



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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11/16/25

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS Students,

This is an important update regarding recent school-wide decisions made as a result of escalated COVID related activity in the BCCS school community and Kent County.

In the past two weeks there have been significant COVID related incidents in the school community including eight students and two staff members who tested positive and over forty students and staff members considered to be close contacts from the home/community and/or school.

In a letter to school leaders from Adam London, KCHD Chief Health Officer, we were informed that Kent County is averaging about 300 new cases per day, and the test positivity rate is nearly 20%. The “challenging” COVID numbers have persisted for nearly two months and are considered “a serious threat to the capacity of our local hospitals”.

School Leaders have reached out to Dr. London seeking advice for methods to reduce the risks in the school environment. Dr London recommends several actions be considered including:

- Follow CDC recommendations for schools.
- Encourage vaccines ....”works extraordinarily well for reducing the probability of illness, hospitalization and death”.
- Maintain/Improve compliance with facial covering public health orders.
- Trim unessential indoor gatherings, especially when disproportionate unvaccinated and unmasked participants are together for long periods of time.
- Consider canceling in person instruction Nov. 22 and 23 to interrupt the pathway of transmission in schools.

Given our current reality, I believe it is necessary to take action to mitigate the COVID activity in the BCCS school community. The following lists the actions BCCS will take at this time:

1. The school will raise the level of concern and expectation regarding proper facial coverings where appropriate (k-6 students and staff, close contacts, visitors etc.)
2. Encourage BCCS parents to consider vaccines for themselves and their children
  - a. For information see [vaccinatwestmi.com](http://vaccinatwestmi.com) or [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov)
3. All BCCS students and staff will move to synchronous remote learning next week Monday and Tuesday, November 22 and 23. No K-12 in-school sessions.
4. BCCS will cancel the K-4 Music Program on December 2 and move to video production.
5. BCCS will cancel the December 3rd Babysitting Night.

Please note: Specific information will follow with regard to synchronous remote learning sessions November 22 and 23: however, this overview is provided for your awareness and understanding .

### **Attendance and Participation**

November 22 and 23 are considered days of school, schools must meet the 75% participation to count as a day of attendance.

Students are expected to attend and be on-time for virtual sessions.

Parents are to follow normal attendance protocols for absences (call or email office to report absence).

**K-5:** Students will attend one synchronous session at a designated time in the morning and one synchronous session at a designated time in the afternoon. The length of session will vary by grade level

**6-12:** Students will follow the normal schedule to attend synchronous classes virtually.

### **Learning Management Systems**

K-2 students will use SeeSaw Platform

3-12 Students use Google Classroom

K-12 teachers to use google meets for synchronous virtual sessions

### **Technology Tools**

#### **K-5**

Important Notice: All students in grades k,2,3,4 and 5 will bring home BCCS Student Technology Take Home Permission forms on Tuesday 11/16/22. Parents are to sign and return the forms ASAP/ before Friday.

- Here's a [copy of the form](#) for your records. This may be used to copy, sign and return (hard copy, fax, scan and send) if desired. School personnel will complete device information upon return.
- Students will be sent home with school issued chromebooks on Thursday or Friday.

K-5 Students are expected to use the school issued devices to attend sessions:

- Students attend one designated synchronous session in the am and one in the pm each day
- Student will not have PE, Music or Art

#### **6-12**

Students may use school issued devices or home devices to log into their google classroom accounts and attend classes virtually.

Please know moving students to remote learning next week is a difficult decision to make. I recognize this flies in the face of our school's shared belief that we should attend in person learning whenever possible. It is also risky as we need 75% student participation in order for our school to count as a day of school for pupil accounting purposes. However, the safety and welfare of our students and staff is paramount. There are simply too many indicators headed in the wrong direction at this time. I believe not taking corrective action is a mistake.

Parents and guardians I ask for your help:

1. Please oversee your children so that they attend and are on time and complete the assigned tasks for their scheduled classes.

2. If students are ill and/or an absence is necessary, please follow normal attendance protocols: either call-in or email the office to report an absence.
3. K-5 please complete and return the Technology Take-Home Permission Forms.

More information will follow later in the week. Feel free to contact me with questions or needed clarification.

Your awareness, understanding and support is truly appreciated.

W/ Care,

Mark. Kasmer  
CAO BCCS



