



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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April 2022 Newsletter 4/11/22

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS Students,

Greetings and welcome back. I trust that everyone had an enjoyable and restful break, and are ready to get back with the BCCS Educational Community.

As previously noted, at this time our school is preparing to administer the state summative assessments. Most state assessments begin this week and run through mid-May. Below is information about the tests themselves, a schedule of testing for next week and some helpful hints to support the preparation of the students for testing. The most valuable actions in the home include:

- Be aware of test dates and what tests will be administered for your children
- Encourage your children to give a good faith effort
- Engage your children in conversation about the tests
- Assure your children get proper rest and a nutritious breakfast

As always, your consideration and support is appreciated.

Testing Information for Parents

- [MDE Assessment Website](#) OEAA website
- [MI Guide to State Testing](#) Details of State Assessments 2022
- [M-Step Online Sample Tests](#) Practice online tests items and test tools
- [Paper Pencil Sample Tests](#) Examples of test items in paper pencil format
- [Sample New Science Items](#) Explains new science test format with item examples
- [Sample Writing Prompts and Students Responses](#) Examples of test items and student response samples

Schedule of Test Administration for the Week of 4/11:

State tests begin for grade 8-11 the week of April 11th. This includes the PSAT, SAT, MI-ACCESS WorkKeys. The schedule of assessments include:

Wednesday, 4/13

- SAT with Writing Grade 11
- MI Access Grade 11 (designated Students Only)
- PSAT Grades 8,9 and 10

***** No School Seniors WED, 4/13: [Senior College and Career Readiness Day](#)

Thursday, 4/14

- WorkKeys Grade 11
- MI-ACCESS Test Continued
- PSAT Cont' (for designated Students w/ Accommodations Only)

PLEASE NOTE: Parents will receive the weekly testing schedule in an update sent by the office on the preceding Friday....please review.

Positive Character Traits

The character traits are considered to be our school's shared values. They are celebrated each month, and they are intended to help guide our actions within and outside the school community. Whether it be your child, another student, a staff member, or a fellow parent/guardian, let's look for opportunities to recognize and affirm these traits in action.

The April BCCS character traits highlight FAIRNESS and COURAGE. Fairness means *impartial and just treatment or behavior without favoritism or discrimination*. I think this may be harder for people to do than one might think, especially young people when being fair may not be popular among peers in certain situations. An act of fairness combines honesty with equity, and often a little courage is needed. Courage is a person's ability to do the right thing when they know it is not going to be easy. Most of us view courage in the physical sense like bravery in battle. However, there are other types of courage that play a huge role in schools including social courage, intellectual courage and moral courage. From a student's viewpoint, I think fairness is often having the courage to do what is right.....not always the easiest road for sure! At any rate, as members of BCCS, we are called to look for and recognize acts of fairness and courage in the school community.

From the Office

2022-23 Enrollment

- Re-Enrollment Forms: Due Friday April 15 to secure a spot for the 2022-23 School Year
- BCCS Enrollment Referral Initiative: check out the opportunity for referring families to BCCS!

Kindergarten Round-up: Tuesday, April 19 from 6:30 7:30 (see [BCCS Open House](#))

- Student and parent(s) only
- Parents of enrolled students and those interested in enrolling students in BCCS Kindergarten class of 2022-23 are welcome

Open House: Thursday, April 28 from 6:30-7:30pm (see [BCCS Open House](#))

- 2022-23 New families to school
- Families interested in learning about school

Your Help Please.....

Stakeholder Surveys: As part of the School Improvement process, the building SI Team asks that at least 1 parent in each family complete an annual School Climate survey. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

LINK to BCCS Parent Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCCSParentSurvey2022>

COVID Update: There does not appear to be a spike in COVID cases after the break: there is one known case at this time. As a result, the school will be relaxing many of the COVID Mitigation and Safety Measures.

