



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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October 2020 Newsletter

Dear Families,

I must say the COVID-19 is having its way with schools these days and BCCS is no exception. We continue to work through, around and within the issues this pandemic throws at us. We have now had one known positive case in the school and a handful of folks sent for testing. As always, your awareness, understanding, cooperation, and support is vital to our success. Remember the old adage....*this too will pass*...and it will yet not as quickly as we would like. So, I ask that you hang in there and do your best to stay informed and follow the plans of the school.

As of now, our 6-8 students are quarantined until October 12 and we have around 40 students in online learning. As for the MS, BCCS has a remote learning plan with synchronized lessons up and running. We learned a lot from this past spring, and we have been preparing staff and students for this likelihood of moving distance learning. I believe you'll find the differences to be notable: students have scheduled classes with cohorts; attendance is an expectation; all the tech. devices sent home with students have a landing page for easy access to student and staff gmail accounts and instructional links for coursework and communications. That being said, remote/distance learning is still not second nature to us as we are still growing our capacity, yet we are most certainly getting better. As for the online courseware, we are very close to having all the bugs worked out. The biggest issue continues to be assigning teachers. There was simply no way to predict this situation. Nearly every vendor that I am aware of is experiencing similar issues. Furthermore, online courses for elementary learners is a relatively new field, and I do not believe most folks were fully prepared for the demands associated with putting elementary students in an 100% online format. Nonetheless, we are working it out and we will prevail.

## Character Building

In our 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.

Responsibility is so important in life as it is akin to having a sense of duty or something to be accountable for. You frequently hear parents and teachers requesting students to be responsible or take on the responsibility of something...usually doing the right thing.

Self discipline often refers to one's ability to overcome their weaknesses or personal feelings to do what???? Do the right thing. Self discipline is often used with students in the school setting to persevere with schoolwork. This is kind of timely isn't it? School is well- underway and the expectations are high.

Building positive character traits among our students is part of our purpose at BCCS.

Let's look for and recognize responsibility and self discipline in action with BCCS students.....oh, and let's point out the good things that come from applying these traits.

## From the Office

Parent Teacher Conferences: This fall conferences will be held virtually using google meets interface. Conferences are held on Thursday October 15 from 12:30-8:00 pm. Registration will begin next week. Parents with multiple students and parents of students with special needs having the first opportunity to register Wed - Friday (OCT 7-9) followed by all parents the beginning Friday(10/9) after school through Wednesday(10/14) . The format will be different in that all conferences need to be scheduled by Wednesday October 14. A google doc will be sent and each teacher will have a link with available times. Parents select the time and write their name and their child's name in the description box. Note: directions will be on the form and is daily intuitive.

ECLP (Extended COVID Learning Plan) ; The BCCS ECLP from the start of the year through September 25 was approved by the BOE and will be posted to the website next week. This will include an updated Parent Guide, COVID Data and 2 Way Contact with Online learners Data. These plans and data are required to be updated each month. We will contact the families once the information is posted for your awareness and opportunity to review.

Visitor Reminder: Please be reminded schools are to limit visitors in buildings during school hours. Anyone coming into the building must wear a mask, sanitize their hands, complete the log-in and screener information and check-in the office. Please remember when entering the building to park in a designated parking space, do not pull up next to the sidewalk as this is a fire lane and must be left open during the day. We understand this is rather inconvenient, yet these are the safety procedures we are to follow. Please respect them.

## School Happenings

Spirit Week: activities include Character Trait Recognitions, Student of the Month Awards, No Put Down Poster Contest Winners and these [Spirit Week Daily Activities](#)

\*\*\*\* Stay Tuned for Announcement about Character Trait Video Contests coming soon\*\*\*\*

### Calendar:

Friday 10/2: Mid-High Progress Reports

- MS Reports will be e-mailed to parents
- HS Students are to have parent sign and return Monday 10/5

Oct 5-9: Spirit Week

Monday 10/5: Fall Fundraiser forms due (see PTO below)

Monday, 10/12: Grades 6-8 students return from quarantine

Thursday 10/15 Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-8 pm

- ½ Day of school Dismissal 11:15 and 11:20
- KCTC Students are expected to attend/follow KCTC Calendar
- Lunches will be Grab & Go
- Virtual Book Fair (see PTO) below

Friday, 10/ 16 No school

Thursday 10/22: Fall Fundraiser Pick-up (Times TBD)

Cancelations: the following events have been cancelled due to COVID-19

Eagle Assembly: October 2

Harvest Dance: October 3

Muffin Monday: October 5

Skate Night: October 6

Popcorn: October 9

Spirit Shop: October 16

K-3 Halloween Parade

## **News You Can Use**

Online Edgenuity Students: While they are still working on assigning MS and HS Teachers, students have Concept Coaches (content areas tutors) available to them. Please note these tutors are available in the core content areas only.

[Concept Coaching Flyer](#)

Breakfast and Lunches for Online and Remote Learners: BCPS offers free school meals to go for students in online and remote learning. An email has been sent to all families. If you have any questions about the program, please email [nutricionservices@bcpsk12.net](mailto:nutricionservices@bcpsk12.net) in care of Kerri Saltzgaber or call 616-878-6115.

## **Nurses Corner**

Daily Screener: We truly appreciate your participation and continued support with the PEG screening program. The Health Department has been working closely with our school nurse to work-out the bugs. We are told there will be a significant update next week that will improve the system.

PLEASE NOTE: Parents of Middle School students please continue to complete the screener even while in remote learning.

Masks: just a reminder that masks should be worn once then washed before next use. Disposable masks should be discarded after daily usage.

## **Counselors Chair**

State Testing Please be reminded that state PSAT (grades 9-11) and SAT with Essay(grade 12) tests are later this month. These tests include online students. Students will need to be here at 8:00.

- Grades 9-11 PSAT= Thursday, October 29
- Grade 12 SAT With Essay = Tuesday October 27

Please note there is no make-up date and some students with special needs will take the tests over a 2 day period (2nd day the following day).

Mental Health Screener for Online Students: As you know, schools are required to conduct Mental Health screening to online students every 2 weeks. Want to thank you for participating. Also a reminder that it is recommended that k-5 parents complete the screeners with their children and Mid High students can complete the screener themselves.

## **PTO News**

Fall Fundraiser: Your participation in the fall Subs, Soups and Cinnamon Roll fundraiser is appreciated. Please review the [Fall Fundraiser Letter](#) for information and details regarding order form procedures, dates and times. Don't forget all proceeds go toward the playground!

Virtual Book Fair: Given that BCCS is holding virtual conferences and the value of hosting a book fair to our students and families, the PTO will hold a virtual Book Fair this fall from October 12 through October 25. We encourage parents and students to check it out! [Virtual Book Fair Fall 2020](#)

## **Closing**

In closing I want to share my appreciation for your continued support and assistance as we work through this pandemic. While no one could have predicted or planned for the impact this event has within a school setting, BCCS continues to strengthen its ability to effectively serve the students and families during COVID\_19. Let us all do our best to roll with the changes and expectations placed upon our school community. There continues to be much asked of us, yet we cannot let our heart be troubled over things we cannot control. I believe this is a quality school and I know there is a community effort to provide our students with a quality and safe school experience and environment. Your continued participation and help is truly appreciated.

With Care,  
Mark