



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

9930 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Mark Kasmer, Principal  
Phone: (616) 878-4852 - Fax: (616) 878-7196 Email: office@byroncentercharter.org

April 2019 newsletter

Greetings BCC School Family, I trust everyone had a restful and enjoyable break, and are prepared to tackle the last quarter of the 2018-19 school year. Finish strong as I like to say! Historically the month of April is a fast-moving month in schools as spring break occupies the first week and families tend to get busier with community activities. As noted in the last couple of newsletters, state and end of the year assessments occupy a fair amount of school-time in April and May. These assessments are used as measures of student growth and school performance. Please be aware of test schedules (dates and times) and help prepare your children, as appropriate. Finally, there is value in having pre- and post-test conversations with your children. In education, we like to say that a positive attitude matters. Students who think they are capable of accomplishing tasks and performing well on assessments are often more successful. These students often have a growth mindset. Students with growth mindsets believe that they can grow their own intelligence through work and effort. They tend to accept and like challenges and are willing to exert the time and effort to perform to the best of their abilities. Your consideration and support is appreciated, as the performance on state assessments are a significant measure of a schools rating.



## A couple critical reminders:

There are specific testing dates for grades 3-7 and 11 the next few weeks. It is essential that students are prepared and on time for school.

- April 11-12 M-STEP grade 11 Sci and Soc Stu
- April 15-19 M-STEP grade 5 ELA, Math, Sci and Soc Stu, 8th grade Sci and Soc Stu, 5th and 8th MI-ACCESS, Make-up testing M-STEP grade 11
- April 22-28 SAT & ACT Make-up testing grade 11, M-STEP Make-up testing grade 5th, 8th, and 11th all subjects
- April 29- May 1 M-STEP Testing ELA and Math grades 3rd,4th,6th and 7th, and MI Access Testing Grade grade 6th and 7th, M\_STEP
- May 6-10 M-STEP MI-Access Make-up testing grade 3rd,4th,6th and 7th

## School Values

Our School's mission emphasizes academics, personal connections and positive character traits. While our school's mission represents BCCS's unique trademarks, the character traits are shared values intended to guide our actions within the school community. Whether it be your child, another student, a staff member, or a fellow parent/guardian, let us look for opportunities to recognize and affirm these traits in action.

The April BCCS character traits highlight FAIRNESS and COURAGE. Fairness means *impartial and just treatment or behavior without favoritism or discrimination*. I think this may be harder for people to do than what we might think especially young people when being fair may not be popular among certain peer groups and/or in certain situations. The act of fairness combines honesty with equity, and often a little courage is needed. Courage is a person's ability to do the right thing when they know it is not going to be easy. Most of us view courage in the physical sense like bravery in battle. However, there are other types of courage that play a huge role in schools including social courage, intellectual courage and moral courage.

From a student's viewpoint, I think fairness is often having the courage to do what is right.....not always the easiest road for sure! At any rate, as members of BCCS , we are called to look for and recognize acts of fairness and courage in the school community.

### Important Communications



**School Performance:** The Annual Education Report (AER) will be posted to the website by weeks end. This report is required by the Federal and State Laws and includes key information about the school, teacher certification and student performance for the 2017-18 school year. A printed copy will also be available in the school office.

### **School Safety and Welfare of Students**

**MI Programs:** Reminder of two school safety initiatives offered through the State of Michigan: OK2Say and Protect *MI* Child. Both programs are designed for families with school-age students. If you have not seen these it is worth your consideration as a member of the BCCS school community.....

- **OK2Say:** a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. <http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say/>
- **Protect Mi Child:** a tool designed to block adult-themed content from reaching your child's electronic device (phone, tablet, computer/ personal accounts). Just register your child's cell phone number, email address, etc... to help prevent ads for alcohol, tobacco, online gambling and even pornography from reaching your child. <https://www.protectmichild.com/>

**Dress for Success:** Please assure students have the proper attire for school. I ask that parents review the school dress code on page 23 of the student handbook with their children

<http://www.byroncentercharter.org/Downloads/2018-19%20Student%20Handbook.pdf> , and help monitor what is worn prior to coming to school for the day. Also, k-5 students have scheduled recesses, and we ask for

parents help to assure students have the proper outdoor wear for the temperature (particularly coats or sweatshirts when daily high temp is under 60 degrees). Your attention and support to proper dress for school makes a huge difference and is appreciated.



**Cell Phones/Social Media:** All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to monitor cell phone and social media exchanges with their children. Any inappropriate activity (IE vulgar, lewd, threatening) impacting the school community should be reported to the school office. As adults, we all need to be the eyes and ears of our school.

**Attendance:** Please be on time ....tardies are disrespectful to teachers and schoolmates.

### School Happenings

**Penny Wars:** April 15-19. All grades will be competing to earn the greatest number of positive points! Kids can bring in change and place it in their class jugs near the lunch area. Money goes toward student council and prom:

Rules:

Positive points: pennies

Negative points: all other change and paper money

Pre-rolled change counts for double points!

