**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 23rd</td>
<td>Fall Picture Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 26th</td>
<td>Bagel Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 27th</td>
<td><strong>Color Run - Come join the fun and support our school!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 30th</td>
<td>No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 1st</td>
<td>Taste of the Lakes - 5:00-8:00pm at Edgewood Country Club - See flyer on page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 2nd</td>
<td>Student Count Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A Peek at Our Week at Commerce Elementary...**

Our future Knights had a blast at Friday’s Homecoming Parade and when the WLN drumline visited Commerce on Wednesday! We are proud to be a part of the Northern Nation. Go Knights!

We also celebrated Constitution Day, the first day of Mileage Club, and our Media Center got a whole new look thanks to Mrs. Gusumano! And LOTS of learning, of course!
**Important Reminder:** We have several children at Commerce who are vulnerable to contagious illnesses. These brave Cougars are fighting leukemia or Spinal Muscular Atrophy. We can help them stay healthy and strong in a few very simple ways...

- Talk with your child about the importance of proper hand washing.
- Teach your child to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze (and wash their hands).
- Notify the Main Office immediately if your child has a contagious illness like chicken pox, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza (the flu), and more.
- Most importantly, have your child stay home from school if they are sick. Together we can show that Commerce cares about these brave Cougars. On behalf of these special families and their medical teams, I thank you for your support and compassion.

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**Western Oakland County Parenting Education Fair**

The Western Oakland County Parenting Education Fair is coming to Walled Lake Northern High School on Saturday, November 2, 2019. We are very excited to have Brooks Gibbs joining us this year as our keynote speaker! Topics include managing social media with your child, reducing stress and anxiety, strategies to help you with a child with ADHD, nutrition, character building, planning for college, and more. Child care is available for a reasonable cost ($3 for one child, $5 per family) and includes entertainment and lunch. Lunch for conference participants will be available for purchase from local food trucks during the event. Please learn more about our keynote speaker, Brooks Gibbs, by watching: [The Resilent Parenting Style](#) and [register online](#) to attend. Registration is $15 per person or $25 per person at the door the day of the event.

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**Commerce Elementary Arrival/Dismissal Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Drop-Off Begins - 8:40am</th>
<th>Dismissal - 4:00pm <em>Updated</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Bell - 8:50am - Students Enter Building</td>
<td>Buses Depart - 4:07pm <em>Updated</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Bell - 8:55am - School Day Begins (Students who arrive after 8:55 are marked tardy)</td>
<td>Half Day Dismissal - 12:25pm <em>Updated</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Communication is Key!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office: 248-956-3900</th>
<th>Website: <a href="http://www.wlcsd.org/commerce">www.wlcsd.org/commerce</a></th>
<th>Christina Carlin, Principal <a href="mailto:christinacarlin@wlcsd.org">christinacarlin@wlcsd.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
<td></td>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
<td>Kathy Williams, Secretary <a href="mailto:kathywilliams@wlcsd.org">kathywilliams@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Us on Twitter!</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
<td>Like our PTA on Facebook!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@CommerceElem</td>
<td>Having login issues? CLICK HERE</td>
<td>Visit our PTA’s website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Commerce Elementary - Important Links and Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
<th>School Calendar</th>
<th>PTA Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great resource for new families!</td>
<td></td>
<td>Like the PTA’s facebook page, too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Newsletters</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access</td>
<td>Staff Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast and Lunch Menus</td>
<td>School Supply Lists</td>
<td>PrimeTime Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COLOR RUN
Is THIS
Friday, September 27th

Donation Envelopes are due THIS Wednesday!!

- We are still looking for a few more volunteers. If you are able to help, please go to www.tinyurl.com/CommerceMakesMagic to sign up! We appreciate all of you who have already signed up, to help make this day a success!
- Watch your child's backpack Thursday evening for a Flyer containing information about the Color run happening this FRIDAY!
- If you have any questions or concerns, please email Crystal Darling crystal0515@gmail.com or Keli Hoglin at kellcutta19@aol.com

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COLOR RUN TIPS:

- Wear Play Clothes/Shoes
- Wear Bandana/Sunglasses
- Please bring a plastic grocery bag for run shirt.
- Bring an extra snack if needed
- Bring Water Bottle.
- HAVE FUN!!

