



# 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

9/2/21

Dear Parents,

I trust that the start of the school year went well for you, and that many of you are now starting to get back into the routine of school. We were fortunate to have pleasant weather to begin the school year, as we only have AC in a few areas in the building.

As we begin the school year I remind all of us that educating students is a worthwhile endeavor, yet a team effort. Please recognize and respond to the important role of parents/guardians. In fact, it's pretty much well known that in order for school to be effective, they must have parental engagement. I believe it, and ask for your help and support with the education of your children.

Considerations Include:

- Please review all school correspondence
- Please be responsive to school requests
- Ask questions when clarification is needed
- Be aware of educational activity and student expectations
- Set-up daily structures and routines in the home to support school expectations
- Address school related issues at the onset
- Monitor and have dialogue with children about their academic activities and performance
- Communicate with school staff when needed
- Be an active member of the school community

You are valued and appreciated members of the BCCS School Community!

## School Character Values

The BCCS Mission emphasizes academics, personal connections and positive character values. These are the pillars of our school's culture and intended to connect us, and separate us from other schools. The character traits are core values intended to guide our interactions between members within the school community. Our school celebrates and recognizes these values each month. 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.

During the month of September, the school highlights Cooperation and Teamwork....important character traits in pretty much all areas of the school. As a member of our school community, you frequently hear me ask for your cooperation and I believe teamwork is implied. Teamwork and cooperation go hand in hand as they both move people toward a common outcome. In our case, it is student learning. Additionally, a person's ability to successfully work as a team is one of the most highly sought-after qualities by employers. For good reason, as a school community we are called to grow student capacity and recognize and celebrate these values in action.

## Important Communications from the Office

**School Annual Parent Signature Pages:** All families are asked to have their annual and one-time signature pages turned in by next Tuesday September 7. We can accept one page per family for the handbooks, concussion and parent verification of COVID Screening forms.

PLEASE NOTE: Concussion Awareness and Acceptable Use Policy Acknowledgement signature pages are one time forms: for those who completed in prior years, you are good to go!

All other forms are considered annual forms or forms that need to be completed and returned each year.

### COVID Update

**Positive Cases:** Prior to the first day of school we had two staff members test positive for COVID. We conducted Contact Tracing, reported positive cases to the health department and exercised the quarantines as required. At this time there are no other cases reported.

**COVID Prevention and Safety Plan:** I am adding a different template to communicate the BCCS COVID Prevention and Safety Plan: 2-21-22 BCCS Prevention Strategy Form. This is easier to read and follow.

**Water Bottles:** All students should have a water bottle with their name on them at school each day. Hydration is important and the drinking fountains are shut off during the pandemic.

**Start and End Times:** Parents are reminded that students should be dropped-off at school between 7:40 and 7:55. Breakfast is available and parking assistance begins at that time. Parents are expected to pick-up their students at their scheduled time (3:00 or 3:10), and parking lot assistance is scheduled from 2:50-3:20. Please allow parents of k-3 students to use the closest lanes (blue lanes) to the building. Please have your Driveline numbers visible to attendants. If you need a new card, email the office. DRIVELINE is a safe and efficient system. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated!

NOTE: Need a little more help and cooperation in the AM..... Please

- pull vehicle along the sidewalk as far as possible (up to the mailbox)
- have students exit vehicles on passenger side (building side) if possible
- please keep crosswalk clear for pedestrian travel
- parents of students who are not ready to be dropped and proceed to the exit (i.e. students need additional time to exit vehicles and/or parents need to stop in the office etc...) are to park vehicles in lot and have students use crosswalk
- If the drop-off line is backed-up, please consider
  - using first lane (closest to road)
  - park vehicle in parking space in lot
  - have students exit vehicles and use pedestrian crosswalk to enter building

Thank you.....

## Student Testing

**NWEA MAP Testing:** Students in grades K-8 will have MAP testing in the areas of Reading and Math. Grades 4 and 7 will also take the science tests. These tests are required to be administered in the first 30 days of school. MAP tests, considered Benchmark Assessments, are given 3 times per year to measure student performance and growth, identify students for supplemental services and provide teachers guidance on individual strengths and weaknesses.