You may not remove money from a jug once it has been placed inside.





**Ultimate Frisbee: 6-12 grades**, resumes after school and will be held on the following Fridays (unless cancelled for bad weather):  
 April 12, 19, and 26  
 May 10, 17, 24, and 31  
 June 7 (unless it is our last day of school)

**Babysitting Night:** April 19, 6-8:30. Fundraiser for Prom. The prom committee will watch your kids while you enjoy a dinner date! Simply donate what you can, and we will be appreciative.

**West Michigan College Fair:** All of the Junior class will be attending the West Michigan College Fair on April 22 from 8am til noon. It is a great event to connect with hundreds of colleges and universities from around the country. We will also attend a session about scholarships and financial aid. If you are a parent and are willing to drive and chaperone, please contact Holly Cravino at [hcraivino@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:hcraivino@byroncentercharter.org)

**Blood Drive May 2nd from 1-5 p.m. in the gym**

Walk ins welcome but appointments preferred. If you have given in the past, welcome back! If you haven't done it before but are interested, we'd love to have you! Rumor has it, there will be free t-shirts so if saving lives isn't enough motivation, perhaps a free t-shirt will help.



If you're interested and want an appointment, e-mail Mr. EmmelKamp @ [bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org) sometime in the next week....the sooner the better. Our goal is to get 14 people to give. Please consider taking some time to contribute to this life-altering experience.

**UPCOMING DATES..... FYI**

- 4/11 PTO Meeting 3:30 HS Science Room (note time change)
- 4/11 PTO SCRIP Sales before school in commons area.
- 4/12 Eagle Assembly 2:05 Gym
- 4/12 Popcorn Sale .50 per bag/proceeds go toward yearbook
- 4/19 Babysitting Night 6-8:30 Gym/sponsored by prom committee
- 4/22 Grade 11 Field Trip: West Mi National College Fair, Devos Place
- 4/24 HS (grades 9-11) State Band Festival, Otsego HS
- 4/25 MS (grades 6-8) State Band Festival, Otsego HS
- 4/25 Swing Dance at the R.O.C.K 7-9 pm/Band Fundraiser
- 4/26 State Jazz Band Festival, Hastings HS
- 4/26 Hat Day for \$1, proceeds support Peer to Peer
- 4/30 4th grade Field Trip, State Capitol, Lansing

**Extra Curricular**

\*\*\*\*Secondary Students must meet eligibility requirements\*\*\*\*

MS Cross Country:

- Practices are Mon,Wed and Fri 3-4:00
- Meets are at Richmond Park 4/10,4/17,4/24,4/29 and 5/1 (Girls 4:30 and Boys 5:15)

HS Ultimate Frisbee: Grades 6-12 , Fridays (4/12, 4/19, 4/26 and 5/3), 3:15-4:15 /Back Field

**AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS**

**Festival of the Arts Winners:**



- 1st Place Prom Date Guide performed by David and Tim Batt
- 2nd Place Stand By Me, performed by Rocco Maggi, Daniel Jones and David Jones

\*\*\*Special Thanks to Mr. Eric Schimmelman for providing and running sound system.

**Spirit Day Winners:** Miss Owen's 2nd grade class and Mrs. Stowers' 7th grade class.

### Reading Month Winners:

- K-2 Miss Owens 2nd grade with 7,678 minutes read and 3-5 Miss Roose 5th grade with 17,422 minutes read
- Total Minute read 49,023 .....Amazing!

### Secondary 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Recipients 2018-19

#### Middle School

- **All "A Honors** - Ian Emmelkamp, Sophia Rivera-Candelaria, Sadie Uminn, Sarah Buchanan
- **"A/B" Honors** - Tate Anderson, Ella Franson, Jay Ganka, Katy Inman, Addison Laplow, Merik Luttrell, Sara Lytle, Christian Smigiel, Daniela Carrasquillo-Candelaria, Kinsley Duncan, Macy Inman, Ruby Young, Matthew Aguilar, Joselyn VanDussen, Emma Verstrate.



#### High School

- **All "A Honors** - Elizabeth Brandow, David Batt, Ashtyn Fekete, Elle Razmus, Danielle Verburg, Peerada Wiwatsombat, Paige DeVries, Danielle Deyoung, Sara Franson, Meredith Jager, Renee Kleiman, Tim Batt, Cody Kuperus, Rocco Maggi, Katelyn Uminn
- **"A/B" Honors** - Samantha Burman, Lilyan Doode, Olivia Gregorski, Gracie Leys, Blaine DeJongh, David Jones, Noah West, Jade Young, Brandon Boeske, Abigail Brooker, Nathan Lepzinski, Anthony Puckett, Joy Rose, Aiden Scheider, Riley Timmer

*To all students receiving recognition and awards..... Good Job, Well Done!*

**Info from Byron Area Chamber of Commerce:** Byron Twp. residents may pick up a coupon at the Chamber offices for one free trip (regular load) to the landfill. The coupon is good for April only.