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Commerce Elementary
COLOR RUN
Schedule
September 27, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Warm-Up</th>
<th>Run</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1:30-1:35</td>
<td>1:35-1:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>1:50-1:55</td>
<td>1:55-2:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>2:10-2:15</td>
<td>2:15-2:35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2:30-2:35</td>
<td>2:35-2:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>2:50-2:55</td>
<td>2:55-3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>3:10-3:15</td>
<td>3:15-3:35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2019 COLOR RUN SPONSORS

Color Run Schedule:

2nd Grade: 1:30-1:55
1st Grade: 2:30-2:55
3rd Grade: 1:50-2:15
Kindergarten: 2:50-3:15
4th Grade: 2:10-2:35
5th Grade: 3:10-3:35

Parents are welcome to come join the fun!
Dear Commerce Community,

As we prepare for this week’s PTA Color Run, it has come to our attention that there are some parents who have concerns about the structure of the fundraiser, especially the incentives and prizes. We have heard your concerns and want to address them so that there can be more understanding among our entire community.

One of the concerns we have heard is that it seems unfair that some students get prizes or rewards and other students do not. Please understand that, for students, the Color Run experience is NOT just the prizes. It is the fun of running around the track, getting sprayed with powder, while enjoying a great time with their classmates. The prizes are an added bonus but the event on the 27th is the highlight for ALL our kids! Long after the prizes end up in a junk drawer, our kids treasure memories of the actual Color Run.

We have also heard that some parents feel that having prize levels emphasizes the economic disparity in our community. While we understand this might be the perception, we would like to share some information to provide more clarity.

- When analyzing our Color Run data, it is important to note that less than half of our school donates to the Color Run fundraiser. The number of top earners is approximately 30 students (or 1-2 students per classroom). And the second level is approximately 70 students (or 2-3 students per classroom). We share this so you can understand that most students do not get a reward or prize but, again, ALL students enjoy the fun of the Color Run AND the benefits of the PTA’s support.
- Additionally, the reality is that our top earners come from a very diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds. There is simply no connection between funds raised and family income. Many children return pop cans, have lemonade stands, and get creative with their fundraising efforts regardless of their family’s income level.
- Some families choose to participate and ‘go big’ with this fundraiser and don’t participate in our other fundraisers; and other families do the opposite.

Additionally, our students – your children – are happy to celebrate with their peers. In previous years, when students return from their prize experiences (like spraying color on their teachers), their classmates are excited to hear about what happened. They watch the video on youtube and laugh at Ms. Carlin and Mrs. Dubay. When a prize or small toy is distributed in the classroom, other kids enjoy it with their classmates. Additionally, classroom teachers do not make a big show of it in order to minimize classroom disruptions. In the end, everyone is feeling excited and proud of our school!

Our Color Run is the PTA’s biggest fundraiser of the year. Nearly 70% of the PTA’s operating budget comes from this single event. We have run this event in the past without incentives and we raised less than half of the PTA’s goal and were not able to fund the PTA’s budget needs. Without a successful Color Run, the PTA would have to cut things from our budget. This means all of our students would miss out on the exciting opportunities and valuable resources our PTA provides. This is the unfortunate reality of our schools operating with limited funds from the state – we rely on funds from the PTA to provide supplemental resources and opportunities.

With all of that said, we hear your concerns and are considering ways we can improve next year. We discussed this topic at our last PTA meeting and have some initial ideas. We do not have a perfect solution but we are open to your input. Our current Color Run chairs will be retiring at the end of this event and we will need new chairs next year and beyond. We hope that those of you who have concerns can share your solutions and maybe even help chair this event in future years. Please reach out to either of us, any time.

We cannot do what we do alone and we appreciate the support of every single parent, family, student, and teacher in our school. We look forward to seeing you on Friday at our Color Run event!

