn Fennema  
Jack Finlan-Hitt  
Sara Flynn  
Ethan Folkersma  
Grace Geer  
Gaby Gonzalez  
Isabel Grinstead

Stella Haan  
Carly Hadaway  
Ryan Hautala  
Kiana Haywood  
Austin Hurley  
Nathan Huynh  
Reagan Huyser  
Henry Johnson  
Elise Klein  
Megan Larson  
Anthony Lawlor  
Gavin Long  
Sydney Lopez  
Camren Martin  
Sydney Mertz  
Anna Mince  
Adam Morris  
Annabelle Munson  
Meadow Neubauer-Keyes  
Justin Nguyen  
Jordan Nyland  
Starr Palermo

Selena Pham  
Dilyn Pratt  
Megan Russell  
Anna Salmon  
Theren Sanders  
Katherine Schwartzfisher  
Wyatt Snitzer  
Taylor Somerville  
Matthew Spoehr  
Lija Sverns  
Halle Theaker  
Leo Thomas  
Leah Thompson  
Livia Ubaldo  
Caden VanderBerg  
Kanika Verma  
Isaac Vire  
Jenna Waggoner  
Paige Williamson  
Jay Woltjer  
Kalen Zuiderveen

You can find a list of Silver and Bronze students on our website at <https://www.calschools.org/schools/cal-hs/student-services/class-of-2023/>

# Points of Pride

## Rising Star Awards

Caledonia Community Schools is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of having 7 of our buildings selected as "Rising Stars" by Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH)! This prestigious recognition is awarded to a select group of schools in their first year of implementing CKH, acknowledging the exceptional progress and positive impact of CKH practices within these buildings. We are thrilled to see the transformative power of CKH in action, fostering a culture of connection, respect, and social-emotional growth among our students and staff. This accomplishment fuels our excitement for the future as we eagerly continue the work already started with CKH, striving to do even more for our students and create an inclusive and supportive educational community.



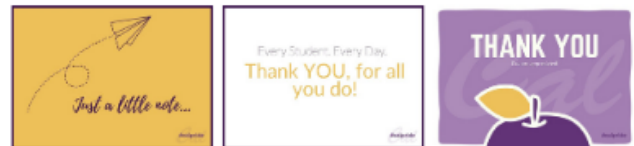
## Bus Road-e-o

Caledonia School Bus Drivers claimed FIRST PLACE at the 58th Annual MAPT School Bus Road-e-o competition! With exceptional skills and commitment to safety, they secured an impressive victory against tough regional competition. Congratulations to Betty Nelson for her remarkable 2nd place achievement and the 8 drivers who finished in the top 20! Let's celebrate our exceptional Caledonia School Bus Drivers!

## Staff Appreciation Cards

We want to extend a thank you to everyone who participated in sending cards during Staff Appreciation Week! Your overwhelming response and kind messages have touched the hearts of our staff members and reminded them of the positive impact they have on our community.

# OVER 1,000 CARDS SENT!



## Sample Messages

Just a few of the uplifting messages staff received:

- Thanks for always being a ray of sunshine for our kids in the office and answering the phones so cheerful and for the help you provide. We appreciate it more than you know!
- Thank you for fostering a love of music in both of my kids. You've given them a lifelong gift!
- Thank you for all that you do every day! I really appreciate all of the support and guidance you have given my son this year. He really has loved your classroom this year and you will definitely be missed next year. Thank you!!





## Duncan Lake Early Childhood Center

Preschool students learned how important worms are for the earth and how they help plants grow. They created a worm habitat to observe worms in action. First, they layered dirt and sand with bits of dead leaves in a large glass container. Then the worms were moved into their new home. The sides of the glass are covered with black paper so that the worms think that they are underground and then tunnel. When students are in the classroom, the black paper is removed and the students can see the worms in their tunnels. Who would have thought that worms could be so interesting!



