



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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2019-20 End of First Semester Newsletter Update

Dear BCCS Parents and Guardians,

Friday marked the end of the first semester and today is the beginning of the 3rd quarter, second semester and last half of the 2019-20 school year. This is a great time of year to review your student's performance: to celebrate successes and target areas to improve. Students often like challenges, especially when there are clear targets to shoot at with specific timelines. Report cards will be sent home this Friday. I encourage all parents/guardians to set a time to review each child's grades with them, and have a discussion about their performance (strengths vs. areas of growth). Everyone benefits!!

Character

This month we are celebrating care and compassion. Each week we encourage students to look for ways to help people in need. Last month our students and staff donated 28 hats and 17 pair of gloves to a local community service organization, In the Image . We call upon parents and guardians to help our school grow students' awareness and value of these two important character traits. If you see care and compassion in action ...name it, and stress the potential good that comes from the event. Finally, we are all called to look for opportunities to model care and compassion in our daily lives...we all benefit from that!

Mid-year Updates from the Office



Cell Phones: I wish I could report cell phones are not an issue, yet that is not the case. These devices are frequently getting in the way of schooling for many reasons. Please be reminded:

- MS students may use their phones before and after the school day. They are to have their phones powered off during the school day, and they are not to have them on their person during the day... phones should remain in backpacks in their lockers.
- By School Board Policy (in every school I am aware of), it is prohibited for students to use cell phones (personal devices) in restrooms. This also includes school locker rooms.
- HS students may use phones during lunch/recess, passing time and before and after school.

New Policy for HS Students: Each class has a numbered pocket chart fastened to the wall. Students will be issued numbers and are to power off their phones and place them into the pocket chart upon entry of the classroom. Students may pick-up their phones at the end of the period. Please know, they will not be allowed to access the phone during class, unless the teacher has an activity that allows for usage. .

Please speak to your children about these expectations and responsible use of these devices. I also encourage parents to routinely monitor their students usage and frequently communicate about acceptable usage and and basic safety of these powerful devices. Finally, if you would like any resources for internet safety, please contact the office and we will send materials to you.



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Contact Verification: It is important that we have current demographic information on every student. For those who did not complete and return the contact verification form sent home in November, please review and update any changes in your contact information as listed in PowerSchool. If you do not know how to access and/or complete updates, please contact the office. As a reminder, please make updates whenever they occur (phone #s, employment changes, address changes etc...). Your understanding and cooperation is needed for the safety and welfare of your children.

Hand to Hand: Just a reminder to BCCS families participating in Hand to Hand. Please be sure to have students bring home bags on Fridays. If they forget, please park in the lot and have them return to their lockers and retrieve the bags. We have several students who are leaving the bags in their lockers. If you do not want to participate, please let Mrs. Cravino (hcravino@byroncentercharter.org) or the office know. We are grateful to have this program and need to be respectful of the opportunity.



Morning Drop-Off: We appreciate the improvement with the morning drop-off. The response time for dropping-off and leaving the lot is quicker and safer than in the past. A couple reminders, please:

1. Pull-up as far as you are able before stopping to drop-off students. If the lane is open, go to the mailbox, or as close as you are able.
2. Do Not Drop in the driving lane; rather students should be dropped-off in the drop-lane (along the sidewalk).
3. If extra time is needed, park in a space and have students use the crosswalk.
4. For safety, have student(s) exit the car on the sidewalk side, if possible, or have them walk in front of vehicles to enter the sidewalk.

Breakfast Reminder: The school offers breakfast, and is *free* for students who qualify for free or reduced lunches. Elementary students eat in the gym, while MS and HS students have a grab-n-go breakfast that can be eaten in the classroom. We are grateful to provide this service in collaboration with BCPS and encourage our families to take full advantage of the opportunity. Breakfast opens at 7:35 thru 7:55.



Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Chronic Absenteeism: As part of participation in the county-wide Strive for Five Attendance Program through Kent Intermediate School District, parents/guardians of students with *chronic absenteeism* should expect to receive a letter from the Kent ISD Attendance and Truancy Office. The letter will indicate actions that are to be taken to improve daily attendance rates. This is usually in the form of creating a plan for improvement with the school. A student is considered to be chronically absent if a pattern of absences of more than 10% of the allotted time exists. Parents/Guardians are reminded that the school and home need to work together to avoid time consuming and costly actions by the truancy office. Your understanding and consideration is warranted.

School Highlights

KDL Book Mobile: Our School is now on the Kent District Library Book Mobile circuit. Beginning today, students in grades K-4 will have access to check-out library books every two weeks. The KDL librarians will also have story time, and read and feature books during their visit. Should be fun!

Blood Drive: Come help our community save lives! We are told there is short supply in the area blood reserves. This is a reminder that there is a blood drive tomorrow (Tuesday) at school from 1-5 p.m. to help replenish the low blood supply at our local hospitals. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are preferred. Appointment times are at 3:50, 4:10, 4:40 and 4:50. Go to [Blood Drive Schedule](#) to sign up.



Annual Education Report (AER): The BCCS Annual Education Report for the 2018-19 School Year has been uploaded to the school website, here is the link to the report: [Annual Education Report](#). The AER, which meets the state and federal performance transparency requirements, provides information to the public regarding student assessment, accountability and teacher quality. Additional information include perceived challenges with methods of improvement, attendance rates of Parent /Teacher Conference and our Annual School Index Rating 83.40 (details can be found at <https://www.mischooldata.org/SchoolIndex2/SchoolOverview.aspx>). Just type in Byron Center Charter School and you can access the details for the past 3 years. Please feel free to contact Mr. Kasmer should you have any questions.

School Happenings:

- Jan. 20- KDL Book Mobile (grades K-4)
 - start of 3rd quarter/second semester
- Jan. 21 – Blood Drive – 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- Jan. 24 – Game Night 3:15 – 4:30pm
 - Hat Day \$1.00
 - Spirit shop 11:15 – 11:45am
 - Report Cards go home
- Jan. 27-30 – Muffin Monday orders
- Jan. 31 – Eagle Assembly 2:05pm



Federal Government Census Request

Every 10 years the US Census Bureau is responsible for conducting a nation-wide census. The bureau plans to hire thousands of Americans as Census Takers across the country. The US government has asked schools to help get the word out: anyone interested in part-time work should contact www.census.gov/jobs or a toll free number at 1-855-JOB-2020.