Sincerely,

Christina Carlin
Commerce Elementary Principal
christinacarlin@wlcsd.org

Shayna Levin
Commerce Elementary PTA President
shayna.levin@gmail.com
❖ Thank you to everyone who joined us at our first PTA meeting this past week! We discussed lots of things that are in store for this coming year, had a great discussion about fundraising, and we also approved our budget. If you’re curious what was discussed or want to see the budget, visit our new-and-improved website for all sorts of great information! Be sure to mark your calendars for our next PTA meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, October 16th!

❖ Color Run week is finally here! We hope everyone is as excited as we are for Friday's festivities! We are still in need of a few helping hands to make the event a success. Click HERE to sign up to volunteer. We will take any help we can get with the open spaces, so even if you can only help part of the time, please sign up anyway! Many hands make for light work!

❖ Mark your calendars for our next program, a fan favorite event, the Fall Fair and Silent Auction! This year's event will take place on October 25th from 6:30-8:30pm and is sure to be a great time! Look for more information about this event soon!

❖ Do you have a budding artist at home? It's time to start working on entries for this year's National PTA Reflections contest! This year's theme is 'Look Within'. Entries will be due in November so get those creative gears turning now! Last year, Commerce's own Alex Kohr won a national award and scholarship for his entry! This year it could be you! Visit the district's Reflections website for more information.

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School Directory - Advertisers Needed!

Did you miss out on being a business sponsor for the Color Run but you still want your business to participate in fundraising for the school? The school directory has limited spots available for additional advertising opportunities! The directory will go out to every student in the school and is a great way to get your message out there! If you are interested in a sponsorship, please contact the PTA VP of Membership by September 27th. Meghan Smith smithme82@gmail.com

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Box Tops - Fall Collection Contest!

We’re collecting Box Tops to support our PTA!

- Send in sheets of 10 or baggies of 50 of clipped, neatly trimmed and unexpired box tops.
- Please include name and teacher name on sheets or baggies.
- Bonus box tops, send in separately.
- The winning class will receive a PRIZE!
- Due date for this contest is Friday October 25, 2019.
Dear Parent or Guardian,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2017, the Michigan Legislature implemented the Third Grade Reading Law to ensure that students exit 3rd grade reading at or above grade level. This law impacts current kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students. In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing K-3 reading assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention, and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of K-3 students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and a read-at-home plan for you to help your child at home.

Reading instruction must be a major focus in grades K-3. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, social studies, writing and math. Much work is being done to ensure success of our K-3 students. Family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort.

Highlights of the law include:
● A state approved reading diagnostic assessment will be administered to all K-3 students. In Walled Lake, we will continue with the iReady Diagnostic assessment, which has been in place for the past several years. For more on iReady, please visit ireadycentral.com/familycenter/
● Based on iReady results, as well as teacher and principal consultation, students identified as being one or more years below grade level will receive targeted literacy support through the development of an Individual Reading Improvement Plan.
● The Individual Reading Improvement Plan will contain specific skill areas that will be addressed and monitored through interventions and instructional support.
● Schools will provide a School to Home Reading Plan for identified students and offer parent resources to assist with home reading strategies.
● In compliance with the law at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, 3rd grade students who do not demonstrate grade level reading proficiency on the state assessment, may be recommended for retention.
● For a closer look at the 3rd Grade Reading Law, please view this video and visit our district website (See the section under the Academics tab: wlcسد.org/academics/third-grade-reading-retention-law/)

Your child is in good hands with an exceptional teaching staff that continues to provide a laser focus on literacy instruction for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child’s teacher, if you have any questions. We are here to help!

Sincerely,

Christina Carlin
Principal, Commerce Elementary

Updated 9/2019
LAKES AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE
19TH ANNUAL
“TASTE OF THE LAKES”

OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

EDGEOUGD COUNTRY CLUB

FUNDRAISER IS TO HELP SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY’S YOUTH AND FAMILIES. HELP US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD NEGLECT, ABUSE AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Enjoy Great Food from Local Restaurants & Visit with Representatives from Local Schools, Courts, Municipalities, and Law Enforcement Agencies.

IN NEED OF SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS & SPONSORS

*** For more information email us at: LAYA@wlcso.org ***
Or call us at 248-956-5070

$25 PER TICKET IN ADVANCE
$30 AT THE DOOR