- Mid High schedules will return to normal
- Students will be able to meet in cross-grade level groups
- Distancing requirements will be lifted
- Students may attend field trips/experiences
- Most masking requirements are lifted
- Students will be able to hold indoor cross grade-level extra curricular activities
- School will hold spring indoor events: Band/Music Concerts, Graduation, Assemblies etc...

MI Read by Grade Three Law: The Michigan Department of Education announced that the Read by Grade Three Law is in effect this year. In 2006 the MI Legislature passed PA 306, joining other 29 states that had retention policies in place.

- Rules: students must have a minimum score (1253) on the 3rd Grade ELA M-STEP, or have demonstrated reading proficiency through state approved alternate assessment (NWEA MAP Test), or demonstrated through a classroom portfolio (IRIP).
- Exemptions: there are 'good cause exemptions' under specific conditions:
 - Students with IEP/504 Plans
 - EL (English Learner) fewer than 3 years instruction
 - Previous Retention
 - Students had been enrolled in current school for less than two years, but did not receive an individual reading plan/intervention
 - Superintendent grants a good cause exemption after successful petition by parent/legal guardian
- Resources through the MDE
 - [Facts for Families: What is the Read by Grade 3 Law?](#)
 - [Good Cause Exemption Process](#)
 - [Read by Grade 3 Video](#)
 - [Parent Tip Video](#)
 - [MDE Read by Grade Three Website](#)

**** Please note: More information will be forthcoming as received from the State of Michigan

School News

MS Dance: The Student Council and the PTO will be assisting with a MS dance

- Date and Time: Saturday, April 23, from 6-9 pm
- Location BCCS GYM
- Requests for snacks will be forthcoming from PTO

HS Prom Committee Pop Can Drive: The Prom Committee will be hosting a pop can drive this month to help offset the costs of Prom tickets.

- Pop Can Drive: April 18-22

Calendar of Events

Wednesday April 13

- State Assessments
 - Grade 8-10 PSAT
- No School Seniors

Wednesday, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 and 5/4 Cross Country Race at Richmond Park 4:30pm

Thursday, 4/14: State Assessments Workkeys Grade 11

Tuesday, 4/19: Kindergarten Roundup 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Saturday, 4/23: Spring Dance 6-8 grades, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursday, 4/28: New Family Open House 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 5/4: Blood Drive 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Friday, 5/6/22: Walk-a-thon 2:00 - 3:00pm

News From the.....

Counselor's Chair

1. Class of 2022/Seniors: Just a reminder for seniors to make good use of the College and Career Readiness and Preparation Day on Wednesday
2. Parents: Please engage in the requested activities to help prepare your students for state testing. Your role is critical in putting value to the test.
3. Summer School /Programs: Information summer programming offered through BCCS including HS credit recovery courses and tutoring, summer school for early on learners, and home-based academic practice will be coming-out toward the end of the month...stay tuned!!

Nurses Corner

Spring allergy season runs from late March through early June in Michigan. Tree and flower pollens are released into the air and can cause misery to those who are allergic to them. Here are some tips to help reduce suffering:

- Remain indoors as much as possible; pollen is usually highest in the morning.
- Take a shower after outdoor activities to remove pollen from your skin.
- Keep windows closed both at home and in autos.
- Try electrostatic filters instead of fiberglass intake filters

There are options available other than 'shutting out the world.' New prescription antihistamines, decongestants, and anti-inflammatory medications can alleviate the severity of allergic rhinitis symptoms while having fewer side effects than medications of years past.

And finally, there is desensitization through immunotherapy (allergy shots). This method of treatment is effective in most individuals who suffer from severe allergies, and offers a lasting remedy to this seasonal problem.

