



# 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)

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS Students,

In the midst of managing students in remote learning due to a barrage of COVID related issues since Spring break, there was a change in the length of time needed to quarantine. As of today the length of quarantine went back to 10 days from 14 days. This decision changes the return date for all students currently having to quarantine. Our school nurse, Mrs. Schrader began contacting parents of students last evening around 8pm when the announcement was made. All students in quarantine are impacted, and the families of those students should expect to receive notification of the date change by the end of the day. This is a good thing as it fits with our goal of maintaining as much face to face instruction as possible. Incidentally this week schools also also received guidance for end-of-year events from the MDHHS. In a nutshell, some end- of-year events can be held with modifications and others will have to be cancelled. Details will be forthcoming as decisions are made.

The following are timely updates for the members of our school community.

## **Teacher Appreciation**

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and Tuesday is National Teacher Appreciation Day. BCCS is fortunate to have a dedicated and caring cadre of educators. Any parent realizes the value of teaching children. It is truly a cause beyond oneself. Teaching children under normal circumstances is a difficult and heartfelt job on so many levels. However, during this pandemic, being a teacher is simply extraordinary. Please join me in celebrating our teachers and teacher assists next week. On behalf of all of us, I thank each one of them for their dedication and service to the BCCS School Community.

## **Nurse Appreciation Day**

Next Thursday, May 6th is also Nations Nurse Appreciation Day. What a year it has been for Mrs. Schrader, as well. It is hard to imagine any school nurse ever thought about the demands of the job during a pandemic. We are fortunate to have a nurse as many schools do not, and we are grateful for her service to BCCS. Thank you, Mrs. Schrader.

## **Absences/Tardies**

Just a reminder to all families that school attendance is an essential part of a successful school experience for students. We recognize that COVID-related attendance disruptions have been significant, yet we are seeing a rise in the number and frequency of absences and tardies unrelated to the pandemic. This includes absences due to family travel/vacations. While understandable that there have been limited opportunities for people to travel in the recent past, I ask parents to work around expected days of school attendance whenever possible.

Disruptions in school attendance are hard on the students, teachers and the school system. Your attention and cooperation is appreciated.

## State Testing

We hope to be finished with the state tests next week. There are an inordinate number make-up tests, so we may have to go into the following week. Please do not forget, though, all K-8 students are to take the end of year NWEA tests for reading and math. Teachers have the next three weeks to administer these tests to the students in their classrooms. Here is the M-STEP testing schedule for next week:

Monday 5/3: Grades 4,6 and 7 Make-up M-STEP grades 4,6 and 7

Tuesday 5/4:

- Grade 3 ELA
- **Grades 4,6 and 7 Online Students M-StepMath**

Wednesday, 5/5: M-STEP Make -up Tests (all grades all subjects)

Thursday, 5/6 :

- Grade 3 Math
- M-STEP Make-up Tests (all grades all subjects)

Friday, 5/7 No Tests

## Walk-A-Thon

We are to hold our 13th annual Walk-A-Thon ( Pandemic version)next Friday afternoon. We hope to have 100% participation by students and families for our biggest fundraiser of the year. A reminder that PTO has teamed-up with *Get Movin*, an online donation platform. Here is the [informational document](#) for your use. We are working within the MDHHS guidelines. Even Though this is an outdoor activity, there will be a few precautionary measures put into place for the safety and welfare of the students and staff: participants will wear masks, be asked to social distance and walk in groups with common cohorts. Please note, while a few PTO members will help with the event, we are unable to have guests and visitors as in past years. Also, we will postpone our annual picture until later in the year.

## End of Year Events

(Known Cancellations/Postponements and Continuations)

At this time we are canceling or postponing the following school related events

- Jazz Band Festival
- Band Concert (seeking alternate date for a Livestream event)
- K-4 Music Program (possible virtual program )
- HS Prom

Plans to Continue

- Graduation (modified /limited seating)
- Senior Tribute (virtual)
- Senior Luncheon and Last Walk (modified)
- Senior Party (modified)

\*\*\*\*detailed information of the the events will follow in short order\*\*\*\*

## Closing

I would just like to continue to call for your understanding and support with the fluidity of school events, programs and services as a result of this seemingly never-ending COVID-19 pandemic. I remind

parents and guardians that schools are at the mercy of national, state, regional and local governmental agencies. We are doing our best not to make and communicate decisions about school related activities and then changing as a result of updated mandates and requirements from authorities. I realize the timeliness in decisions continues to be compromised, and I am sorry, yet ask for your understanding. I encourage everyone to please communicate with the office and/or school personnel when needed. Together we will finish this school-year strong. MK