**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 3rd</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting - 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 9th</td>
<td>No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 10th</td>
<td>Vision Screenings Begin - Grades 1, 3, and 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Don't Forget! Wednesday is Count Day! Please make sure your child is present and on-time on Wednesday. Thank you for your support!**

Dear Commerce Families,

Two weeks ago, on September 17th, we had our first half day of the 2019-2020 school year. After students were dismissed, our staff engaged in professional learning (PL) throughout the district. We recognize that half days can be inconvenient for families. However, half days also provide our staff with ongoing professional learning opportunities to ensure we are continuously improving as a district. Our goal is to provide an exemplary education for your child and ongoing staff PL (or PD) is essential in achieving this goal.

On the 17th, schools throughout our district focused on providing tiers of support for our learners' social-emotional and academic needs. This is referred to as a multi-tiered system of support or MTSS. We also analyzed relevant assessment data and created action plans to address areas of need. This work is directly connected to our district goals, as well as, our school improvement plan.

We are grateful that our staff is continuously striving to improve and for our community's support. If you have questions about our professional learning plans and/or our school improvement goals, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Christina Carlin
Proud Principal, Commerce Elementary

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Our Color Run on Friday was such a fun day for our kids and our school community. We are so grateful to everyone who made this day a success! From Mrs. Hoglin and Mrs. Darling who coordinated the Color Run, to Mrs. Dubay for all her hard work, to every child, parent, and family who made this day so special. We raised over $34,000 which will make a powerful impact on your child’s education at Commerce Elementary. THANK YOU for your support!
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.

Dear Commerce Families:

In an effort to support Walled Lake Consolidated Schools vision of reaching “Every Child, Every Day,” we are happy to introduce Cougar Crews into your child’s school day. These crews are designed to build a stronger sense of community at Commerce Elementary and to receive instruction on character education, social-emotional learning, and anti-bullying. All children K-5 will attend Cougar Crew meetings once a month for approximately 25 minutes. Grade-level and some special area teachers will be Cougar Crew leaders. Cougar Crews are small groups of mixed ages and grade levels. There will be 30 crews with approximately 21-22 students in each one. The child remains with this same Cougar Crew and leader for all of the years they are at Commerce.

Cougar Crews will be used to teach the strong character traits that we value at Commerce. This year we will be focusing on respect, responsibility, and conflict resolution. For example, one lesson may focus on “good listening skills” which connects to respect and responsibility. Cougar Crews will be a great way for our students to build important relationships with different staff members and other students from a variety of different grade levels. The positive relationships that are fostered in Cougar Crews play a key role in building community in our school!

If you have any questions about Cougar Crews, feel free to contact a member of our SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) team.

Bethany Bean (bethanybean@wlcsd.org)
Tanya DuBay (tanyadubay@wlcsd.org)
Nichole Guizar (nicholeguizar@wlcsd.org)

We look forward to our first Cougar Crew meeting during the month of October!

Sincerely,
The Commerce Cougar Crews Team
Recently there was a study completed by the School Finance Research Collaborative about the actual cost of educating a student in Michigan, given our current educational standards. If you have wondered about the costs associated with educating a child and why we regularly hear about deficits in educational funding, I would encourage you to read the report. Though it is quite lengthy, it provides details of the base costs of educating a child in our schools. For a quick read, you could skip to Chapter 9, which provides the results and recommendations of the study. Currently, WLCSD receives about $8,400 per student in comparison to the $9,500-$10,100 per student base cost (not including additional costs) recommendation from the study (not including the cost of transportation or food services). We hope to see an increase in our funding from the state this year, but it will certainly not make up the difference between our current per pupil allowance and the findings of this report. It is important that we as a community make ourselves aware and consider the implications these findings have on our children.

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.

**Commerce Elementary Arrival/Dismissal Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Drop-Off Begins</th>
<th>Dismissal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:40am</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
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**Updated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Bell</th>
<th>Buses Depart</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>4:07pm</td>
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**Updated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Bell</th>
<th>Half Day Dismissal</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:55am</td>
<td>12:25pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Students who arrive after 8:55 are marked tardy)

**Communication is Key!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office: 248-956-3900</th>
<th>Website: <a href="http://www.wlcasd.org/commerce">www.wlcasd.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>
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</tbody>
</table>

Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carley Dunphey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphey@wlcsd.org</a></th>
<th>Kathy Williams, Secretary <a href="mailto:kathywilliams@wlcsd.org">kathywilliams@wlcsd.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
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Follow Us on Twitter! @CommerceElem

Skyward Family Access

Having login issues? CLICK HERE

Like our PTA on Facebook! Visit our PTA's website

**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>Like the PTA's facebook page, too!</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Newsletters</th>
<th>Skyward Family Access</th>
<th>Staff Directory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast and Lunch Menus</th>
<th>School Supply Lists</th>
<th>PrimeTime Care</th>
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</table>
PTA President’s Corner

- Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in this year's Color Run. Your generosity helped us raise over $34,000!! This money will allow the PTA to continue funding all of the great programming and resources enjoyed by all of our students and staff throughout the school year!

