Dear Commerce Families,

I can’t believe the first day of school is almost here! We can’t wait to see our kids smiling faces! We have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year. We know it will be the best year yet!

We are happy to introduce a new staff member, Elizabeth Cowgill, who has joined our kindergarten team. Mrs. Cowgill has a background in early childhood and teaching experience including most recently at Twin Sun Elementary. Her passion for teaching children is evident from the moment you meet her. Mrs. Cowgill can’t wait to meet her kindergartners and we’re confident that they are in very good hands!

Welcome to Commerce, Mrs. Cowgill!

Each year, we identify specific goals through the school improvement process. This year, we will have a focus on strengthening our core instruction for all children - both academic and social-emotional learning. Our school improvement goals are based on data analysis and reflect a continuous effort to grow and provide an exemplary education for our children. Specifically, our academic goals are:

- To improve our students’ writing proficiency with particular focus on supporting ideas with reasoning and/or evidence.
- To improve our students math proficiency with a particular focus on multi-step, high-level problem-solving.

Our efforts will stretch from the classroom to professional development sessions. We look forward to implementing intentional action steps aimed at improving in these areas.

We hope to see many of you tomorrow at our Teacher Meet and Greet from 3:30-4:30pm and at the Commerce Comeback from 3:30-5:30pm. Come meet your teacher, drop-off school supplies, and have some fun at the Comeback! As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. If it’s important to you, it’s important to us!

Sincerely,
Christina Carlin
Proud Principal, Commerce Elementary
2019-2020 Grade Level Supply Lists are available on our website!

Construction Zone!
Due to the roundabout construction at Carroll Lake at Cooley Lake, we anticipate many buses will be running late until the scheduled completion on Sept. 6th.

Please allow extra time and drive with caution as we start school. Whenever possible, please use bus transportation. It is safe, convenient, and your child is never tardy when they ride the bus! You can also call the transportation Hotline at 248-956-5199 for information about late buses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commerce Elementary Arrival/Dismissal Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morning Drop-Off Begins - 8:40am</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Bell - 8:50am - Students Enter Building</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Bell - 8:55am - School Day Begins</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Students who arrive after 8:55 are marked tardy)</td>
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Communication is Key!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office: 248-956-3900</th>
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<tr>
<td>Absences: 248-956-3990</td>
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| Website: www.wlcisd.org/commerce |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christina Carlin, Principal <a href="mailto:christinacarlin@wlcsd.org">christinacarlin@wlcsd.org</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Kaczmarek, Secretary <a href="mailto:denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org">denisekaczmarek@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carley Dunphrey, Head Teacher <a href="mailto:carleydunphrey@wlcsd.org">carleydunphrey@wlcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Williams, Secretary <a href="mailto:kathywilliams@wlcsd.org">kathywilliams@wlcsd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Follow Us on Twitter! @CommerceElem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skyward Family Access Don’t miss any e-mails! Update your e-mail address in Skyward. Having issues? CLICK HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like our PTA on Facebook! Visit our PTA’s website</td>
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Commerce Elementary - Important Links and Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Handbook</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great resource for new families!</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Calendar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For convenience, you can sync our calendar with your phone or device.</td>
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<tr>
<th>PTA Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t forget to like the PTA’s facebook page, too!</td>
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<tr>
<th>School Newsletters</th>
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<tr>
<th>Skyward Family Access</th>
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<tr>
<th>Staff Directory</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Supply Lists</th>
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| PrimeTime Care |

Voluntary Student Accident Insurance

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools does not carry health or accident insurance for students. If your child is injured while at school, medical costs are the responsibility of the parents and/or guardians. As a service to students and their families, our District is making available a student accident insurance plan for your child at a very nominal cost. The District offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, co-payments or lack of health or dental insurance coverage. Please CLICK HERE for more information.
Hello! I’m so excited to become a part of the Commerce Family. I can’t wait to get to know all of you better and work together in making this the best school year for your children. Some may ask, “What exactly is a Head Teacher?” Well, my main role will be to assist Mrs. Carlin. This may include a variety of important tasks, such as, supporting school improvement initiatives, facilitating professional development, supporting students’ behavior and social-emotional needs, working to build strong relationships with our Commerce families and students and much more!

A little about me... I graduated from Michigan State University in 2001 with my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. I also received my Masters degree from MSU in Curriculum and Teaching. I have taught in the Walled Lake School District since being hired in the fall of 2002. Since that time I have taught 4th grade, 2nd grade and 3rd grade at both Twin Beach and Wixom Elementary.

I live in Brighton with my husband, Paul, and our five kids. We have three boys and two girls, ages 13, 11, 8, 5, and 2. In my free time (ha ha), I love to read, go boating, and spend time with my family. My husband and I are also actively involved in our church and Family Ministry.

