



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardian of BCCS K-12 Students,

Happy February folks. We are now a couple weeks into the second half of the year. Historically this is the best time of year for growth in student learning. Let's all work together to make this a reality for our students this year.

I want to apologize for the communication error this past Wednesday. Old habits die hard..... as I submitted the school closing information to the wrong url address. As a result the posting was made to FOX 17. I was late in getting the closing posted to begin with... and to add insult to injury.... after taking corrective action, I did not catch that the new system has a built-in default to a Monday. That is why the initial post on WOODTV8 showed closed Monday. What a mess.... and I am sorry. Won't happen again. Just to be clear, there are two primary ways to receive information for school closure at BCCS: use the REMIND app (highly recommended) and/or it will be posted to the WOOD TV app and social media sites (Wood TV8, WOTV4 and WXSP).

Additionally, there were questions about why we closed yesterday, Thursday. This was a difficult decision as the line of significant snowfall literally was where our school is located. Please note, at this time the majority of our school population lives in the Wayland area. All Barry and Allegan schools closed as did Caledonia and Dutton Christian in Kent County. While the roads were fine for those north of the building, the roads south of the school were a mess and snow covered (i.e. Wayland recorded 11 inches of snow). The decision to close was for the welfare and safety of all BCCS students, staff and families.

## Positive Character Traits in Action

During the month of February, BCCS highlights HONESTY and TRUSTWORTHINESS. WOW...are these big ! Although completely different, trustworthiness and honesty seem to fit well together. People often see honesty as the foundation for building trust. Conversely, if you are trustworthy, people generally view you as a reliable and honest person.

I am of the belief that being truly honest is very difficult. In my experience with children, it is more on the verge of impossible. I cannot count the times that I have used the term, 'through the eyes of a (fill in the blank) year old' with parents (meaning), that is not quite how it went...

At any rate, as members of BCCS we are called to look for and recognize acts of honesty and trustworthiness. I hope you share the opinion that helping students grow these traits truly help build a responsible and healthy adult. A person who is often considered the 'salt of the earth'.

## News From the Office

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT from GVSU!!!

Effective the fall of 2022, any student graduating from a GVSU authorized charter school is eligible to receive a \$4,000 scholarship per year (up to \$16K) while attending GVSU. A formal announcement will be coming soon.

Your help please....

Use of School Technology: please help monitor the use of school technology. Simply put, students are to use school devices for educational purposes exclusively. If the usage is not directly connected to an assigned task from school staff, the school device should not be used. This includes any form of social media, gaming, video/music downloads etc.... This will continue to be addressed at school, yet to be effective, your support home is needed.

COVID Plan Update: as a reminder, the following is the [BCCS revised COVID Plan](#) shared with this past week. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions and/or if rapid testing is desired for your students. The school will also post all Mitigation and Prevention Plan changes to our website under [ABOUT US](#) along with the current and historical COVID Data Sheets.

## School News

### Mid High Band Competitions

Solo and Ensemble to be held Sat. Feb 12: BCCS HS Students Michael Anderson and Ian Emmelkamp will be competing

MS and HS Festival will be held at Godwin Heights on Feb 24.

- 7th and 8th Grade in the AM (8:15-12:45)
- HS in the late AM and early afternoon (10:00-3:00)

\*\*\*\*Good Luck Mrs. Holstege and Students!\*\*\*\*

Blood Drive: The local blood bank is in serious need of help. Our school is planning to help support this serious issue in our community.

**Blood drive signup is now available!** We have several students and staff committed to giving blood on **February 9th between 1 and 5 p.m.** We would **love** to have as much parent/family participation as possible. **Please consider giving. To sign up, go to [https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/144447](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/144447)** Appointment preferred yet walk-ins are welcome, and COVID prevention strategies are in effect (please mask and distance).

2021-22 Annual Education Report (AER): All parents/guardians are encouraged to review the [BCCS 2021-22 Annual Education Report](#) as it provides the public information about our school's improvement plans and performance over the past two years. There are two other performance reports cited in the AER that are also good indicators of our school's academic performance:

- [School Grades](#)
- [School Index Report](#) (note: no school reports for past two years due to COVID)

Feel free to send questions to Mr. Kasmer ([mkasmer@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:mkasmer@byroncentercharter.org))

What does the data tell us?: The AER, MI School Grades & School Index and the recent Special Education Assessment Data Portrait indicate our 'Small But Mighty' school continues to outperform our cohorts. In general, the average BCCS student proficiency and growth scores and rankings on state and national tests continue to outperform county, state, and national averages. While we have areas to improve, a Good Job, Well Done is in order.

### School Calendar of Events

**\*\*\*\* No Lunch Service on Monday, February 14....students must bring sack lunches\*\*\*\***

Jan 31-Feb 4 NWEA K-8 Assessments Completed

Feb 1-8 Candy Gram Orders

- Flower \$1
- Candy \$1
- Both \$2

Feb 7 Muffin Monday Delivered

Feb 9 Count Day, please make sure your child is at school, if they are sick please make sure you call them into the office.