- Super big thank yous go out to Crystal Darling and Keli Hoglin, our Color Run chairs for the past two years! Crystal and Keli have worked tirelessly to plan and coordinate this event and we could not have done it without them! THANK YOU!

- Speaking of Color Run chairs, Crystal and Keli will be retiring as Color Run chairs and we are in need of two new chairs for next school year. Planning for this event starts in the spring. The Color Run is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This event that has been well planned and thought-out for years and the next chairs can copy the success of past years, or they could totally revamp things. It's up to you! If you are interested in this very important chair position for 2020-2021, please contact PTA President Shayna Levin at shayna.levin@gmail.com!

- It's now time to look ahead to the Fall Fair! The Fall Fair will be on Friday, October 25th, from 6:30-8:30pm! Pre-sale tickets will go on sale in a couple weeks (and we promise you want to buy pre-sale - no lines and lower prices!). Look for more information soon about tickets and volunteering!

- Have you seen the Media Center lately? If not, stop in and take a look - it's had a face-lift! Thanks to your generosity during our spring fundraiser and the creativity and hard work of Marget Gusumano, this space has a new and fresh look! There are more updates to come (including more seating and student art displays) but it's already looking great! Thank you also to North Cromwell Paint on Haggerty for their donation of all of the paint and supplies.

- Our next PTA meeting is on Wednesday, October 16th at 7pm in Media Center. Come meet new friends, talk about important topics, and, if your student wants to participate in Reflections, bring them along for Art Night! More information to come soon about Art Night. We hope to see you and your kids there!

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/](http://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](http://wlcsd.org/academics/third-grade-reading-retention-law/) and visit our district website (See the section under the Academics tab: [wlcsd.org/academics/third-grade-reading-retention-law/](http://wlcsd.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*
Check out THE WALK, an event led by former Commerce kids! If you’d like to teach your child about helping others AND see powerful examples of youth leaders, join THE WALK!

Can You Walk a Mile in Someone Else’s Shoes?  
Don't just talk the talk... 

Walk THE Walk

THE Walk to Combat Hunger  
THE Walk to Empower Youth  
THE Walk to Fight Poverty  
THE Walk to End Homelessness

Join us Saturday, October 12, 2019
Registration 9:00 am  
Walk begins at 10:00 am  
Hickory Glen Park  
600 Glengary Road  
Commerce Township, MI

All monies raised will be used to provide and support programs and events that help the homeless in Detroit and surrounding areas.  
Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food pantry at the walk’s conclusion.

Register online at www.calebwhiteproject.com  
Hard copy registration forms available.  
Email Walk Co-Chair and CWP Board Member, Luc Landry at llandry@calebwhiteproject.com for details.

For questions, or if you’d like to volunteer for the event, please contact Walk Co-Chair and CWP Board Member, Grant Landry at grant@calebwhiteproject.com.

The Caleb White Project is a youth-led 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.
LAKES AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE
19TH ANNUAL
“TASTE OF THE LAKES”

OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
EDGECWOOD 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@wlcsd.org ***
Or call us at 248-956-5070

$25 PER TICKET IN ADVANCE
$30 AT THE DOOR
What Parents Should Know

What is the Hearing & Vision Screening Program?

Michigan law (The Public Health Code 368 of 1978) requires Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) to provide no cost hearing and vision screenings to preschool and school-age children.

Screenings occur in most Oakland County public, private, and charter schools, preschools and at Health Division offices. The program is done in three steps over the course of a child’s school years:

1. Screenings before kindergarten entry
2. Screenings in select grades up to 9th grade.
3. As needed, medical referrals for children not passing the screening

OCHD Public Health Technicians help identify potential concerns related to a child’s ear or eye health. They are not doctors and do not diagnose conditions or prescribe treatment. Technicians complete a Michigan Department of Community Health & Human Services Technician Training Course and receive continuous training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening Requirements</th>
<th>Hearing</th>
<th>Vision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Grade</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
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<td>4th Grade</td>
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<td>5th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th Grade</td>
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Why screen children’s hearing and vision?

Hearing and vision difficulties can affect school performance, speech and language skills, self-esteem and social development. Regular hearing and vision screenings identify any problems and ensure they are caught early. Screenings are safe and help children get prompt medical care to reduce disease, physical damage to ear/eye and permanent loss of sight or hearing. They also help parents and teachers make accommodations to help children succeed.