Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 9th</td>
<td>No School</td>
<td>WLCSD 2019-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 10th</td>
<td>Vision Screenings Begin - Grades 1, 3, and 5</td>
<td>Commerce Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 11th</td>
<td>Pink Out - Students are invited to wear PINK and bring in a donation for the BCRF (optional).</td>
<td>Commerce Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 14th</td>
<td>Cougar Crews Kickoff Assembly</td>
<td>Commerce Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 16th</td>
<td>Our first Cougar Crew Meeting!</td>
<td>Commerce Elementary School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

Teacher of the Year Nominations Needed

Dear Commerce Families,

Each day, I am reminded how fortunate we are to have such dedicated teachers in classrooms throughout our school. As a way of honoring the commitment of our teaching staff, every year our district seeks nominations for our Teacher of the Year program. As part of this program, all schools select one Teacher of the Year and that person’s name is submitted for consideration for our district level Teacher of the Year. I hope you will consider nominating one or more of our teachers.

Nomination forms are due on Friday, October 25th at 4:00pm.

Any member of our school community (parents/guardians, students, colleagues, etc) are welcome to submit a nomination. A google form version of the nomination form is available [HERE](#) and a printable form is available [HERE](#). Please Note: The selection committee requests that you are SPECIFIC including DETAILS and EXAMPLES in your nomination form. You may learn more about our Teacher of the Year program on our [district website](#).

Sincerely,
Christina Carlin
Proud Principal, Commerce Elementary

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Commerce Cougar Choir

★ The Choir is open to all interested 4th & 5th grade students at Commerce.
★ No auditions! Love to sing? Please join us!
★ Rehearsals are once a week, during lunch recess.
★ Choir will rehearse on Mondays, beginning October 7th

Students who decide to join choir will receive a Contract at our first rehearsal. This will include performance dates already set for this school year.

Thank you,
Ms. Bethany Bean
bethanybean@wlcsd.org

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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
PTA President’s Corner

- Next Friday, October 11th, is our annual **Pink Out**! This event helps raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Fund. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink and, for a $1 donation, students will receive a special sticker! Donations can be given to your student's teacher on the day of the Pink Out.
- Our next **PTA Meeting** is on Wednesday, October 16th! Join us at 7pm for an update on everything going on in and around the school! Make new friends! And if you have a budding artist at home who is thinking of participating in the **Reflections** contest, bring them, too! Mrs. Cergnul and Mrs. Morland will be hosting Art Night to help students get their Reflections entries ready!
- Get ready for our next big event, the **Fall Fair**! On Friday, October 25th from 6:30-8:30pm, join us for fun, games, prizes, a few scares, and a silent auction! All students must have a wristband to participate. Look for more information, including volunteer signups and wristband presale, soon! (We promise, you'll want to buy your wristband ahead of time - lower pricing AND no lines!)
- The **Western Oakland County Parenting Fair** is coming up on Saturday, November 2nd at Walled Lake Northern High School. This great event features renowned speaker Brooks Gibbs as well as age-specific breakout sessions to help parents learn about all sorts of things. Our very own Commerce Dad, Paul Fenner, will be hosting one of the breakout sessions. Visit [this site](#) for more information!

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**.

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 12th - Registration 9:00 am - Walk begins at 10:00 am - Hickory Glen Park

All monies raised will be used to 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](http://www.calebwhiteproject.com)

For more information or questions, please e-mail Walk Co-Chairs and CWP Board Members, Luc Landry at [llandry@calebwhiteproject.com](mailto:llandry@calebwhiteproject.com) OR Grant Landry at [grant@calebwhiteproject.com](mailto:grant@calebwhiteproject.com)
The Caleb White Project is a youth-led 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.
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>
<th>Updated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:40am</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
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</table>

1st Bell - 8:50am - Students Enter Building

Buses Depart - 4:07pm

Final Bell - 8:55am - School Day Begins

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

Half Day Dismissal - 12:25pm

*Updated*

**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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></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! @CommerceElem</td>
<td>Skyward Family Access Having login issues? CLICK HERE</td>
<td>Like our PTA on Facebook! Visit our PTA's website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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>
Do you love to:
create?
dance?
sing?
take photos?
write stories?
paint?
draw?
sculpt?
animate?
create videos?

The PTA Reflections art contest is for YOU!
The theme this year is “LOOK WITHIN”

Need help getting your creative juices flowing?
Commerce Elementary is hosting an Art Night Workshop
on Wednesday, October 16th 6:30pm-8pm
Parents may attend the PTA meeting 7-8pm
For more information on this contest please check out
Youtube: https://youtu.be/XjoCljwKzUo
Understanding IEPs
With Stephanie Nicholls

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Sign-in opens and PAC Meeting at 6:30PM

WALLED LAKE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER (ESC)
Board Room
850 Ladd Rd, Building D
Walled Lake, Michigan

This workshop will help you better understand the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students who receive special education services.

Our goal is to help you understand how the IEP components work together:

- The present level of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP) statement
- Writing measurable goals and objectives
- Support services
- Resolving disagreements

Who should attend? Families with a child with disabilities or learning challenges, school staff, other community members

RSVP with Stephanie Nicholls by October 3, 2019
248-667-8567 or stephanie.n@michiganalliancefamilies.org
Register online www.michiganalliancefamilies.org/rsvp

Please note: To be good stewards of our funding resources, we need a minimum number of participants registered by the registration deadline for the presentation to be held. If it is after the deadline and you haven’t registered, please call or email to check the status of the event. If you require accommodations or materials in an alternative format, please let us know one week before the workshop.

Coordinated by the Michigan Alliance for Families. All workshops are free and open to the public. Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and Michigan’s federal Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).
Attention parents of Kindergarten Girls...

Looking for a place for girls to come together, be themselves, and learn how to care for others? Girl Scouts is that place!

We have room for a few more girls to start the Girl Scout Journey!

Join Troop 77014 here:


First meeting Tuesday, October 15th
4-5:15pm in the Media Center

Questions? Contact Katie at:

troop77014@yahoo.com
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>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Grade</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<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.