



# 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](mailto:office@byroncentercharter.org)

## March Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS Students,

In the recent past, many of us have heard the requests from state and federal agencies to have students return to face to face instruction in March. As members of the BCCS school community we recognize that we have made face to face instruction a priority since the beginning of the school year. While we respect the reasons individual families selected the fully online option, we are one of few area school systems that have held face to face instruction and will not have any issues meeting the expectations of the government (see the [ECLP Dashboard](#)) for information about schools.

Additionally, the Federal Department of Education declared that states are expected to administer state mandated testing this year; however, they are allowing states to request waivers independently as there are varying dispositions around the country. Michigan has submitted a waiver to forgo the MME, M-Step, MI-Access and WIDA assessments along with state accountability measures for this year. So, once again we have to wait and see if the feds will approve the request. Nonetheless, our school will prepare to administer the state assessments. Most state assessments begin in April and run through mid-May. Initial awareness and preparation information will begin to come home in the next three weeks, yet the most valuable actions in the home include:

- Be aware of test dates and what tests will be administered for your children
- Encourage your children to give a good faith effort
- Engage your children in conversation about the tests
- Assure your children get proper rest and a nutritious breakfast

As always, your consideration and support is appreciated.



### School Values

Our School's mission emphasizes academics, personal connections and positive character traits. These expectations separate us from other schools. In particular, the character traits are shared values that are intended to guide our actions within the school community. 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.

In March BCCS highlights COURTESY and RESPECT. These are certainly areas of strength in our school's culture. Many substitutes and guest presenters have commented on how polite BCCS students are. By definition courtesy is a person's attitude and/or behavior toward others that is considered to be polite and caring. Respect is viewed as beliefs and actions that show admiration of qualities/abilities in oneself and/or others. Most of us agree that courteous and respectful people are appreciated and desired in our society. As members of BCCS, we are called to look for and recognize acts of courtesy and respect within the school community.



## Important Information from the Office

2021-22 Enrollment: Paperwork for the 2021-22 school year will be sent home the second week of March. To secure your spot for the 2021-22 school year, the enrollment paperwork must be submitted by April 15.

## School News

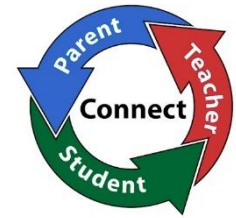
Parent/Teacher Conferences: Virtual Conferences are to be held on Thursday March 11 from 12:30-8:00. Parents are to use the following document to schedule the conferences. Directions are located at the end of the document: [2021-Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences](#)

P/T Conference Guidelines:

Two Tiered Registration Timelines

- Priority Registration\*: Opens Today, February 28
- All Parent Registration Opens: Wednesday March 3
- Tuesday, March 9: requested date for all conferences to be scheduled

\*Priority Registrations: Parents of Students with Disabilities, 504 Plans and those having multiple students in the school



Things to Remember When Scheduling Conferences.....

### K-12

- When registering for a conference, be sure to save/submit
- If scheduling from your phone, make sure the phone setting is in the Eastern time zone.

\* Notes: there were a few parents who registered for time, yet phones were set to the central or Mountain Time zone and that caused the conference to be scheduled one to two hours later than what was entered.

### 6-12

- Parents having more than one student with a Mid-High Teacher are requested to sign-up for multiple slots. IE 2 students schedule 2 conference times, 3 students schedule 3 conference times.
- Parents who change a scheduled conference time need to cancel the first conference time before registering a new conference time

### K-5

- If parents need to change a scheduled conference time, please email the teacher and request the time change. Once the change is made the teacher will respond to the email to confirm the time change and release the time for others.

Mid-High Progress Reports: 3rd quarter progress reports will be sent home with all Middle and High School students next week, Wednesday, March 3. Please review with your children, sign and return with your child to designated teachers.

March is Reading Month: March is National Reading Month and a time for all to celebrate reading. This year's theme is WESTERN..... "YEE HAW" Let's read!.... that features competitions, events and activities to promote and celebrate reading. BCCS will hold the virtual kick-off on Monday....check-out the video....<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqXOr8lkXto>

A calendar of events is sent with all k-5 students. Have fun and good luck!



## Calendar Highlights

Thursday, March 11 Parent Teacher Conferences:

- Grab-n-Go Lunches
- ½ Day of School 11:15-20 Student Release
- No After School Tutoring
- No Extended Care

Friday, March 12: No School

Thursday, March 18, PTO Meeting 3:30 (Rescheduled)

Friday, March 26 Hat Day (\$1 for Peer-to-Peer Program)

Friday April 2: No School

Monday - Friday April 2-9 Spring Break

## Nurses Corner



COVID-19 Update; It was at this time last year that things began changing from an awareness that the Coronavirus existed to the sober reality of a pandemic. The management of COVID-19, while improving, continues to be a significant part of our lives. In short, we are calling upon each of us to continue the safety measures in and out of school. The greatest safety measures are masking, distancing and screening. Please continue to make these a priority in your families.

