



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

Dear Parents of Byron Center K-12 Students,

Greetings and Happy Summer from BCCS!

This communication is sent to both returning and new families of Byron Center Charter School. First, I'd like to welcome all new families to the BCCS School community. We are a unique K-12 Charter School, authorized by Grand Valley State University since 1996. You are joining a small but mighty educational community whose mission is founded upon three pillars:

- Academics
- Personal Connections
- Positive Character Traits

The following information is intended to provide all families with important information for the preparation of the 2022-23 school year.

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NEW FAMILIES*****

Due to some of the constraints of the school's preparation activities, the New Family Meeting scheduled for August 11 will be CANCELED.

The meeting will be combined with the new Family Orientation/Open House on Thursday August 25.

Revised Schedule for Event on Thursday, August 25

- 5:30-6:00 New Family Orientation/Meeting
 - please have at least one parent/guardian attend
 - If needed students may attend
 - please provide shot records and birth certificates for copy
- 6:00-7:30: All School Open House
 - Meet and Greet Teachers
 - Obtain Opening of School Family Packets
 - Provide 2022-23 BCC School Related Programs/ Services and General Information to Students and Families

BCCS New Features

There are several significant upgrades to our school's program and services. There two new features we'd like to highlight for the upcoming school year:

1. GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program): We are happy to announce BCCS has entered into an agreement with Kent Intermediate School District to house a GSRP Preschool on our school's campus. This has been in the works for some time and we are still working through final inspections and licensing protocols (red tape), yet barring any unforeseen obstacles, the program begins on September 12 and ends May 18. This program is free to eligible families (see below).
 - a. GSRP Questions??? Call 616.447.2409
 - b. Information GSRP Website can be found [HERE/LINK](#)
 - c. Intake information can be found [HERE/LINK](#)
 - d. GSRP Eligibility Requirements can be found [HERE/LINK](#)
2. New Public Address System: Last school year, BCCS was one of only 150 schools awarded a Competitive School Safety Grant through the Michigan State Police. The grant of approximately 45K is designated for a new public address system. The installation occurring at this time is a

heavy lift, yet is expected to be completed prior to the start of the school year. Features of the new system include:

- . Annotated clock/speaker devices in all rooms, hallways and corridors
- a. Two-way intercom
- b. Independent and zoned digital and audio communications
- c. Zoned Bell Scheduling
- d. Software that interfaces with existing school technology, exterior door access controls and related safety technologies

Office Personnel Update

While there are multiple new members in the school staff this upcoming year, at this time we feature and welcome our new office personnel.

- Mrs. Erin Gregorski, BCCS Office Manager
 - BCCS parent
 - former BCCS Teacher Assistant
 - former BCCS PTO Board Member
- Mrs. Tammy Houda, BCCS Nurse/Teacher Assistant
 - BCCS parent
 - certified and former Nurse
 - former BCPS Teacher Assistant

***Note: We welcome back, and are fortunate to have, Mrs. Boersma as our returning School Secretary/Student Information Manager

Student Supply Lists

All supply grade level and course lists are located on the school website, they can be found here/[LINK](#).

Summer School Update

BCC had over 40 students participate in our summer educational programs. All programs will have been concluded by the end of next week. The programs included

- K-3 Literacy and Basic Math
- 4-8 GRASP (Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program Booklets with/ without tutoring
- 9-12 Credit Recovery Program with tutoring through MySchoolKent

Mid-High Cross Country

We are happy to bring back the fall cross country option for our Mid-High (grades 6-12) students. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Arringdale, BCCS PE and Health Teacher, as the BCCS Cross Country Coach this year. At this time, we are seeking middle and high school students to become members of the BCCS Fall Cross Country Team. We need to have a minimum of 10 runners to field a team. An introductory and informational letter can be found ([HERE](#).) I ask that you encourage your child(ren) to participate....and don't forget to practice/prepare for the season. If any parent/guardian would like to assist with the program, please contact Mrs. Arringdale. Let's Go, Golden Eagles!

COVID Protocols

Several parents have inquired about COVID protocols for the upcoming school year. At this time, there are no known required protocols for schools the upcoming school year with a few exceptions:

- As with all communicable diseases, schools must report known cases to the local health department. They monitor for outbreaks, and may have required actions of institutions if outbreaks occur....again the same as any communicable disease.
- If there are positive cases in the school building then:
 - our school will continue to conduct contact tracing and communicate with the parents of students determined to be close contacts.
 - students/ staff testing positive are required to follow the quarantine/isolation protocols as with any public organization (update forthcoming).

Masking: masking is optional/ not required, unless it is a condition to return to school with persons known to have tested positive. Students and staff may wear masks in the school, if desired.

In closing, we are diligently and busily gearing up for the opening of the school year. It is exciting to witness the continued improvements and upgrades made for the students, staff and members of our school community. Our school does have openings in most grades, so I ask our parents/guardians to encourage area friends and family members who fit the school's culture to consider our school as a viable option for their children. For those who have preschool-age students, I hope you'll consider the new GSRP option mentioned above. This is an excellent readiness program. Finally, I hope that everyone enjoys the remainder of the summer break and looks forward to a successful, and hopefully normal, 2022-23 school.

We are a small but mighty school! MK