Student Awards and Recognitions

3rd Quarter Mid High Honor Roll

Middle School all A Honors: *Kinzie Anderson, Ruth Apotheker, Nolan Bolt, Grace Duncan, Max Miller, Ava Syswerda, Abigail Uminn, Emily Uminn, Cole Verstrate, Elina Wiersma*

Middle School A/B Honors: *Liam Borsk, Rylee Bos, Jocelyne Brown, Tori DeVries, Annika Emmelkamp, Lia Franson, Ella Gregorski, Zack Gregorski, Parker Harrison, Rhys Houda, Bayley Houghmaster, McKenna Lang, Kylee Mulder, Cian O'Neal, Kade O'Neal, Rebekah Rocheleau, Ellie VanDussen, Titus Walker*

High School all A Honors: *Mary Jane Anderson, Sarah Buchanan, Ian Emmelkamp, Ella Franson, Lauren Lauver, Hannah Schneider, Sadie Uminn, Joselyn VanDussen, Gabriella Verburg*

High School A/B Honors: *Samantha Anderson, Tate Anderson, Elizabeth Brandow, Elijah Coffey, Molly DeVries, Nick Dies, Olivia Gregorski, Daniel Jones, Gracie Leys, Logan Timmer*

Excellent work, students !

March Students Of the Month

- K-2 Luna Gillikin
- 3-5 Brandon Isenhoff
- 6-8 Lacey Elliott
- 9-12 Lizzy Brandow

Congratulations.... Good Job, Well Done!

March Character Awards

- K - Vivienne Rocha, Caden Harran
- 1st - Soraya VanNoy, Grant Smith
- 2nd - Ava Leys, Natalia Rinvelt, Jayden Leon, Ayden Arreguin
- 3rd - Allyson Houghmaster, Maxwell Brown
- 4th - Isaac Higley, Abigail Rocheleau
- 5th - Anna Higley, Serenity Malecki, Riley Balfort
- 6-8 - Kaiden Coffey, Miriam Apotheker, Elina Wiersma, Sophia Hockenberry, Abby Uminn, Haley Hartnett, Natalie Searl, Ava Syswerda, Baylee Houghmaster, MacKenzie Hollis, Tori DeVries, Rhys Houda, Emily Uminn, Kylee Mulder, Dominic Straton,
- 9-12 - Ginger Bosscher, Hannah Schneider, Ian Emmelkamp, Molly DeVries, Gabi Verburg, Lauren Lauver, Sam Burman, Emily Shrontz, Annika Emmelkamp, Kinsley Duncan, Joselyn VanDussen, Matthew Conover

Thanks for demonstrating positive character in action!

Ship Shape Awards:

- 2/31 =1st grd
- 3/7 = 2nd grd
- 3/14 = 2nd grd
- 3/21=1st grd
- 3/28= 2nd grd

Thanks for taking care of our beautiful school!!

Festival Of the Arts 2022 (FOA) : After the past 2 years, it was so very cool to have an in-person Festival Of the Arts (FOA) this year. The visual and performing art entries were outstanding.

- FOA Mid-High Winners: To receive \$25 gift-card of choice
 - Performing Arts: Bayley Houghmaster and Rebekah Rocheleau with their duet, "Truth be Told"
 - Visual Arts: Joselyn VanDussen with her picture titled, " I Know My Value"
- For viewing parent/family members... See
 - FOA YouTube Videos:[LINK](#)
 - Still pictures posted to the BCCS Facebook [FB LINK](#) and Instagram [IG LIN](#)

In Closing

I am so happy to see us transitioning away from many of the COVID mitigation and safety strategies. Two years of having to plan around COVID-related regulatory and guidance authorities has been both time consuming and, frankly, a bit frustrating. However, we have all learned a great deal as a result of the pandemic, and if we ever had to manage a similar situation in the future we will have this learning experience to draw from.

I speak for the entire BCCS Faculty and Staff in thanking all students, and families for bearing with us over the past 2 years. I also want to recognize the teachers, teacher assistants, our nurse aide, Mr. and Mrs. Boersma and Mrs. Ayers for their care and support to the BCCS students and families. This group continuously and tirelessly worked through a variety of unfamiliar and tall-ordered contingencies related to the pandemic.

Finally, we have one quarter of the school-year left, Let's Finish Strong! MK