- Blood Drive

Feb 9,16 and 23, KCHD Life Skills Training grades 3 and 4

Feb 10 & 24 MS Book Club

- PTO Meeting 3:30

Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day

- Elementary Valentine Card Exchange
- Candy Grams Delivered
- No Lunch Service

Feb 21 No School President's Day/ Mid-Winter Break

Feb 25 Hat Day \$1

Tu-Thursdays 3-4 PM

- Jazz Band
- Mid High Extended Day Tutoring

### Canceled Events due to COVID

Feb 4th Babysitting Night

Feb 18 Daddy Daughter Dance

Feb. 19 Winter Formal

## **Nurses Corner**

National Dental Month: February is [National Children's Dental Health Month](#). It is estimated 51 million school hours are lost due to oral health issues . Oral health concerns are rated as the most chronic disease concerns in school-aged children. Please contact Mrs. Linquist ([tlindquist@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:tlindquist@byroncentercharter.org) ) if you need help or assistance with providers or related concerns.

## **Student Recognitions and Awards**

### January Student of The Month

K-2 Katie Gonzalez

3-5 Caden Searl

6-8 Annika Emmelkamp

9-12 Sarah Solis

\*\*\*\* Good Job, Well Done, Students of the Month! \*\*\*\*

### January Character Trait Recognitions (Compassion and Caring)

K Jensen Braun, Kent Smith

1 Brandon Harran, Jonah Arthur

2 Jayden Leon, Zach Miller, Luna Gillikin, Gia Hockenberry

3 Deven Boelema, Chase Smith

4 Rylan Hainley, Addison Cox, Gracie Pike

5 Bella Stogsdill, Laura Shrontz, Sorren Gillikin

6-8 Annika Emmelkamp, Ava Syswerda, Gracie Duncan, Xavier Sheele-Reys, Abigail Uminn, MacKenzie Hollis, Ava Syswerda, Jocelyne Brown, Bailey Houghmaster, Rebekah Rocheleau, Hanna Peterson, Elina Wiersma

9-12 Christa Frank, Emily Shrontz, Gracie Leys, Abbi DeWit, Ginger Bosscher, Lauren Lauver, Samantha Anderson, Kinsley Duncan, Paul Hollis, Sam Burman, Lizzie Brandow, Joz VanDussen, Tate Anderson

\*\*\*\* We appreciate the demonstration of our core values\*\*\*\*

### SHIP-Shape Awards for January

Week 1 Kindergarten

Week 2 First Grade

Week 3 Third Grade

Week 4 First Grade

Week 5 Second Grade

\*\*\*\*Thanks for taking such good care of our school!\*\*\*\*

## Mid High Honor Roll

### All A Honors

#### Middle School:

Ruth Apotheker, Tori DeVries, Grace Duncan, Ava Syswerda, Abigail Uminn, Ellis VanDussen

#### High School:

Sarah Buchanan, Molly DeVries, Ella Franson, Daniel Jones, Gracie Leys, Sadie Uminn, Joselyn VanDussen

### A/B Honors

#### Middle School:

Kinzie Anderson, Nola Bolt, Liam Borsk, Rylee Boss, Jocelyne Brown, Lacey Elliott, Annika Emmelkamp, Lia Franson, Ella Gregorski, Zachery Gregorski, Parker Harrison, Haley Hartnett, Rhys Houda, Bayley Houghmaster, McKenna Lang, Lieflynn Miller, Cian O'Neal, Kade O'Neal, Amelia Pike, Lucas Russ, Dominic Stratton, Emily Uminn, Cole Verstrate, Elina Wiersma

#### High School:

Mary Jane Anderson, Tate Anderson, Elizabeth Brandow, Elijah Coffey, Matthew Conover, Nick Dies, Ian Emmelkamp, Olivia Gregorski, Hannah Schneider, Logan Timmer

\*\*\*\* Congratulations Honor Students! \*\*\*\*

## News you Can Use

GVSU and GR Public Museum Roger That: Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Public Museum will be co-hosting the sixth annual **Roger That!** conference on the weekend of **February 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – and we have wonderful opportunities for your students of all ages to participate! More details at [www.gvsu.edu/rogerthat](http://www.gvsu.edu/rogerthat).

Internet Affordability Program From the FCC: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched the [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#), a benefit program now open for enrollment that helps households afford broadband. Eligible households may now apply to receive up to a \$30 per month discount off the price of their service and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. You can [check eligibility on the ACP's enrollment page](#).

### In Closing....

All signs are indicating that, for the most part, COVID may be coming to a close in the not too distant future. We are told the peak in transmissions has occurred and we should see transmission rates and hospitalizations decrease substantially in the next few weeks. In the meantime, please continue to work with our school so that we mitigate the impact on the student body and staff. We do have rapid tests available. If your child has symptoms, consider contacting the office and we can administer the test. If there is COVID in the home, please let the office know. In turn the school will continue to communicate close contacts and general COVID activity in the school. I am grateful for your continued cooperation and support. We look forward to the day when we can hold the normal activities that help make this place such a unique and desirable school environment.

Again, your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

W/ Care, Mark Kasmer, **BCCS CAO**