



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS Students,

Happy Friday everyone! I hope this update finds you and your family members well and happy. It is important that we continue to communicate well, especially during these most interesting times. I thank each of you for staying in tune with the *going ons* at BCCS and encourage you not to hesitate to ask questions/request for clarification when needed.

Below are a few important topics for your awareness and understanding

## 1. Covid Update

- a. Recent Uptick in Cases: This week I sent out a letter requesting we all do our part and follow basic safety guidelines, particularly wearing masks and limiting social gatherings, given the recent increase in positive cases in our area.
- b. Data: On October 15, the Health Department issued a Public Health Bulletin to all schools indicating a positivity rate increase (4.5%), and that hospitals were at capacity with COVID-19 patients. A reminder that BCCS maintains timely COVID-19 Data along with our updated Parent Guide on the schools website under *About Us*.  
<http://www.byroncentercharter.org/>
- c. HS Return: HS students return Tuesday, October 27, after a 14 day quarantine due to a positive case. Happy to report our mitigation strategies are working as, to our knowledge, in the two known cases in the school, we have no transmission of COVID-19 to other members of the school.

## 2. HS State Testing: Is to include all students (both online and face to face)

Seniors - SAT Test October 27

- All seniors will be taking the SAT on October 27.
- The test will start promptly at 8am, so students should plan to be here by 7:45.
- Please come prepared with a calculator and pencils.
- The test will finish around 1pm and then students are free to leave for the day. NOTE: **There will not be school on campus for seniors on October 29.**
- KCTC students still need to report to KCTC in the afternoon.
- This is a great time for seniors to fill out college applications, do virtual college visits, start the FAFSA or work on community service hours.

9th, 10th and 11th Grade - PSAT October 29

- **All** 9th - 11th grade students need to report to school on October 29 for PSAT testing.
- All students need to attend, **including online/virtual** students.
- The test will start promptly at 8am, so students should plan to be here by 7:45.
- The test will take 3 hours.
- After lunch, the students will resume their regular afternoon schedule.
- KCTC students will still attend KCTC.

3. **K-3 Halloween Costume and Parade Cancelled:** Due to the pandemic the annual k-3 Halloween Costume Parade will be cancelled this year. **No costumes, please.** The school will provide doughnuts and cider as a special treat to K-3 classes at the end of the day.
4. **Federal Lunch Program....FREE to ALL!** On October 9 the USDA announced an extension of the free meal program to all k-12 students through the end of the year. Every student may receive free breakfast and/or lunch each school day. Online students can also participate. For information please contact the school office or Kerri Saltzgaberer, BCPS Nutrition Services at [Director.ksaltzgaber@bcpsk12.net](mailto:Director.ksaltzgaber@bcpsk12.net)  
Also, please complete the lunch application if you have not already done so, [Lunch App](#) and select Byron Center Public Schools/BCCS service provider. Applications are used in calculating federal grant funding for school, and the information remains confidential.

### OnLine Student Update

1. **Two-way Communication:** The two-way communications are now being used to equate a student's attendance, and directly impacts school funding. Simply put, **online students are required to attend TWO-2-way communications each week.** Parents of online students, your help is needed to assure your child(ren) attends. Please contact your child's mentor teacher if there is any confusion in times or dates of the 2-way contacts.
2. **Monitor Usage:** Parents should monitor the child's progress each day. Remember the time allocation should be treated just like being in the school building each day. Mid high students should have **5-6 hrs of class time per day.**
3. **Edgenuity Issues:** Please let us know if you are having issues with Edgenuity. We are aware students get kicked-off from time to time, yet all other issues appear to have been resolved.

### PTO Updates

1. Virtual BookFair through the 25th: see information [here](#)
2. Appreciation for Fall Fundraiser:  
PTO Thanks all who participated in the fall fundraiser. Over 2,200 items were sold. The funds raised will directly support the playground. Check out the new [b-ball hoop!](#) Thank you all!  
Individual and Grade Level Top Seller Awards:  
Elementary: Deven Boelema/2nd Grade  
Middle School: Jack Syswerda/7th Grade  
High School: Xavier Coffey/10th Grade

### Closing

The school will be asking stakeholders (parents, students, teachers) to complete surveys about remote learning experiences and online requests for next semester. Please respond in kind so that we can monitor, adjust and prepare for what's to come. Feedback is an important component of school improvement. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

With Care,  
Mark R. Kasmer  
BCCS CAO