



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Sept 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Update

Greetings to all new and returning members of the Byron Center School Community. We trust your students first few days of school have proven to be successful and you find yourselves getting back into the daily routine of school. In my personal experience, the start of the school year seemed to help my family settle-in a bit. As a school, we cannot stress enough the value of establishing routines in the home. There is a fair amount of research that supports the notion that students perform better in school when they have an established schedule with clear expectations. This is true in the home and in the school.

I am happy to report, our students seem to be assimilating well and we are off to a great start toward a successful 2019-20 school year. We encourage parents and guardians to be aware of the school's expectations, in particular the calendar of activities and schoolwork expected by the classroom teachers. Please do not hesitate to contact the school when you have questions.



School Character Values

The BCCS Mission emphasizes academics, personal connections and positive character values. These are the pillars of our school's culture and intended to connect us, and separate us from other schools. In particular, the character values are intended to guide our interactions between members within the school community. We celebrate and recognize these values each month. Whether it be your child, another student, a staff member, or a fellow parent/guardian, let's all look for opportunities to recognize and affirm these traits in action.

During the month of September, the school highlights Cooperation and Teamwork. These are very important character traits in pretty much all aspects of life. Most employers rate a person's ability to successfully work in a team as one of the most important personal traits sought for employment. Teamwork and cooperation go hand in hand as they both move people toward a common outcome. Often BCCS teachers purposely set-up instructional strategies to build and strengthen students' capacity for teamwork and cooperation. You will frequently observe students working in groups throughout the school. As you can imagine, some students thrive in this type of learning environment and others struggle for a variety of reasons. Regardless, as a school community we are called to grow student capacity and recognize and celebrate these values in action.

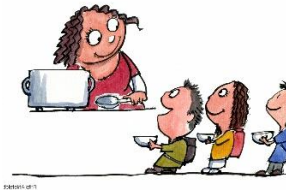
Important Communications from the Office



AUP, Handbook and Concussion Signature Pages: All families must have their Acceptable Use Policy, Student Handbook and Concussion signature pages turned in by Friday September 6. We can accept one page per family for the handbooks and concussion forms, yet individual signature pages are required for AUP for each student in grades 5-12. PLEASE NOTE: the AUP and concussion signature pages are required once, unless there are updates. Therefore, the 2018-19 AUP will carry over to the 2019-20 school year.

Students in grades 3-12th will be bringing home a letter next week explaining how to log onto powerschool to check your child(ren) grades. The URL has changed and we now need an 8 character password. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact the office.

BCCS Meal Program: Please be reminded that BCCS now provides breakfast and lunch services through Byron Center Public Schools. It is important to realize that students of families who qualify for free or reduced lunches qualify for free breakfasts. Questions about the program is available through the office. **Additionally**, even if you do not plan to participate in the free and reduced lunch program, **families are strongly encouraged to complete the application.... this is confidential**



information. Information in the application is used to compute funding for state and federal compensatory education programs including Title I and At-Risk, which are significant revenue streams for BCCS. The form takes minutes to complete and can be done online through the school website, or paper copies are available in the office. Please complete the forms and help support our programs. Unfortunately we are unable to accept cash as payment for meals, we can accept checks made out to Byron Center Public Schools. If it is easier you can put money on your child's account by going to: sendmoneytoschool.com You will need to look for Byron Center Public school and enter your child's ID number. Please contact the office if you are new and need your child's ID number. **Finally**, please remind students to bring their lunch IDs on a daily basis. Those who were here last year can use their school IDs.

School Safety: All entrance and exit doors will remain locked during the school day with the exception of the start and end times. During the school day, all visitors will have to use the buzz-in system to enter the building. Additionally, all visitors and volunteers must stop in the office upon entering the building and sign-in. A VISITOR Pass will issued and serves as an ID to wear while in the building. All adults in the building will be asked to have proper ID as this is a basic safety and welfare expectation for all schools.



Start and End Times: Parents are reminded that students should be dropped-off at school between 7:40 and 7:55 unless eating breakfast. Breakfast opens at 7:35, and parking lot assistance begins at that time. Parents are to pick-up their students at their scheduled time (3:00 or 3:10), and parking lot assistance is scheduled from 2:50-3:20. DRIVELINE is a safe and efficient system. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated!

Attendance: BCCS joined the Strive for 5 Program through Kent ISD. Basically we are challenging students to have 5 or less absences within a year..... approximately one every other month. Students will see posters, flyers, hear announcements and students will receive recognition for regular attendance and being on time for class. This office will also address students and families at the onset of attendance issues through Kent ISD . This is an effort to reduce the frequency of absences and tardies in our school. BCCS continues to have an inordinate amount of students who are excessively absent or late. Attendance has a HUGE impact on the learning environment. Your support and consideration for the educational welfare of your children and others is greatly appreciated.

