



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

9930 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Mark Kasmer, Principal  
Phone: (616) 878-4852 - Fax: (616) 878-7196 Email: office@byroncentercharter.org

May 3, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

Once again, it is hard to believe we are in the final 6 weeks of the 2021-22 school year. While it is absolutely wonderful to not have to deal with the pandemic, it is a busy time of year in the school. We call on parents to help us to finish strong by sustaining your engagement in your children's education. Please help to assure students are on time and prepared for school each day, be aware of the school happenings, and support your children with accomplishing the expectations of the school. Your continued support is essential to an effective and productive end to the school year.

## **BCCS Character Traits Celebrated**

In the months of May and June, our school community celebrates the character traits of *Loyalty and Citizenship*. It is healthy to be loyal to something greater than oneself such as your faith, your family, your friends, your school etc..... While the origin of the word has to do with a legal contract, true loyalty in today's terms comes from the heart. As part of our school's Social Studies curriculum, citizenship is taught at every grade level. . It is truly important that our youth are informed, engaged and responsible citizens. From communities large and small, good citizenship is primary to a well-functioning community, and respect between members is most important so all are treated fairly and as equals. At BCCS we are a small but mighty community of learners. So, during the next month, let us find ways to show our loyalty and citizenship to the members of our school community.

## **Teacher Appreciation**

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and Tuesday is National Teacher Appreciation Day. BCCS is fortunate to have a dedicated and committed staff. As a parent, I believe we understand the value of teaching children. Teaching children and young adults is noble, respected, and perhaps one of the most difficult professions. Please join me in celebrating our teachers and teacher assistants this week. On behalf of all members of the BCCS educational Community, I thank each teacher and teacher assistant for their dedication and service to the students of Byron Center Charter School.

## **Teacher Career Announcements**

In the recent past, we learned that two of our current teachers would be leaving our school at the end of the year. Mrs. Whittaker announced that she would be retiring at the end of the year while Mrs. Stowers announced that she will be moving to Tri-Unity Christian School next year. Needless to say we will miss both teachers. Please make a point to thank them for their service to Byron Center Charter School, and join us in wishing them well in their future endeavors.

**Parent/Guardian Surveys:** We have received little response to the Parent School Culture and Climate Surveys this past week. This is an important aspect of our school improvement process. We ask that one parent per household complete the survey by the end of the week (5/6). Thank You!

## Student Testing Continued...

During this week and the next two weeks, students will be taking end of year tests. These tests are required of all students and schools as they are the primary measures used for school accreditation and to rate schools in the State of Michigan. See [School Index](#) and [School Grades](#).

Your continued awareness and support with student testing is valued and appreciated. Each week, the office will post the next week's assessments in the weekly update. We ask for your help with preparation activities by assuring students:

- get plenty of rest
- eat a good breakfast
- are present and on-time for the tests

Please speak to your children about giving their best effort, and take an active interest in their results.

This week state and national tests include:

Tuesday:

M-STEP 3rd grade math, 5th and 7th grade ELA and 8th grade science  
NWEA 2nd grade

Wednesday:

M-STEP 5th & 7th grade ELA

Thursday:

M-STEP 5th & 7th grade math, 8th grade social studies  
NWEA 2nd grade

\*\*\*\*\* Your consideration and support is appreciated\*\*\*\*\*

**Summer Programming:** Our school plans to have summer programs for all levels. The in-house summer programs are by teacher recommendation only, and will target students who are not consistently performing at grade level. The plan for recommended students include:

- K-3 Recommended In-Person Summer School: 16 Days 8:30-11:30
  - Extended Year June 20-23 and June 27-30
  - Early Start Aug. 1-4 and Aug 8-11
- 4-8 Recommended GRASP packets in Reading and/or Math with Tutoring: same dates as K-3 Summer Program
- HS Credit Recovery Courses with Tutoring:
  - Scheduled weekly dates Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-11:00
  - Exclude July 4- 15
- K-8 Parent Request GRASP : The Parents of any student in grades K-8 may request GRASP Booklets in Math and or reading. BCCS will pay for ½ the cost of the Booklets and parents are responsible to pay for ½ the cost of the booklets in order to receive the booklets. Booklets must be turned in by August 12 to participate in the Summer Success Award.

