



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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12/17/22

Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS Students,

On behalf of myself and the faculty and staff, I would like to thank the BCCS students and families for the gifts, cards and well-wishes shared during this holiday season. It is truly a remarkable and humbling experience.

While the January newsletter will be shared after the holiday break, a few informational items for your awareness and understanding.

COVID Update

Current Transmission Rates: The incidence of COVID related activity in the BCC school community is still above what we had hoped for at this time. The number of cases and close contacts are little less significant than it has been in the recent past, yet is still something we are dealing with on a regular basis. Information about cases in the school can be found on our [website](#). Please Note: We are grateful for reporting cases to school and we request that parents continue to communicate with the school as appropriate.

Vaccination Clinics: As a public school we are to encourage parents to consider vaccinations for the members of their family. KCHD has asked schools to share information about 3 area vaccination clinics available over the break: [KCHD Vaccination Clinics](#), [Link Up Vaccination Clinic](#), [Hispanic Center Vaccine Clinic](#)

Mask Mandate Lifted: As noted in previous communications, the Kent County Health Department Mask Mandate is lifted as of January 3rd. All students K-12 are no longer required to wear masks at school as a general rule. At this time, masking is a parent's/student's choice. There are limited conditions where masks are required such as returning to school before the end of a quarantine period, yet these are rare cases.

Future COVID Plans: Needless to say, yet our school's future response plans to COVID-19 are unpredictable. We ask that parents, students and staff understand that we must remain flexible and respond to the needs of the school community as they occur. Please be reminded that it is the position of our school that we remain in face to face learning whenever possible. If it requires adding prevention and/or mitigation strategies to remain in school, then that is what will be done. Communications from the office will be sent as appropriate.

FLU Notice: please make note that we have seen several documented cases of influenza in the school community in the past two weeks. We are told this is also the case in the Kent County Area as well as the State of Michigan in general.

Holiday Building Schedule

School and Office are Closed: The school will be closed during the holiday break. If something from the office is needed, please send an e-mail to office@byroncentercharter.org. We will conduct periodic message checks. During the break our facilities manager, Mr. Boersma, will be organizing floor and carpet cleaning.

Music and Band Programs: Since we were unable to hold our traditional winter live music and band performances, the school video taped the programs this past week. It was not easy, as there have been numerous students and staff in and out of school due to illness, close contacts etc... Nonetheless, we expect to have the videos edited and prepared for distribution sometime over the break. We will release the videos to all families as soon as they are ready. ENJOY !!

School Calendar Items

Friday, 12/17, last day prior to holiday break

12/18 through 1/2, Christmas Break

Monday, 1/3, School Resumes

Wednesday-Friday, 1/19 thru 1/21

- Half days of school-11:15 and 11:20 Exit Times
- Mid-High Exams
- Grab-N-Go Lunches
- No After School Programs

Friday, 1/21 End of First Semester/2nd Marking Period

BCCS Community Support

BUIST Community Center: It's official, BCCS donated 1,442 pounds of food to the Buist Community Center this year.....simply amazing.... That is the most food ever donated by our school. This will literally help hundreds of families in need.

Hats , Mittens and Gloves Giving Tree: Our school collected over 45 hats, mittens and/or gloves to donate to local families through In the Image, a local non-profit community service center. Your continued support is appreciated.

GOOD JOB, WELL DONE BCCS

In Closing

I take this opportunity to wish all BCCS Families a safe, Happy and Joyous Holiday Season. I hope that all families make time to celebrate the many wonders this season brings with family and friends. Safe travels for those traveling, and we look forward to the student's return in 2022.

W/ Care, Peace, Happiness and Joy....Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mark Kasmer

BCCS CAO