I am very passionate about teaching and learning. I love this amazing profession where ideas and best practices are constantly evolving and changing. I love to learn and try new things. I sort of live by two mottos “Be kind, all the time” and “Everything you don’t know is something you can learn.” I am so very excited to get to know all of the staff and families at Commerce Elementary. We are all a part of this journey together and I look forward to working closely with all of you. Please stop in and say hello!

Sincerely ~ Mrs. Carley Dunphey
Kindergarten Information
The following information was previously emailed to kindergarten families.

We are so excited to meet our littlest Cougars and start their kindergarten adventure together! Below are some reminders about the first week of school and helpful information about the upcoming school year. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Main Office. We are happy to help!

Staggered Start for Kindergartners - Tuesday, August 27th
The first day of school will be a staggered start for our kindergartners.

- Students with Last Names starting with A-L: Attend kindergarten in the morning - 8:55am - 12:09pm
- Students with Last Names starting with M-Z: Attend kindergarten in the afternoon - 1:00pm - 4:00pm
- Bus transportation to/from school will be provided on the first day for those students who are eligible for bus transportation throughout the regular school year.
- If your child is eligible for bus transportation, it is recommended that they start this routine on the first day.
- Students who are not eligible for bus transportation will need to be dropped off and picked up on the first day, including students who may typically walk to/from school.
- If you have any conflicts with the staggered start schedule, please just let us know.

The First Day of School – You’re Invited!
We kindly request that you join your child at school for their first day of kindergarten! Our kindergarten teachers would like you to participate in several activities to help your child get comfortable in their new classroom and school. These activities will take approximately one hour and then parents will be dismissed. We want the first day of kindergarten to be an exciting experience and your assistance will help your child transition smoothly!

Please Note:
- If bus transportation is available, please have your child take the bus and meet your child outside the school at the bus loop. You can walk inside together!
- Staff and volunteers will be available outside our main entry to assist you and our kindergartners. We will all be wearing Commerce Elementary t-shirts so you can easily spot us!
- If your child is a walker or will be dropped-off at school, please drive your child to school and then go directly to your child’s classroom.

Transportation:
- Please note the following information:
  - Bus routes are posted on the district website. www.wlcsd.org
  - Transportation will also provide information about pick-up/drop-off times for the first day of school.

Bus Drivers - We also suggest that you introduce yourself to your bus driver. This will help our drivers get to know who will be picking up your child at the bus stop each day. Our transportation department employees work diligently to transport students in a safe, timely manner. It is important they get to know you, and vice versa.

Note: Bus drivers will be contacting all kindergarten families to begin this open communication.

Bus Delays - During the first week of school, it is not uncommon for bus delays. You may contact our district Late Bus Hotline at (248) 956-5199 to learn of drivers who are running late. Our drivers will be taking extra time these first few days to make sure every child gets home safely. When in doubt, they will bring a child back to school and contact parents. We always err on the side of caution.

Dismissal - On the first day of school, our teachers will ask you to fill out a form regarding your child’s dismissal routine (bus, walker, carpool, etc). This will help us know exactly where your child needs to go. Commerce has a carefully designed dismissal process for our kindergarteners to ensure that our students are on the correct bus. We will have plenty of staff and volunteers ready to help our kindergarteners on the first day of school, as well as, the first few weeks until they get acclimated.

We strongly encourage you to start your child’s normal arrival/dismissal routine on the first day of school. This will help your child get more comfortable and become more confident. For the first several days of school, our kindergartners will get on and off the buses FIRST and will be supervised closely by staff. Bus transportation, if available, is strongly encouraged. Our bus drivers take extra time with our kindergartners to make sure they are safe and sound. Buses are safe, convenient, and avoid long lines on Farr Street. And students are not marked tardy if they ride the bus!

Family Handbook - Please review our Family Handbook for a wide range of information about our school’s policies, procedures, and routines.
We hope to see everyone at the Commerce Comeback on Monday! From 3:30-4:30pm you can meet your teachers and drop off school supplies and from 3:30-5:30pm you can party on the playground with DJ Dogbite, Camden Bildstein! Bring cash to enjoy ice cream from the Sweet Treats ice cream truck, too! Thank you to Shanna Wesolek and Stacey Connell for planning another great event!

Speaking of the playground, we are happy to finally announce one of our big PTA surprises this year: a new shed filled with toys for the playground! Students will now have tons of fun options to enjoy during recess! Thank you to Commerce Dads Marino Moutafis, Brian Parel, John Moreland, Mike Vartanian, Brian Wolak, and Jim Turner for volunteering in the 90-degree heat on a Sunday to build this fun surprise!

If you haven’t already joined the PTA, it’s not too late! Look for a packet of information about the PTA, including an entire 2019-2020 calendar, to come home in backpacks the first week of school! Click here to join now and show your support for everything the PTA does at Commerce!

