



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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October 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Update

Hello Members of the BCCS School Family, school is well underway and in full swing at this time. Make no mistake, your continued efforts to support education in your home is critical to the success of your students. I ask that you make school a priority and pay close attention to the school's expectations and how your children are performing. You may have heard of Capturing Kids Hearts, a program designed by Flip Flippen, a personal friend of mine. Flip would frequently say "*Feedback is the breakfast of champions*". As parents and teachers we are reminded to stay connected with the students and take full advantage of the upcoming parent teacher conferences.

School Values

In the school's mission, there is emphasis given to personal connections, academic excellence and positive character traits. The character traits focused on during the month of October are responsibility and self-discipline.

You may have heard of the GRR (Gradual Release of Responsibility) Model of Instruction. This is an instructional model that usually follows a pattern of instruction: teacher models or demonstrates the lesson, then the teacher guides the students' practice, then the teacher uses strategies where students collaborate and work with one another, and finally, the teacher sets-up opportunities for independent practice by students to demonstrate their learning. Taking responsibility for one's own learning is huge and necessary for students to be career and college ready.

Self-Discipline is the ability to control and motivate yourself to do the right thing. It plays a major role in setting and achieving goals. This includes self-correction, which is my personal hope for all of us. Self-discipline brings stability and structure into a person's life and helps to strengthen a person's sense of control.

Character traits are observed through a person's actions or behavior. Like most behavior, responsibility and self-discipline are learned through direct instruction, guided practice, collaboration and independent practice. As BCCS members, let's look for opportunities to teach, raise awareness and recognize acts of responsibility and self-discipline in the school community.

From the Office

Powerschool Update: We are aware parents are having difficulty with accessing PowerSchool. This was an unintended consequence of upgrading our technology. Easily fixed though! For those having difficulty, please email Mrs. Boersma (kboersma@byroncentercharter.org) and she'll reset your password.

Attendance.... Strive for Five: Step 1 of the Strive for Five program includes ongoing reporting of students who are considered to have chronic absenteeism (missed 10% or more of daily attendance) to the Office of School Participation and Truancy through Kent ISD. The parents/guardians will receive a letter from the ISD that generally requires them (and age appropriate students) to hold an Attendance Improvement Plan Meeting with school personnel. The primary purpose is to review the conditions surrounding the absences, and to develop and submit an attendance improvement plan. We want to

make families aware of this process as we anticipate initial letters will start being sent to specified BCCS families in the next couple weeks. Check out the PSA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTXR5XvGKcc>

School Safety

Morning Traffic Flow: In order to improve the traffic flow in the morning, we need your help. Please consider the following guidance:

Use a parking spot and the crosswalk if....

- your children are not ready to exit.
- students need extra time to exit the vehicle (having a lot of materials/large instruments/projects etc... to bring in the building).
- students have to get things out of trunk or backend of vehicle after exiting.
- parents want to come in the building.
- the drop-lane is backed-up close to Burlingame .
- The drop-lane runs along the sidewalk, and should only be used exclusively for dropping-off students.
- The middle lanes are for exit travel or travel to parking spaces, not to drop-off students

Please be patient, careful and mindful of your surroundings. Your attention and response is very much appreciated.

Homeland Security Presentations: Homeland Security Agent Jeramy Pierczynski facilitated I-Guardian Internet Safety Presentations for our BCCS Educational Community this past week . The good news is that all students and staff attended and learned about current areas of concern and safety tips regarding internet and online usage. Unfortunately the parent event was poorly attended. However, Agent Pierczynski left several online safety resources that will be made available for parents during conferences. Additionally, here is a recommended online resource he shared for your consideration <https://www.netsmartzkids.org>.

Academic Updates

Progress Reports: Mid-quarter progress reports were sent home with all 6-12 students Friday (9/27). Reminder to sign and return by October 1st to their designated teacher. Great opportunity to address current status at conferences.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Fall Conferences will be held on Thursday October 10. They begin at 12:30 and conclude at 8:00. Elementary parents are requested to schedule conferences online @ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054ca9aa2ba1f85-20192020> . Those who are unable to use the on-line app may contact their student's teacher directly to secure a conference time. 6-12 teachers do not have scheduled times; rather, are available on a first come first serve basis. Conferences are extremely important and we seek 100% participation from our BCCS school families.