Also, a reminder that each month our school posts COVID-related data on our [school's website](#) for your awareness and review.

## Counselors Chair

10th Graders: Please make sure your Kent Career Technical Center Applications are turned in to me by March 2.

Student Support Hotline: We are excited to announce we have set up a support hotline for students. Students can text to reach out for support, and/or report concerns or issues of bullying. Students can remain anonymous or identify themselves. The number is 616.920.1576

## Student Recognition and Awards

At this time we recognize the Mid-High 1st Semester Honor Roll Students

- **BCCS Middle School Honor Roll**

### All A Honors

Ellie Van Dussen-6th  
Ava Syswerda-7th  
Ian Emmelkamp-7th  
Sadie Uminn-8th

### A/B Honors

Lia Franson-6th  
Amelia Pike-6th  
Kinzie Anderson-7th  
Ruth Apotheker-7th  
Victoria DeVries-7th



Grace Duncan-7<sup>th</sup>  
Haley Hartnett-7<sup>th</sup>  
Rhys Houda-7<sup>th</sup>  
Ella Franson-8<sup>th</sup>  
Brianna Hoort-8<sup>th</sup>  
Sara Lytle-8<sup>th</sup>  
Morgan Polmanteer-8<sup>th</sup>

- **BCCS High School Honor Roll**

All A Honors

Sarah Buchanan-10<sup>th</sup>  
Joselyn Van Dussen-10<sup>th</sup>  
Gabiella Verburg-10<sup>th</sup>  
Elizabeth Brandow-11<sup>th</sup>  
Graciella Leys-11<sup>th</sup>

A/B Honors

Sophia Netti-9<sup>th</sup>  
MaryJane Anderson-10<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Anderson-10<sup>th</sup>  
Molly DeVries-10<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah Schneider-10<sup>th</sup>  
Daniel Jones-11<sup>th</sup>  
Joshua Hoppe-12<sup>th</sup>  
Danielle Verburg-12<sup>th</sup>

Good Job, Well Done!!!

**News You Can Use**

Meal Services Update for Online and Virtual Learners

Byron Center Public Schools' Nutrition Services offers Free To-Go meals to all remote learners who are learning virtually, remotely, hybrid schedule, or in quarantine/isolation due to COVID-19, in compliance with the USDA and Michigan Department of Education. The USDA instituted a waiver that allows all children under 18 to receive FREE breakfast and lunch for the entire 2020-2021 school year, until June 30, 2021. The To-Go meals must be ordered via the below order form link by Saturday, 5:00<sup>PM</sup> for pick up on Monday. Order each week to receive meals for the following week.

\*\*Nutrition Services will offer Free To-Go Meals pick up on Monday, March 1, 2021.

- Meals are bundled for multiple days and include breakfast and lunch (5 & 5).
- All meals are complete and include milk; all items must be taken.

Order and Pick Up

- A parent or designee can pick up meals for children. Children do not have to be present for pick up. You will need to tell Nutrition Services staff the names of students receiving the meals.
- Pull up in the Byron Center High School Parking Lot Loop by the pool entrance-the most southern entrance off Burlingame Ave. A canopy should be outside the kitchen service door. Please stay in your car, and the Nutrition Services staff will assist you.
- Orders are due by 5:00<sup>PM</sup> on SATURDAY.

- Sign up for meals by clicking on the link below.
- Order separately for each child.

\*\*If you order meals and fail to pick them up, Nutrition Services will charge the meals to your student's school meal account at the full price.

LINK TO ORDER FORM: [Click here to fill out your student\(s\)'s school meal order](#)

Meal Distribution:

Where: Byron Center High School South entrance by pool

When: 2:00pm-3:00pm

What Day: MONDAY

How: Pull up in the Pool Parking Lot Loop. Stay in your car, and we will assist you.

[nutritionservices@bcpsk12.net](mailto:nutritionservices@bcpsk12.net)

**CLOSING**

Things are beginning to calm down with regard to COVID-19; however, we must continue our vigilance in following the safety protocols and guidelines. This is especially true given the recent rise in COVID-19 variant cases in our state. Our BCC School Community has done an exceptional job managing this virus in the school: we have not experienced one documented case of the virus transmission within the school to date. That is remarkable, and the staff, students, and families are to be commended for their efforts to mitigate the spread in the school environment. Thank You, and please stay the course.

Have a great weekend.

MK