Mark your calendars for some upcoming PTA events:
September 17 - PTA Fundraiser at Defy from 1-4pm (this is a great half-day activity!)
September 18 - PTA Meeting, 7pm, Media Center
September 27 - Color Run Fundraiser

Girls on the Run at Commerce Elementary

Girls on the Run® is dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. GOTR is designed for 3rd to 5th grade girls. Meeting twice a week in small teams, we teach life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The curriculum is taught by certified Girls on the Run coaches and includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork and understanding how we connect with and shape the world at large.

Running is used to inspire and motivate girls, encourage lifelong health and fitness, and build confidence through accomplishment. Important social, psychological, and physical skills and abilities are developed and reinforced throughout the program. At each season’s conclusion, the girls and their running buddies complete a 5K running event which gives them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals. The result — making the seemingly impossible, possible, and teaching girls that they can. Commerce Elementary GOTR team will meet Tuesday/Thursday from 4:00 to 5:15 starting September 16th for 10 weeks. The celebratory 5k will be November 17th at Belle Isle Park. To register visit Commerce Elementary - Girls On The Run. Please contact Jill Gallagher at 248-563-2524 or gotrcommerce@gmail.com with any questions. Girls On The Run, We Get It Done!
DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS... THE COMMERCE ELEMENTARY

COLOR RUN
IS SET FOR
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

THE KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY WILL BE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD. BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR CHILD’S BACKPACK THAT TUESDAY, FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

What is the Color Run?
The Color Run is an annual fundraising event and a honored Cougar tradition! Families raise money by asking for donations. The students get to run around the track in the schoolyard and get sprayed with color. This is our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year and 100% of the money raised goes directly to the PTA to be spent on our School.

Don’t wait to start collecting money!
Encourage your child to earn a portion of the money. Here are a few ideas to get them started:

- Odd Jobs for parents
- Cutting grandparents grass
- Collecting and returning bottles
- Raking leaves and weeding gardens
- Sell Candy Bars (NEVER go without a parent/guardian)
- Lemonade Stand for neighbors
- Host a car wash
- Sell old toys/clothes
- Walk the neighbors dog

*OK all activities with a parent/guardian first!!

2019 COLOR RUN SPONSORS

Color Run Shirt Sponsor

Color Run Shirt Sponsor

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Color Run Shirt Sponsor
Come and support your Commerce Elementary PTA!

Join us at Defy Detroit (located next to Kroger) for an afternoon of jumping, dodgeball, foam pits, basketball a ninja course and so much more!

**Week Day Pricing**
- 1 Hour $16
- 1.5 Hour $21
- 2 Hour $25
*Price break for children under 7
*All Jumpers must purchase grip socks for $3

Defy Detroit will donate 20% of all admission paid, BACK to the PTA *MUST BRING FLYER*

**Tuesday**
**September 17, 2019**
**1:00 pm-4:00 pm**

*All who enter must sign a waiver. All participants under the age of 18 must have a waiver signed by their parent or legal guardian. Waiver may be filled out and signed ahead of time at DefyDetroit.com/waiver*
Yo-Yo! Join us for Fun!

Commerce Pack 227 is recruiting boys and girls grades K-5 for our family Cub Scout Pack! We meet at Multi-Lakes; outdoors in wooded nature, where scouting adventure is around every corner.

We invite your family to check us out on Sat., Sept. 14th 10am - noon at Multi-Lakes Conservation Association 3860 Newton Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382.

Kids who attend will be making their own yo-yo to keep and learning fun yo-yo tricks!

Multi-Lakes Cub Scout Pack 227

For more information:
commercepack227@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook: @cubscoutpack227

Commerce, MI
Girls on the Run is for EVERY girl.

DO YOU WANT TO

- MEET NEW FRIENDS?
- ACCOMPLISH BIG THINGS?
- HELP OTHERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
- HAVE SO MUCH FUN?

JOIN Girls on the Run!
LEARN MORE AT www.gotrdetroit.org
Girls on the Run is for EVERY girl.

Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other! Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3-5 grade girls through interactive lessons and running activities. The season ends with a non-competitive 5K event.

Why it Matters

IT'S FUN. IT'S EFFECTIVE.

Participating in Girls on the Run transforms girls' lives by helping them increase their self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel good about themselves, inside and out.

Registration Opens: Now-September 15th
Program Starts: Week of September 16th
When: Tue & Thurs 4:30-5:15pm
Program Location: Commerce Elementary
Program Fee: $130 (now- June 30th) $145 (July 1-Sep 8)
5K Celebration: Sunday, November 17th
Financial Assistance is Available
Contact: Sarah Harper sharper@ymcadetroit.org

*Results based on a 2018 independent study conducted by Positive Youth Development project by Lauren H. Weed, PhD.*

Learn more and register today at www.gotrmdetroit.org
Lakes Area Youth Assistance
19th Annual
“Taste of the Lakes”
October 1st, 2019

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Edgewood Country Club

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