## Caledonia Elementary

Students at Caledonia Elementary had a blast as they enjoyed a special treat organized by their PTO. The day was filled with excitement as inflatable structures were set up for the students to jump, slide, and play on. The joy on their faces was evident as they had a memorable time bouncing around and engaging in active fun. To beat the summer heat, Kona Ice was also provided, offering a refreshing and delicious treat. A special thanks is in order to their dedicated PTO for organizing this fantastic event and providing students with such a fun-filled day. It's moments like these that create lasting memories and enhance the sense of community at Caledonia Elementary.



## Dutton Elementary

What a fun day at Dutton Elementary's Field Day! Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who made this day possible. Their dedication and support truly made a difference in creating an unforgettable experience for the students!



A special mention is due to the Dutton Fire Department and the fantastic Deputy Stewart. Their presence not only ensured the safety of everyone involved but also ignited an extra surge of exhilaration at the event. The sheer joy and delight on the children's faces as they were sprayed with water from the firetrucks and ran alongside Deputy Stewart were absolutely priceless!



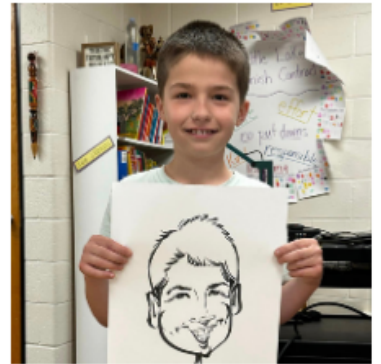
## Emmons Lake Elementary

Students at Emmons Lake Elementary School recently put their entrepreneurial skills to the test by organizing a fantastic flea market. This hands-on experience provided our students with valuable lessons in supply and demand, advertising, and making wise financial choices. It was the perfect culminating activity following their engaging Junior Achievement Unit on the Economy. Our young entrepreneurs showcased their creativity and business savvy as they set up booths, priced their items, and interacted with customers. The flea market not only fostered a deeper understanding of economic concepts but also instilled important life skills such as communication, decision-making, and teamwork.



## Kettle Lake Elementary

Fourth graders at Kettle Lake had the incredible opportunity to have their caricature drawings done by none other than Chris LaPorte, the 2010 Art Prize winner! This long-standing tradition has brought joy and creativity to our students for 17 years, and we are grateful to have such a talented artist like Chris joining us. The students were thrilled to see themselves come to life on paper, and we couldn't be prouder of their beautiful drawings. Thank you, Chris LaPorte, for sharing your artistic genius with our young learners!



## Paris Ridge Elementary

Kindergartners at Paris Ridge had an unforgettable adventure at John Ball Park Zoo! They embarked on an exciting journey, filled with laughter, curiosity, and incredible wildlife encounters. Our young explorers had a blast as they wandered through the zoo, marveling at the majestic lions, cheeky monkeys, and a whole array of fascinating creatures. It was a day filled with wonder, discovery, and the joy of learning about the diverse animal kingdom. We are incredibly proud of our young learners for their enthusiasm and engagement during this amazing trip to the zoo. Kudos to our dedicated teachers and staff for organizing such a memorable experience for our Kindergarten students.







## Kraft Meadows Intermediate School

The sixth graders from Kraft Meadows Intermediate School had an exhilarating and unforgettable day at Allegan Event! It was a day filled with adventure and excitement as our students explored the largest indoor ropes course in Michigan. They zoomed down thrilling zip lines, conquered challenging climbing walls, and navigated through outdoor mazes. The smiles on their faces were proof of the incredible memories they made together. This hands-on experience not only provided an opportunity for our students to test their physical abilities but also encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and overcoming personal challenges.



## Duncan Lake Middle School

The Duncan Lake Middle School Student Council would like to thank everyone who participated in CancerWalk this year. Their school raised \$20,809.56 for the Van Andel Research Institute! Students celebrated the culmination of their hard work with a ceremonial walk around Scotland Yard and participated in various yard games. There were smiles, laughs, and plenty of friendly competition but the highlight of the event was the incredible opportunity to "dunk" Mr. Abraham, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Herron, and Mr. Whitley in the dunk tank!