\*\*\* Information will be sent out by May 20\*\*\*

## Upcoming Events Calendar next two weeks

5/3 Tuesday

- Girls on the run 3:15-4:10
- Mid-High tutoring 3-4:00
- Jazz band 3-4:00

5/4 Wednesday

- 8th grade field trip to GVSU 8:40-2:30
- MS cross country, Richmond Park 4:30-5:30 pm
- Blood Drive 1-5 pm in gym

- Donation takes about an hour. Walk-ins are welcome, yet appointments are preferred. Sign up at [LINK](#)

#### 5/5 Thursday

- Girls on the run 3:15-4:45
- Mid-High tutoring
- Jazz band

#### 5/6 Friday

- Golden Eagle awards assembly 8:15
- Walk-A-Thon 1:45-3:00
- Mid-High ultimate frisbee 3:15-4:45

#### 5/9 Monday

- PTO Meeting 3:30 Gym (Rescheduled)

#### 5/10 Tuesday

- Board Meeting
- Mid-High Tutoring
- Jazz Band
- Girls on the Run 3:15-4:45

#### 5/11 Wednesday

- Mid High Progress Reports go home
- GVSU Principals Meeting, Lansing

#### 5/12 Thursday

- Spring Band Concert 7-8:00 pm Godwin Heights
- Mid High Tutoring 3-4:00pm
- No Jazz Band/ Canceled
- Girls on the run 3:15-4:10

#### 5/13 Friday

- Transitions Program Field Trip
- Mid-High ultimate Frisbee
- Walkathon Make-up Date 1:45-3:00

#### 5/14 Saturday

- Prom 7-10 PM Studio 18

### Senior Activities

- Senior Tribute @ Golden Eagle Awards Assembly
  - Senior Final Walk Monday 5/20
  - Graduation Thursday 5/26 7pm Corinth Reformed Church
  - Senior Party/Event, Friday May 27th, Michigan Adventure
- \*\*\* Remember to send pictures for Slideshow and Ceiling Tile information will be forthcoming for those interested\*\*\*

### Student Recognitions

#### Fairness and Courage

Yaretzi Rivera, Emily Higley, Aeris Leyrer, Brandon Harran, Ayden Arreguin, Gia Hockenberry, Bridget Lytle, Erika Harran, Carson Veldheer, Lucas O'Neal, Lexi Beverwyk, Za'Khi Green, Micah Thompson, Luke Kaechele, Cody VanDussen, Torrance Heintz, Cooper Kruger, Ginger Bosscher, Brianna Hoort, Hanna Peterson, Elina Wiersma, Rebekah Rocheleau, Braedon Duncan, Kylee Mulder, Lia Franson, Amanda Boorsma, Max Miller, Baruch Walker, Matt Nixon, Lauren Lauver, Allia Trierweiler, Colton Pitch, Izabell Diamond, Lelie Miller, Lizzy Brandow, Izzy Diamond, Molly DeVries, Sarah Buchanan

### **Spring Band Awards**

Congrats to Mrs. Holstege and the BCCS Bands. Several students and bands received awards for their efforts and maintaining the BCCS tradition of exceptional musicianship.

The BCCS Band Spring awards include:

#### MS District Festival

- Trio Grace Duncan, Haley Hartnett and Ava Syswerda/ I Superior Rating
- Bradon Duncan, Grace Duncan, and Liam Borsk/ II Excellent Rating

District Festival - Jazz Combo - Mary Anderson, Michael Anderson, Elijah Coffey, Xavier Coffey, Ian Emmelkamp, Colton Pitsch, Sadie Uminn/ II Excellent Rating

- Musicianship Awards given to Mary Anderson and Michael Anderson
- Keith Hall Summer Drum Camp Scholarship to Michael Anderson

Good Job, Well Done Students!!!!

### **In Closing:**

As always, your awareness and understanding of school events and academic expectations is a critical part of our school's effectiveness. I encourage parents/guardians to contact the office, or staff member if you have questions about any of the events or expectations of the school. Another newsletter will be sent on May 20 and updates will be sent each Friday through the end of the year. Your consideration and support is very much appreciated. Let's Finish Strong!