



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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1/7/22

Dear Parents /Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

On behalf of all BCCS Faculty and Staff, Happy New Year! I hope that all of you took full advantage of and truly enjoyed the holiday season over the past 2 weeks. WOW ...2022....it also is hard to believe we are within 3 weeks of the end of the first semester for the 2021-22 school year. Even though the COVID-related disruptions and distractions continued during the first half of the school year, our small but mighty school continues to adapt to meet the challenges and needs of our learners and families. While there is certainly a substantial amount of media coverage and general rhetoric about COVID, I again ask our families to be flexible and understanding as there will likely be continued changes and adjustments in the normal routines at school. Please know your cooperation and support is needed and appreciated. Below is current information and guidance relating to COVID-19 for BCCS students and families.

BCCS COVID Guidance as of January 3rd, 2022

Masking

- Recommended but Optional
 - Out of an abundance of caution, all BCCS students and staff are recommended to wear masks until the disposition of the pandemic changes.
- Required/Mandatory
 - when students attend school during quarantine period (individual basis)

Quarantine and Isolation

- BCCS will follow the guidance of the MDHHS/KCHD

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations are recommended for all eligible BCCS Staff and Students

Testing

- Rapid Tests are available at school
 - parent requests
 - as contingency for unvaccinated students to remain in school during quarantine period
- BCCS has signed-up to participate in state's Back-Pack Program: rapid tests made are available for BCCS parents to have in homes (details will be forthcoming)

Reporting and Contact Tracing

- Schools are required to report positive cases of students and staff

- Schools are required to conduct contact tracing protocols for positive cases in school

*****Please Note: School COVID protocols are subject to change as based upon county, state, and/or federal requirements/guidance and/or rates of COVID among BCCS students and staff *****

Related and Useful Information :

[KCHD Clarification on Recent Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines](#)

[CDC Information aboutOMICRON Variant](#)

Character Traits in Action

This month we are celebrating the values of care and compassion. Each week we will encourage students to look for ways to care for others and help people in need. Last month our students and staff donated winter items to In the Image, and we are to hold a much needed Blood Drive in February. We call upon parents and guardians to help our school grow students' awareness and understanding of these two important character traits. If you see care and compassion demonstrated in action, name it, and stress the potential good that comes from the event with your child(ren). Finally, we are all called to look for opportunities to model care and compassion in our daily lives. Your consideration and active participation is appreciated.

Items From The Office

School Closings Communications: Effective immediately, all BCCS school closure information will be posted to woodtv.com, the WOODTV app and social media sites (WOODTV8, WOODTV4 and WXSP). Parents can also sign-up to be alerted by text or email through the [WOODTV Closing and Delays](#) (scroll down to weather tools on the right side).

REMIND: All families are highly encouraged to sign-up for the REMIND text message system. BCCS uses this system for multiple communication purposes. Every family received the method to register in the annual packet of information folder, or you can email Mrs. Boersma at kboersma@byroncentercharter.org and request to have her set-up the application for you....be sure to include the phone number you wish to receive the text to.

Annual Education Report: After the Board of Education approval in January, BCCS will post the 2021-22 Annual Education Report (AER) to the school's website. The AER provides a series of informational items regarding the schools performance including student assessment, state accountability and teacher quality. Please be reminded that due to the pandemic, there is limited data from the 2019-20 school year (IE no state assessment data) and schools were not issued any new accountability designations the past 2 years. The report meets the state and federal statutory requirements and is intended for the awareness and understanding of the members of our school community and the general public. Finally, BCCS parents and the general public can also obtain school performance information and compare schools through the [MISCHOOldata Parent Dashboard](#). For the most part BCCS continues to perform above state and county averages and that of schools. Good Job, Well Done!

School Related Information

MidHigh Exams: BCCS administer mid-high exams Wednesday-Friday (Jan. 19-21). The following communicates the schedule .

- Wednesday -Friday half days (11:15-20 dismissal)
 - * Wednesday 1st and 6th hrs.
 - * Thursday 2nd and 5th hrs.
 - * Friday 3rd and 4th hrs.
- Grab-n-Go lunches are available
- KCTC Students are expected to attend classes

Report cards will go out the following Friday.

