



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

September 2020 Newsletter

Principal's Update

Greetings to all new and returning members of the Byron Center School Community. While this has been a most unusual start to the school year, I trust your face to face students' first few days of school have proven to be successful. For those online students, it looks like we are close to starting courses. We should all admit this year it is hard to get into the usual routines. Nonetheless, 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 whether online, face-to-face, or remote learning. I suspect you realize 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 20-21 school year. More than ever we encourage parents and guardians to be aware of the school's expectations, and communicate when there are questions or needed clarification. Please do not hesitate to contact me or members of 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. This year our school asks for cooperation and teamwork from everyone. As a member of our school community, you frequently hear me ask for your cooperation and I believe teamwork is implied. Teamwork and cooperation go hand in hand as they both move people toward a common outcome. In our case it is student learning. Additionally, most employers identify a person's ability to successfully work in a team as one of the most highly rated qualities sought for employment. For good reason, as a school community we are called to grow student capacity and recognize and celebrate these values in action.

Important Communications from the Office

Student Handbook and Concussion Signature Pages: All families must have their Student Handbook and Concussion signature pages turned in by Friday September 11. We can accept one page per family for the handbooks and concussion forms.

PLEASE NOTE: Since there were no changes in the Concussion form, those completed in prior years you are good to go!

BCCS Meal Program: Please be reminded that BCCS now provides breakfast and lunch services through Byron Center Public Schools. Students of families who qualify for free or reduced lunches qualify for free breakfasts. Questions about the program are 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 or need your child's ID number. **Finally**, please remind students to bring their lunch IDs on a daily basis. Those students who attended last year can use their school IDs.

School Safety: We want to thank parents/guardians for adhering to the visitor policy during the pandemic. We simply need to minimize the number of people entering the building for the safety and welfare of the students and staff. The BCCS Return to School Plan, BCCS Parent Guide, Parent Q & A and PEG screening survey protocol is on the website for your information. The Plan, Guide and Q & A will be updated at least monthly.

Masks Update: Students are doing pretty well with masks thus far. Neck-gaiters are not recommended as they generally need to be doubled when worn, and face shields alone do not meet the requirements. We send this mask infographic again to remind parents/students of what is considered acceptable for school. Please review and follow the guidelines.

[What kinds of face coverings are appropriate in BCCS?](#)

Social Distancing: This is a tough one in schools. Seems like the school administrator, faculty and staff are always nagging students about staying 6 feet apart whenever possible. Please know we know this is an effective way to mitigate spread of viruses, so we will continue to gracefully communicate the need to distance in the school building. Your support is needed and appreciated!

Start and End Times: Parents are reminded that students should be dropped-off at school between 7:40 and 7:55. Students can pick-up breakfast and parking lot assistance begins at that time. Please do not come early, our staff is not at their posts until 7:35. Parents are to pick-up their students at their scheduled time (3:00 or 3:10), and parking lot assistance is scheduled from 2:55-3:20. Please allow parents of k-3 students to use the closest lanes (blue lanes) to the building. DRIVELINE is a safe and efficient system. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated!

NEW Mental Health Screeners - for BCCS Virtual Learners

It is so exciting to be back at school, but we know it is also a stressful time. One way we are using to check in is by using a mental health screener. Every other week we will be sending out a short survey. This will be done through a google form that will be sent directly to the students email. We care about how you are doing and we want to help if you need anything. For elementary students, we ask the parent to help fill out the form for your child. All answers will be kept confidential between the counselor and administration.

School Happenings

BCCS Welcomes....

Miss Jenna Greenfield: Miss Greenfield is our new 4th grade teacher replacing Mrs. Kline who decided to stay home with her new baby. As a recent graduate from Spring Arbor University, Miss Greenfield holds a BA in Elementary Education with endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Reading. She enjoys making connections with students and believes building relationships with students is an important first step in learning.

Mrs. Hannah York: Mrs York is our new K-5 Music Teacher replacing Miss Rowsey who is relocating to Arizona. She is entering her third year of teaching and is a GVSU Graduate with a degree in Music Education. Her previous roles include teaching elementary general music, MS band, and assisting with MS orchestra students. Mrs. York strives to create an environment of caring and comfort for students and connecting with her students is most important.

BCCS Congratulates Mrs. Arringdale, PE/Health Teacher (formerly Miss Mulcock) on her wedding this past August.

No Put Down Zone/ Poster Contest: 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. Mr. Kasmer is holding the 2nd annual No Put Down Zone poster contest. Students in grades K-5 and 9-12 will have an opportunity to submit one poster to Mr. Kasmer by Friday September 18. The poster board will be available in the office. Please place the student's name and grade on the back of the poster. **Winning students will receive an award, be recognized at school and have their posters displayed in the school for the entire year.**

School Calendar

8/30 & 9/2 No School= Observance of Labor Day
9/10 PTO Meeting 3:30
9/27 Hat Day \$1 = proceeds go toward Peer to Peer Program
9/30 October Newsletter

Due to the pandemic the following events are cancelled or postponed this month

9/11 Popcorn sales
9/18 Spirit Shop
9/18 School Carnival
The Eagle Assemblies will be held virtually

News You Can Use

State Assessments:

The State of Michigan is requiring all students in all public schools (whether attending online, distance learning, a hybrid or Face-to-Face instruction) be tested on state assessments and school interim benchmark assessments this fall.

Online students will have to come to the school to be tested.

- Grades 9-12 will have specified days and times for the PSAT and SAT exams.
 - Grades 9-11 PSAT= Thursday, October 29
 - Grade 12 SAT With Essay = Tuesday October 27
- K-3 Students have to be tested in the first 30 days
 - Dates and Times TBD: will offer options during school hours and after school
 - Required Tests: Reading and Math NWEA (MAP) and Fountas and Pinnell (F & P) Reading Assessment
 - Approximate Time: Two one our sessions
- 4-8 students will have to be tested between September 14 and October 9th.
 - Dates and Times TBD: will offer options during school hours and afterschool
 - Required Tests: Reading and Math NWEA/ (MAP)
 - Approximate Time: Two one our sessions

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

Daily COVID Screening Update:

We had a few hiccups with the daily COVID screener, but we are working with PEG and the health department to rectify the problems.

NOTE: The student's/initials need to be upper case letters.

If you did not receive a text message or would rather have an email survey, please let the office know. THANK YOU ALL!

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

BCCS PTO is proud to be partnered with the SCRIP program to raise funds for PTO. We're very excited about the new, user-friendly mobile app, RaiseRight by ShopWithScrip. From the app you can shop for gift cards from more than 750 top brands, then when you use those cards, straight from the app, you earn on your purchases. It's super easy and costs you nothing out-of-pocket to support PTO. Our PTO also allows families to choose to use the Scrip program to earn money for your students Jr/Sr trip to Washington, D.C.

Learn more about Scrip at: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Support> or email our Scrip Coordinator at scrip@byroncentercharter.org. New enrollments will need our school code: 75LEDF88419L4

NOTE: orders for physical cards need to be placed through the app. Plan ahead and place your order by the 1st day of each month. Those cards will then be available for delivery or pick up by the 10th of the month.

Keep up with Scrip news and updates through the BCCS PTO Facebook page! Thanks for supporting your PTO!

Ongoing Fundraisers:

- SCRIP
- BOXTOPS (put into mailbox in vestibule): New app available
- Amazon Smile - choose our school
- Office Depot - our school id # 70049027

Stay Tuned for fall fundraiser information....coming soon.

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, and hope those in our medical science field come-up with a vaccine to rid our world of this pandemic.

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