

# Comstock

## Highlights 2024-2025



KALAMAZOO RESA

### Career Connect

Career Awareness & Exploration (CAE)



### Xello & EDP Support

Comstock students in grades 6-12 logged into Xello a total of **2,786 times** this year up from 1,846 times last year. On average, students logged in **5.28 times**. Students logged in the most often in the fall.

A total of **89 students** in grades 6 - 12 have created at least 1 post-high school plan in Xello. Plans in Xello identify a pathway and action steps for their future including: 2-year college, 4-year college, Apprenticeship, Straight to Work, Gap Year, etc.

### Career Champions

This year, a team of Comstock STEM staff—**Kayleigh Schneider, Traci Spada, Lisa Platte, and Chris Chopp**—participated in the Career Champions Fellowship program. As part of their work, the team organized a career fair that served **80 students** in grades 6–8 and featured partnerships with **18 local businesses and organizations**. Students engaged in six small-group sessions, participating in hands-on activities and conversations with professionals. Additional project highlights include the strategic use of Xello, exposure to Career Clusters, and outreach to families with information about the event.

### Youth Solutions Foundation

Comstock STEM has continued its partnership with Youth Solutions, expanding career-focused learning for students through the district's College and Career Academy. This collaboration supports a structured approach to career development for students in grades 6–8. The program is built around five key focus areas designed to create a comprehensive career development framework. A special shoutout to Chris Chopp for presenting at a statewide Youth Solutions event this year.

## Experiences

- Eighth graders from Comstock Middle School and Comstock STEM Academy attended MiCareerQuest in October. A total of **140 students** engaged with **85 local employers** who highlighted careers from six pathways: information technology, health sciences, agricultural sciences, manufacturing/engineering, professional trades, and touch-a-truck.
- The Career Connect Discovery Lab visited Comstock Middle School and Comstock STEM Academy. A total of **186 students (grades 4-6 at STEM, grades 5- 6 at Comstock Middle)** engaged in hands-on, interactive career exploration activities related to careers in manufacturing.
- This spring, **Ryan St. John**, Special Education Teacher at the high school, welcomed two Youth Community Classrooms (YCC) students as guest speakers to share their experiences as young adults earning a certificate of completion and in the workforce. Comstock students were engaging and asked great questions.

## Summer Success Camp

In the summer of 2024, Career Connect staff partnered with Shirley Gilland at Comstock Middle School to provide teachers with a week of career exploration lessons for students in grades K–8. Student experiences included Lemonade Day, the FinLit Reality Fair, and interactive activities using Xello. The team looks forward to continuing this partnership for the summer of 2025.

## Notable Partners

Through direct service experiences, over 100 local employers engaged with students at Comstock schools.

## Family Engagement

Career Connect is committed to engaging families in career learning. This year, the team supported events like MiCareerQuest Community Night and the Career Connect Open House, and shared follow-up information from in-school Career Connect experiences to keep families informed and involved.

## Future Opportunities

The Career Connect team looks forward to partnering with Comstock for the 2025-2026 school year.

## 2024-25 Career Development Consultant(s)

- Tara Butts: [Tara.Butts@kresa.org](mailto:Tara.Butts@kresa.org)
- Jaci Glaser (Discovery lab): [Jaci.Glaser@kresa.org](mailto:Jaci.Glaser@kresa.org)