



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS Students,

While I read and hear about the volumes of schools around the country who are just getting students back into the buildings for the first time this year, I am thankful for the path we have chosen. This is especially true for BCCS elementary students, where online and distance learning require substantial adult interaction and often one to one support to be effective. From what I can tell, our school has been in session as much or more than most schools in the nation. Please recognize this has not come without cost though. The staff has put in countless hours in training and preparation for distance and online and face to face learning. Our school has spent tens of thousands of dollars on personal protective equipment, HVAC upgrades/air purifiers, signage, disinfectants and sanitizers. Significant time, energy and funding has been put towards digital tools and resources and online learning licenses and programs. Not to mention, what we have asked of our parents/ guardians and BCCS families. Please know, I am not complaining.... I am just saying that this small but mighty school continues to be just that. We are a resilient group, folks, and I am appreciative and grateful to be a part of a school community that is willing to work together for the welfare of our students and families. We have miles to go to get through this pandemic and I ask for your continued understanding and support.

Positive Character Traits in Action

In February BCCS highlights HONESTY and TRUSTWORTHINESS. Oh my, these are tall orders indeed. I like the fact that these traits are celebrated together: people generally consider those who are honest to be trustworthy and visa-versa. These traits make me think of "Say what you mean, mean what you say and do what you say you are going to do".



I am of the belief that being truly honest is very difficult, and in my experience with children, close to impossible. Having been in education for a long... long time and having four children of my own, perhaps it goes without saying yet I have been filled with amazement and wonder many times over.

At any rate, as members of BCCS we are called to look for and recognize acts of honesty and trustworthiness. I hope you share the opinion that these traits truly help build and sustain a dependable, safe, caring and orderly school climate. There is no doubt, having a safe, caring and orderly school is paramount to having an effective educational environment for students to learn and grow.

Information from the Office

Your help please

- Use of School Technology: please help monitor the use of school technology. Simply put, students are to use school devices for educational purposes exclusively. If the usage is not directly connected to an assigned task from school staff, the school device should not be used.

This includes any form of social media, gaming, video/music downloads etc.... This will continue to be addressed at school, yet to be effective, your support home is needed.

- **Morning Drop Off:** a few reminders to maintain safety and efficiency when dropping off students in the morning.
 - Pull - up as far as possible (up to Mailbox)
 - Elementary students should exit vehicles and walk to the doors when stopped anywhere along the sidewalk. Not necessary to wait until closer to the entry.
 - If students do not have things ready to be dropped, pull into a parking space, prepare the students and have them use the crosswalk.

New Mid-High Science Teacher: Former BCCS HS Science teacher Mrs. Sadie Bell is returning as the replacement for Mrs. Bennett who resigned to return to her home state, Florida, a week ago. While working through final details, we expect Mrs. Bell to begin in two weeks. Please join our faculty and staff in welcoming Mrs. Bell back to the BCCS school community.



School News

Report Card Update: Report cards were sent home with students on Friday 1/ 29. However the school was unable to print 4th and 5th grade online report cards. We solved the issue today and will send cards home ASAP. The report cards for students in the second semester online /Edgenuity program will be sent home through the US mail while those returning to face to face instruction will have them sent home with the student.



The parents of:

- Mid-High Students: please sign and return report cards to designated teacher
- Elementary Students: please sign, date and return the envelope to your child's teacher

New Valentines Protocols: BCCS will hold K-5 card exchange and the Candy Gram activities with a few modifications due to COVID 19



- Elementary: All Valentine cards are due to school by Monday, February 8th. If a child attaches candy to cards, it must be store bought and individually wrapped.
- Candy Grams: forms and money are due February 8. [Candy Gram form](#)

Parent Teacher Conferences: At this time it appears all area schools should plan to have virtual Spring Parent /Teacher conferences. Spring conferences are scheduled for March 11 from 12- 8 pm. Further information will be forthcoming.

School Calendar of Events

Feb 1-5 NWEA K-8 Assessments Completed
Feb 3, 18, 17 and 24: KCHD Life Skills Training grades 3 and 4
Feb. 8: Valentine Cards and Candy Gram orders due.
Feb 10: Count Day
Feb 11 PTO Meeting 3:30 (in person/Virtual TBD)
Feb 12 Elementary Valentine Card Exchange
Candy Grams Delivered
Feb 15 No School President's Day and /Mid-Winter Break
Feb 16 Virtual BOE Meeting
Feb 26 Hat Day \$1

Cancelled Events due to COVID

Feb 5 Babysitting Night

Feb 19 Daddy Daughter Dance

Feb. 20 Winter Formal

Muffin Mondays, Popcorn Fridays, Spirit Shop and Eagle Assemblies

From the Nurses Corner

Safety Practices Continued: please help continue the safety practices for COVID-19. A recent publication from the CDC referenced schools have very little impact on the community spread of the Coronavirus. The CDC conducted a [thirteen week in person learning study](#) in Wisconsin involving seventeen schools, just under 5,000 students and 654 staff members. In a nutshell, schools that practice some basic safety protocols, had extremely low in-school transmission of COVID among students (7 students total), and zero cases of in-school related COVID transmission among staff. Please continue to support:



- wearing proper face coverings every day
- practice social distancing (at least 3 ft./6 ft. preferred)
- daily screening, contact tracing and quarantine for positive cases
- hand sanitizing/washing
- cohorting students

From the Counselor Chair

KCTC Planning: 10th graders interested in KCTC will continue with virtual visits through this week. Information regarding next steps will be sent at the end of the week to students/parents interested in pursuing KCTC classes next year.

Closing Thoughts

It feels like we have been here much more than one-half of the school year to date. I continue to be amazed at the amount and frequency of actions schools are responsible for regarding state and federal reporting and transparent requirements related to COVID-19. This week I'll meet with all mid-high students in an effort to raise the level of awareness with the need to continue following the in-school safety protocols for COVID 19. We have done remarkably well with in-school transmissions and we need to stay the course for what will hopefully be a little while longer. .Your continued awareness and active support is needed and truly appreciated. Working together, we will get through this pandemic with the school having little to no impact with virus transmission in the school and greater community.

W/ Care,
Mark R. Kasmer
CAO BCCS