School Happenings

BCCS Welcomes Miss Yvonne Beeskool, New 5th Grade Teacher: Miss Boeskool is a recent graduate of Calvin College. She holds a BS in Elementary Education with a Major in Language Arts and a Minor in English as a Second Language. She completed her student internships at Southwood Elementary in Kentwood and GR Christain Middle School where she taught multiple classes 5th grade students English Language Arts and Social Studies. From a young age, Miss Boeskool connected with teaching: her mother was a teacher and she was an Elementary Teacher's Aide while attending High School in Fremont, MI where she grew-up with her parents and younger sister. She enjoys reading, writing and painting, and people who know her say that she is smart, a fast learner, caring, creative and dependable.



When asked of her impression of BCCS she stated, "When I first walked into BCCS a few weeks ago, I instantly fell in love with the strong sense of community here and I already feel great support from the staff surrounding me". She also stated that she's "...excited to see what this year holds for 5th grade!". WELCOME, Miss Boeskool!

No Put Down Zone/ Poster Contest: This year our school is declared to be a No Put Down Zone. All members of the BCCS School Community, visitors and guests are expected to refrain from putting someone else down while at the school or any school related activities. In an effort to raise awareness, I am holding a No Put Down Zone poster contest. Students in grades K-5 and 9-12 will have an opportunity to submit a poster to Mr. Kasmer. Please do not go any larger than a 17 x 25 board. Extra poster board in the office if needed. Students have until Friday, September 6, to enter their poster. Please place the student's name and grade somewhere on the poster.



Internet Safety Presentations: Next month BCCS will host internet safety presentation for students and parents. Mr. Jeremy Pierczynski, Homeland Security Agent, will provide the IGuardian Presentation which addresses internet safety, best practices, cyberbullying, and will address recent investigations/cases with adults. The student presentations will be provided during the school day on September 24th. The parent workshop will be held in the gym on 9/26 from 6-7:30. Further information will be forthcoming in the next week.

School Calendar

8/30 & 9/2 No School= Observance of Labor Day
9/4 Cross Country Meet Riverside Park= 5-6:00 Boys and 5:30-6:30 Girls
9/6 Popcorn Sale: 50 cents= proceeds go toward yearbook
9/12 PTO Meeting 3:30
9/20 Picture Day
9/20 Spirit Shop= Student Council
9/20 School Carnival 6-8:30 Gym
9/24 Internet Safety Presentations for Students
9/26 IGuardian/Internet Safety for Parents 6-7:30 in Gym
9/27 Hat Day \$1 = proceeds go toward Peer to Peer Program
9/30 October Newsletter



*Cross country practice is Monday-Thursday 3:30 to 4:30. Additional races are September 25 and October 6



News You Can Use

State Assessments/2018-19 Results Released: State assessment data is expected to be released to the public before Labor Day and will be available on MI School Data

<https://www.mischooldata.org> and on the Parent Dashboard
(www.MISchoolData.org/ParentDashboard).

In mid-September the Michigan Department of Education is releasing the Starting Smarter web page for Michigan families. Families will find information in parent-friendly language that will help them:

- understand their child's M-STEP score report
- locate resources to support learning at home and school
- prepare for an effective Parent Teacher Conference • see and practice with online M-STEP practice questions and tools
- learn about the Read by Grade 3 law
- understand what academic standards students are expected to master
- learn about the accessibility tools and supports available to students during testing.

The state is also releasing a series of assessment videos intended to walk viewers through assessments and reporting:

- How to Read 2019 Parent Reports for M-STEP, PSAT 8/9, and MME
- M-STEP Video, featuring Computer Adaptive Testing
- M-STEP: What Can Students Expect When Taking the Test?
- Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessments
- plus...numerous videos specifically for educators on test administration and reporting

To access go to the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQNV-MrTjyhLZWGC8WhRGxoEmynfXUHuc>

Nurse's Corner

Reminder that no medications should be carried by students in school (inhalers are the only exception). Schools are required to follow state laws (BOE Policy) for issuing medication in schools including prescription and non-prescribed over the counter drugs. Please, stop in office to complete authorization paperwork. Questions???? contact Mrs. Schrader, School Nurse @

lschrader@byroncentercharter.org



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/>



PTO - Update:

Carnival: Stay tuned for a sign-up genius to register workers for the fall carnival ...mark your calendars for Friday, Sept 20 from 6-8 pm in the school gym. Fun for the whole family!

Ongoing Fundraisers:

- SCRIP
- BOXTOPS (put into mailbox in vestibule)
- Family Fare Receipts (put into mailbox in vestibule)
- Aunt Millie's labels (put into mailbox in vestibule)
- Amazon Smile - choose our school
- Office Depot - our school id # 70049027

Closing Thoughts: *In recognition of Labor Day, we take a moment to honor the American Labor Movement and the many contributions that workers have made in the development of the United States of America. In particular, we thank the people who work in the field of education and child development.*

For those traveling this weekend, be safe, and wishing everyone an enjoyable holiday weekend. MK