**F and P Testing:** All K-3 students and designated students in grades 4 and 5 will be administered the Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment. F and P tests help measure student reading levels, identify students for additional services and monitor student growth.

## School Happenings

### Please join us in Welcoming the following individuals to the BCCS School Community

- **Miss Delona Davis:** 3rd Grade teacher
- **Mrs. Carrie Holstege:** Band Director/Teacher
- **Mrs. Kayla Miller:** Added role as a part time Teacher Assistant
- **Mrs. Lacey Walters:** Resource Room Teacher

\*\*\*see new teacher profiles on the school's Facebook\*\*\*

### Technology Update:

- Mid High students were issued chromebooks this week. A couple reminders
- All students received in-house orientation and training with regard to school expectations, proper use, caring for device, and liability
- Students are responsible for the device while in their care
- Devices are to be used EXCLUSIVELY for educational activity communicated by BCCS
- Device Insurance is now available (*NEW*), please make sure payment accompanies the application form

### Daily Preparation:

- Students are expected to bring fully charged devices to school each day
- Students are expected to use carry cases when traveling to and from school

**No Put Down Zone/ Poster Contest:** Our school is declared to be a No Put Down Zone. All members of the BCCS School Community, are expected to refrain from putting them self or others down while at the school or any school related activities. Mr. Kasmer is holding the 3rd annual No Put Down Zone poster contest. Students in grades K-5 and 9-12 will have an opportunity to submit one poster to Mr. Kasmer by Friday September 17. The poster board will be available in a designated location. Please place the student's name and grade on the back of the poster. Winning students will receive an award, be recognized at school and have their posters displayed in the school for years to come. GOOD Luck!

### School Calendar:

#### Sept 2: Picture Day

- Your school's Order Code is 59392K.
- Parents can order at [inter-state.com/flyerentry/59392K](https://inter-state.com/flyerentry/59392K)

Sept 3 and 6th - No School, Observance of Labor Day

Sept 17 School Carnival (Weather and COVID Permitting) 6-8 pm

- will be held outdoors on school property
- Sept 17 PTO Sub Sale/Information (information forthcoming)

### News You Can Use

**MI School Safety Programs:** Reminder of two school safety initiatives offered through the State of Michigan: OK2Say and Protect MI Child. Both programs are designed for families with school-age students. If you have not seen these it is worth your consideration as a member of the BCCS school community.....

- **OK2Say:** a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. <http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say/>
- **Protect Mi Child:** a tool designed to block adult-themed content from reaching your child's electronic device (phone, tablet, computer/ personal accounts). Just register your child's cell phone number, email address, etc... to help prevent ads for alcohol, tobacco, online gambling and even pornography from reaching your child. <https://www.protectmichild.com/>

### Counselors Corner.....

It is fun to see so many new students in the building! We hope your child has had a great first week of school. If you or your child needs any extra help getting settled in, please let us know.

**Seniors** - If you need money for college, don't forget to complete the FAFSA. All college-bound students and their parents should fill out the FAFSA - [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)

**Helping the Neighbors:** Kent County Food Basket is seeking 150,000 decorated lunch bags for area families. Bags can be accessed and returned at the building.

### PTO Passive Fundraisers....every bit helps

- SCRIP
- BOXTOPS (put into mailbox in vestibule): New app available
- Amazon Smile - smile
- Office Depot - our school id # 70049027
- BCCS Fall Spiritwear Sale

\*\*\* information located in the *Keep At Home* sleeve of the annual school informational folder\*\*\*

### Closing Thoughts

*In recognition of Labor Day, we take a moment to honor the many contributions that workers have made in the development of the United States of America. In particular, we thank the people who work in the field of education and child development. At this time, I also believe we should recognize and thank those in the health care and emergency response professions for their service to fellow Americans impacted by the pandemic, the recent hurricane and wildfires.*

*For those traveling this weekend, please be safe, and a special wish for an enjoyable holiday weekend to all members of the BCCS Educational Community. MK*