## Caledonia High School

We are incredibly grateful to a generous local donor who made it possible for 51 students from Caledonia High School's Advanced Placement US History Class to embark on an unforgettable adventure. They had the opportunity to soar through the skies aboard an authentic UH-1 Huey Helicopter that saw action in Vietnam. The day was filled with awe-inspiring flights, fascinating tours of the Willow Run Bomber Plant, and enlightening interviews with veterans from the Cold War and Vietnam era. Our students were truly privileged to experience this remarkable journey.



## Bond 2020 Update

We want to begin this article by expressing a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the individuals who have supported the bonds and contributed their time and expertise to ensure the success of the projects. Your support has been invaluable.

One of the significant projects under the 2020 Bond is the Cal Community Center. After months of detailed planning, we have made significant progress this Spring, transforming from dirt piles and a hole in the ground to an established building with a roof.

Most of the massive precast concrete structural components are now in place, with the final two being installed after the pools are built. We are excitedly anticipating the completion of this community center and the many benefits it will bring.

Looking ahead, the first project of the 2023 supplemental bond will be the construction of the new Dutton Elementary. We are eager to pick up where we left off and commence site work as soon as possible.

For any bond-related questions, please reach out to us at [CalBonds@CalSchools.org](mailto:CalBonds@CalSchools.org). We are here to provide information and assistance.

Once again, we extend our gratitude for the opportunity to serve our community through this project. We are excited about the improvements taking place in our district and their positive impact on our students, staff, and community.

Thank you for your continued support.



# Caledonia Community Schools 2023 - 2024 School Calendar

August 21	First Day of School	December 22	Student Half Day	May 1	No School for Students - Staff Prof Development
September 1	Labor Day Break	September 4		December 25	Holiday Break
January 5		May 27	No School - Memorial Day	September 22	Student Half Day
January 15	No School for Students - Staff Prof Development	May 31	Student Half Day/ Last Day	October 31	Student Half Day
February 19	No School - Winter Break	February 20		November 22	Thanksgiving Break
March 29	Spring Break	April 5		November 24	

## Food Service Update

Exciting news! Caledonia Community Schools, in partnership with Aramark Foods, will provide FREE meals to all students who qualify for reduced meal pricing in the upcoming 2023/2024 academic year. What's even better, there will be NO increase in school meal costs for any students! This opportunity stems from a healthy fund balance in our Food Service Fund, thanks to federal reimbursements during the pandemic. We are thrilled to utilize these additional funds to ensure more students have access to nutritious meals.

<https://caledonia.healtheliving.net/>



PRESENTED BY  
**BUTCHER BLOCK Social**

## FRIDAY 9/22/23

### 11:30am – 7:00pm

Caledonia Football Stadium

- LIVE BAND
- FOOD TRUCKS
- PRIZES
- PARADE
- HOMECOMING
- GAMEDAY BROADCAST
- PUNT, PASS AND KICK
- & MORE!

Fun for the whole family!

Sponsorship opportunities  
now available at: [calapalooza.com](http://calapalooza.com)



## Summer of SCOTS!



Visit [www.calschools.org](http://www.calschools.org) to submit your photos.

**#SummerofSCOTS**

Calling all SCOTS! Show off your summer adventures in style! Wherever you go, don your #CALPRIDE gear, snap some awesome photos, and share them with us using #SummerofSCOTS. Whether it's a vacation, staycation, or a day trip, we want to see where you are and what you're up to! Let's make this summer unforgettable together. Stay safe and have a blast!



It's a great day to be a **FIGHTING SCOT!**

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)

- ✓ Preschool
- ✓ Young Fives
- ✓ Kindergarten
- ✓ All School Age Students

**#calpride**



CCS Administration Office: 8948 Kraft Ave SE, Caledonia MI 49316  
[www.calschools.org](http://www.calschools.org)  /CALSCHOOLS  caledonia\_community\_schools