Benchmark Testing: Over the next month all K-8 students will be administered the NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) growth assessments. Growth reports will be shared with parents during spring parent/teacher conferences. Additionally all K-3 students and students receiving Title I services in grades 4 and 5 will be administered individual Fountas and Pinnell (F&P) tests to monitor reading growth and program effectiveness.

Counselor's Chair

Ski Club/Ski Club Cards – Discounts available at Bittersweet Ski Resort for the season. Purchase a club card for a one-time fee of \$27 for students and adults to receive discounts on lift tickets and rentals, *plus two free lessons for students*. The club card gives you access to almost half price tickets during the allowed times. Available for those seven years and older. Friends and family are eligible too!

- The Ski Club registration form with details is available [here](#).
- Contact Holly Cravino (hcravino@byroncentercharter.org) with any questions.

Nurses Corner

Mask Wearing: Just a reminder that wearing a mask in school is a recommended practice in mitigating COVID including the OMICRON Variant. According to recent studies by the ACGIH COVID Task Force, it takes a mere 15 minutes to transmit an infectious dose of COVID when unmasked, yet the time is about doubled when both the infected and non-infected persons are wearing masks. When wearing surgical masks the time increases by approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ and grows approx. 4x longer wearing non-fitted N95 masks. It is important to know, the study was conducted with unvaccinated people. Wearing masks continues to be a recommended strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID.

KCHD Masking and Vaccination Update: The Kent County Health Department recommends urging families to have students/staff wear masks in school, stay home when sick, get tested if sick, and get vaccinated. Testing is still available at our Kent County school testing sites. Here is the link to our scheduler with updated clinic times. The clinics are all open for at least 2.5 hours a day Monday through Friday.

<https://bit.ly/kentschoolscalendar>
[Schedule Appointment with Kent County Health Department](#)

School Calendar Update

Cancellations and Postponements: Due to continued recommendations/guidelines for school activity as it relates to COVID-19, the following events will be postponed indefinitely:

Jan 28: Game Night
February 4: Babysitting Night
February 18: Daddy Daughter Dance
February 19: Winter Winter Formal Dance

Student Recognitions

December Student of the Month

K-2 Xander Lang
3-5 Adam Palasek
6-8 Domenic Stratton
9-12 Mollie DeVries

December Character Trait Recognitions/ Joyfulness

Kindergarten: Amaryllis Matthyse, Josiah Miller

1st Grade: Grant Smith, Camden Bunnell

2nd Grade: Luna Noffke, Simon Apotheker

3rd Grade: Brandon Isenhoff, Fiona Bolt

4th Grade: Daelene Jager, Luke Kaechele

5th Grade: Aidan Heintz, John Duncan, Joshua Hoort

Middle School: Hanna Peterson, Micah Thompson, Chase Smith, Ella Gregorski, Lia Franson, Ivan Finch, Joel Garcia Cardoza, Emily Uminn, Ellie VanDussen, Dominic Stratton, Grace Duncan, Rebekah Rocheleur, Mackenzie Hollis,

High School: Abbi DeWit, Brianna Hoort, Sam Solis, Hannah Schneider, Sarah Solis, Logan Timmer, Sam Burman, Emily Shrontz, Jack Syswerda

Ship Shape Awards

week of ...

11/29= 1st Grade

12/6= 2nd Grade

12/13= 1st Grade

1/3= Kindergarten

Good Job, Well Done Students !!!

In Closing,

As a recipient of COVID now a second time, I continue to stress the importance of doing what we can to mitigate the spread of the virus in the school community. While most students seem to handle the virus pretty well, for us older, perhaps more compromised folks, not so well. I can tell you first hand the illness and the residual effects of the COVID illness is no picnic. Since the start of the Holiday break

until today, BCCS had 2 staff and 3 students who contracted COVID, and 16 students considered close contact either in the home or school. That represents just under 10% of our school population. Please keep communicating with the school if there is any COVID-related activity in the home, we will do the same from school. While I recognize the positive case and close contact announcements from school get old, I am pretty safe in saying this would be a whole lot worse if we were not communicating. Your consideration and response is recognized and appreciated.

W/ Care,
Mark

