



# 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](mailto:office@byroncentercharter.org)

11/22/22

Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

WOW.... What a snowstorm! The stuff just kept coming for several days. Hopefully all members of the BCC School Community found a way to experience the beauty and unique opportunities that come with such a historic event.

The following update is intended to provide some timely information for your awareness and understanding.

- Please Note: The next formal correspondence (December Newsletter) will be sent to families home on Friday, December 2nd.

## **Rescheduled Events**

- Student Council Annual Food Drive is extended through Today, Tuesday Nov.
  - Many THANKS to all who participated....simply extraordinary!
- The Mid-High Dance is Rescheduled for Saturday December 10
- PTO Meeting will be moved to a December date TBD

## **Student Extra-Curricular Reminders**

[ART Club](#) Open to students grades 6-12. Contact: Miss Pham [tpham@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:tpham@byroncentercharter.org)

[SKI/SNOWBOARDING CLUB](#) Open to BCCS students 7 years or older. Contact Mrs. Cravino [hcravino@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:hcravino@byroncentercharter.org)

## **Your Help please....**

Students Use of Technology: While this topic will be expanded upon in the next newsletter, parents and guardians are asked to monitor students' use of technology. Please be reminded that school issued technology is to be used exclusively for educational purposes. Parents of students with personal devices (phones/tablets etc...) are asked to be aware of the content and context of usage. In the recent past there have been multiple hurtful and inappropriate uses realized at school. Please be mindful of what students are using technology for.

Elementary Winter Wear: Please be reminded to send students with the appropriate apparel (boots, hats, mittens, snow pants) for recess in the winter. Additionally, students are expected to have shoes to change into for indoor classes as we want to limit tracking snow, mud etc... into the classrooms and hallways.

School Readiness: We continue to have a fair number of students either tardy for school, and/or for those who eat breakfast, are reporting at or near 8:00. Students are expected to be here on time for class. In particular, for elementary students who eat breakfast at school, students should report to school by 7:45 so that they have time to eat their breakfast in the gym and report to class by 8:00. Breakfast is not intended to be consumed during class time.

## **School Calendar Highlights**

Dec. 1 Elementary Music and Art Program 7:00 pm at Godwin Heights

Please Note: Please have students report Godwin Heights HS Auditorium at 6:15

Dec. 1 Mitten and Hat Tree Collection for Area Families Begins

Dec. 2 December Newsletter Sent

**\*\* Important Notice\*\***

Dec. 9 Babysitting Night has been CANCELED

## **High School Specific Information**

### **State Superintendent Update**

Earlier this year all Michigan Public Schools received notification that the State Superintendent Mike Rice was to send out letters to the parents of all students whose PSAT test scores indicated they are likely to succeed in AP/Dual enrollment coursework. A follow-up memo was sent to schools last week [LINK](#) along with a formal press release on November 17. Parents of students who met the qualifying score on the PSAT 8/9 and 10 should expect to receive a letter from Dr. Rice in short order.

While BCCS does not offer AP courses, we do however, offer Dual Enrollment opportunities for qualifying students. Those parents and students who receive the letter are encouraged to consider Dual Enrollment coursework while attending BCCS, yet are also reminded these courses are not for every student and should be considered on an individual basis. Incidentally, the Charter School's Office recently indicated that GVSU is to announce the release of a *NEW* program allowing students of GVSU authorized schools a reduced rate for dual enrollment courses. We will provide the information to the BCC School Community as soon as the program is released. Information can be obtained through our school's counselor, Mrs. Cravino @ [hcravivo@byrconcentercharter.org](mailto:hcravivo@byrconcentercharter.org) or call the school office for transfer.

### **Reminder: New College Scholarships for Michigan Students Announced**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer launched a new [webpage](#) to help the graduating class of 2023 apply for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and lower their cost of college by thousands of dollars a year. Students should talk to their parents or guardian, gather documents, and fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible to save up to \$8,250 over three years as they earn their associate degree at a community college, up to \$20,000 over five years at a private college, or up to \$27,500 over five years at a public university. For more information on how to get your Michigan Achievement Scholarship, visit [Michigan.gov/MISStudentAid](https://Michigan.gov/MISStudentAid).

### **CAVA Can Help Students Complete College-going Steps**

The Michigan College Access Network's (MCAN) College Access Virtual Assistant, or CAVA, is ready to support the Class of 2023! Schools can enroll in CAVA, and their seniors will receive approximately one text each week, tailored to them. Individual class of 2023 students can also opt themselves in, regardless of their school's enrollment. Conversations are interactive and responsive, with questions answered 24/7, in real time. If the texting chat bot cannot answer a question, MCAN staff will connect with the student directly. [Learn More About CAVA](#)

In Closing.....

*Thanksgiving is 'an act of expressing or feeling thankfulness', or ' the act of giving thanks for what you are grateful for'. In the spirit of its true meaning, I ask that you join me in including BCCS in your expressions of gratitude: the small but mighty school whose students continually outperform their cohorts academically; a school that celebrates and is focussed on building positive character traits; and a school that makes personal connections a priority in the daily culture. These are the valued pillars of our mission and, in my humble opinion, worthy of recognition during Thanksgiving.*

*May each member of the Byron Center Charter School Educational Community have an enjoyable and Happy Thanksgiving. MK*