



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS Students,  
First of all, I take this opportunity to extend our wish for a joyous and happy holiday season to you and your families. For many of us, things will be a little different as we continue to observe the recommended safety precautions of this pandemic. Nonetheless, this is a season to share good will and well-wishes to our friends and families.

I share a few informational items for your awareness and understanding.



## Band and Music Winter Performances

One of the highlights of BCCS is our band, music and art programs. Since our fall and winter band and music programs have been cancelled, Mr. Beyers and Mrs. York had some of their winter music taped this past week. At this time we share some k-4 Music, and a little snippet of the band performance for your listening pleasure. Mr. Beyer will release the entire band program after the break. Special thanks to Mr. Machiela and Mr. Uminn for their technical assistance and we recognize our outstanding teachers Mr. Beyer and Mrs. York Enjoy!

K-4 Choir/Music Video: <https://youtu.be/47WL8243QaU>

BCCS 5th,6th and 7th /8th Bands Winter Preview Video:  
<https://youtu.be/7Aty7FJfazc>

## BCCS Supporting the Community

Hat and Mitten Tree: Once again our generous school community is supporting area families in need by donating over 50 hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to In the Image who serves thousands of area individuals and families. Special recognition to Mrs. Timmerman for spearheading the drive.



Blood Drive: BCCS teamed-up with Second Byron CRC Church for a blood drive this past Monday. There is a huge need for blood donors at this time and we helped raise 32 pints of blood with 36 people having donated. That is considered to support approximately 96 patients. We thank the church community for partnering with us and recognize Mr.

Emmelkamp for organizing the drive. Good Job, Well Done!!!

## Update of Expectations for HS Students

1. Return to Face to Face Instruction: As of today's Governors announcement, we are fully prepared for the High School students to return on January 4 with the rest of the BCCS students.
2. Opportunity to Get Caught-up: It is understood that this pandemic has created disruptions in students' education. An estimated 40% of US K-12 learners have not been in the classroom in the past 8 months. Generally speaking, students'

productivity and performance has decreased, and many HS students now find themselves in jeopardy of failing coursework and receiving course credits towards graduation. Schools are having to consider alternative strategies to help/support students, particularly those have been in online/virtual environments. In an effort to lessen the impact on the BCCS High School students who are behind in their work, we ask your consideration to view the upcoming holiday break as an opportunity for students to get caught-up. Last week BCCS emailed progress reports to the parents of HS students. All parents are asked to review their child's report. For those students who are failing courses or performing below expectations, parents are asked to review the grades in Powerschool with their child and make a plan to address any missing assignments.

For the parents of students who selected the fully on-line venue, go to the Edgenuity website with their child, review their performance and make a plan to address coursework where students are notably behind the expected pacing (approx. 6% or greater).

In particular, students should prioritize their time and effort toward core subject areas. That will help to keep them on-track for graduation with their peers. Please note that on a somewhat limited basis, BCCS HS teachers will be available via email to answer student questions. Your consideration and support is appreciated.

### **School Schedule/Important Dates**

Dec. 21- Jan. 1 Holiday Break

Jan. 4 All Students Return to School

Jan. 6 Next Newsletter

Jan. 20-22 Mid-High Exams

- ½ day of school 11:15 Release
- Grab and Go Lunches

### **Closing**

To be honest I am glad to see 2020 come to an end. I have been in education a long...long time, and have found the past 8 months to be the most difficult time in my professional life. Please know that I am grateful for how the BCCS faculty, staff and families have handled the school year thus far, and I am not one to wish my life away. I am, however, so looking forward to the end of this pandemic and returning to a normal life in educational leadership (kind-of funny because it is always changing). Nonetheless, I miss those days!

As we look toward the future I ask that we finish strong...meaning that we, the members of the BCCS School Community, all do our part to complete this pandemic journey with the least amount of negative impact on the students. These are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary measures and actions. Let's stay diligent in following the recommended safety protocols for COVID-19. Let's effectively communicate with one another, and look for ways to support each other so that all kids experience success. I firmly believe our small but mighty school has the potential to come out of this thing in better shape than most schools. But let's be honest, it tackles commitment and effort on our part. Stay with it, folks!

Wishing all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year... see you in 2021.

W/ Care, Mark