PE, Art and Music Teachers will be available in designated areas. However, Miss Rowsey, Music Teacher, will not be available until after 4 due to schedule conflicts. Parents who would like to speak with her yet are unable to meet are encouraged to send an email (browsey@byroncentercharter.org) and she will respond, as appropriate.

Book Fair and BCCS Apparel Sale: PTO sponsored Book Fair will be available in the gym during conferences. PTO is also holding a BCCS Apparel Sale. The apparel sale is not a fundraiser, it is being sold at cost. Let's support our PTO Book Fair which provides updates to classroom libraries and our school spirit by purchasing some BCCS garb.

Child Care Reminder: There will be no AfterCare on Thursday due to Parent Teacher Conferences.

School Happenings/ Calendar

Sept. 30 – Oct. 3: Muffin sale \$1.00 – senior class fundraiser: Delivery

Oct. 3: PTO Meeting - 3:30 pm in high school Science Room

Oct. 4: Eagle Assembly 8:15

Oct. 4: Popcorn sale (\$.50 bag) – Offsets cost of yearbook

Oct. 4, 18, 25, Nov. 1: Ultimate Frisbee – grades 6 – 12 –weather permitting 3:15 -4:15 pm

Oct. 5: Dance – grades 6-12, 7:00-10:00pm Tickets \$5.00 sold during lunch Sept. 30 – Oct. 4

Oct. 7 – 10: SPIRIT WEEK:

- 10/7 Monday PJ Day (must wear shoes)
- 10/8 Tuesday Disney Day (no masks or face paint)
- Oct. 8: Skate Night at Byron Fun Spot 5:00-7:00pm
- 10/9 Wednesday Crazy Hair Day
- 10/10 Thursday - Decades Day (choose your favorite decade!)

Oct. 10: Half day – dismissal at 11:15 (staggered pick up 11:15 and 11:25)

Oct. 10: Book Fair 11:30am – 7:30pm

Oct. 10: Parent/teacher conferences – K-5 by appointment via sign up genius and 6-12 grds via drop in 12:30-8:00 Please allow ample time before 8 to visit each teacher. Thank you.

Oct. 11: No school for staff and students

Oct. 18: Spirit shop during lunch

Oct. 24: Band Concert – 6-12 grades, Godwin Heights Auditorium at 7:00 pm

Oct. 25: Hat Day \$1.00 donation – proceeds benefit Peer-to-Peer group

Oct. 25: End of 1st marking period

Oct. 28 - 31: Muffin sale \$1.00 – senior class fundraiser: Delivery Nov. 4 th

Oct. 28 – 31: Pumpkin carving contest – hosted by student council – bring in your decorated pumpkin any day – Judging will take place and winner announced Oct. 31.

Nov. 1: Eagle Assembly at 2:05 pm

October is DOUBLE EARNINGS for our Papergator!!!

PTO Update

- Thank you to all who attended the carnival and especially those who graciously volunteered their time to help!
- Book Fair is coming Oct. 10 - watch for sign up genius coming soon to volunteer.
- Reminder: there are SCRIP cards available for immediate purchase in the office and thousands to choose from online - thank you for your support!!

Nurses Corner

EEE Alert: Cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been found in lower Michigan including Kent and Newaygo counties. Until the weather gets cooler, please take caution: be sure to use bug/mosquito repellent when outside in the evening. CDC info found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/tech/symptoms.html>

Vaping: Vaping is a major problem among High School and Middle School youth throughout our country. This is a very serious and disturbing epidemic and health authorities are just now learning about the impact on human lives. The attached document provides information and resources for your awareness and understanding. Let's work together to stop vaping among our youth. Please communicate with authorities if you are aware of any usage by minors... it is illegal and dangerous.

FYI

100th Street Closure: Beginning Friday , 9/27, 100th Street will be closed for culvert work over Buck Creek for about one month. Please plan accordingly as many of us will need to seek alternate routes to and from school.