



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

BCCS September 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Hoping the start of the school year went well for all members of the BCCS School Community, and the families are beginning to get back into the routine of school.

As we begin the school year, all of us are reminded that educating students is a needed and worthwhile endeavor, yet, as the saying goes, *'it takes a village to raise a child'*. It is important to recognize and respond to the important role each of us play in the educational community. In fact, it's pretty well known that the level/degree of school effectiveness is directly related to the level of engagement by stakeholders. And so, we ask for your help and support with the education of BCCS students.

Considerations Include:

- Please review all school correspondence
- Please be responsive to school requests
- Ask questions when clarification is needed
- Be aware of grade/course educational activity and student expectations
- Set-up daily structures and routines in the home to support school expectations
- Address school related issues in a timely manner
- Monitor and have dialogue with children about their academic activities and performance
- Communicate with school staff when needed
- Seek opportunities to be an active member in BCC school related events and activities.

You are valued and appreciated members of the BCCS School Community!

School Character Values

The BCCS Mission emphasizes academics, personal connections and positive character values. These are the pillars of our school's culture and intended to connect us, and separate us from other schools. The character traits are core values intended to guide our interactions between members within the school community. Our school celebrates and recognizes these values each month. Whether it be your child, another student, a staff member, or a fellow parent/guardian, let's all look for opportunities to recognize and affirm these traits in action.

During the month of September, the school highlights Cooperation and Teamwork....important character traits in pretty much all areas of the school. As a member of our school community, you frequently hear staff ask for your cooperation, support and/or help. Teamwork and cooperation go hand in hand as they both move people toward a common outcome. In our case, it is student learning and development. Additionally, a person's ability to successfully work in a team is one of the most highly sought-after qualities by employers. For good reason, as a school community, we are called to grow student capacity and recognize and celebrate cooperation and teamwork in action.

Monthly Character Trait Video Contest:; Each month BCCS students will have an opportunity to create short videos to demonstrate our monthly character traits in action. Students can create a family video, a class video, a video with friends or any combination thereof. Each month designated staff members will select a video to share with the entire school at the Golden Eagle Assembly. For those who'd like to begin planning, next month our positive character traits are Responsibility and Self Discipline. Your consideration is appreciated.

Criteria to win:

-Videos must be 90 seconds or less in length

-All entries are due by the **20th of the month prior to the assembly**

-Winner will be chosen by a rotating committee of staff

-To determine the winners, the committee will be looking for the following criteria in your videos:

- Clearly highlights **one OR both** character traits of the month
- Creativity/Originality (for example: drama, dance, song, etc... think outside the box)
- School Appropriate (no violence, drug references, foul language)
- Impactful/Memorable- sends a clear message that demonstrates the designated character trait(s)

Important Communications from the Office

School Annual Parent Signature Pages: All families are asked to have their annual and one-time signature pages turned in by next Friday, September 9. We can accept one page per family for the handbooks and concussion. Concussion Awareness and Acceptable Use Policy Acknowledgement (starts in grade 5) signature pages are one time forms: for those who completed in prior years are good to go! All other forms will need to be completed and returned each year.

Student Drop-off and Pick-up: Many thanks to the BCCS families as the student drop and pick-up driveline have been going well. One point of clarification, parents are to drop-off all BCCS students at one time regardless of where you are stopped in the line-up.

Reminders: Breakfast starts at 7:35. Otherwise the normal drop-off times are between 7:40 and 7:55.

Student Start of Year Assessments

NWEA/MAP Tests: Students in grades K-8 will have MAP testing in the areas of Reading and Math. Grades 4 and 7 will also take the science tests. These tests are required to be administered in the first 30 days of school. MAP tests, considered Benchmark Assessments, are given 3 xs per year to measure student performance and growth, identify students for supplemental services and provide teachers guidance on individual strengths and weaknesses.

F and P Testing: All K-3 students and designated students in grades 4 and 5 will be administered the Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment. F and P tests help measure student reading levels, identify students for additional services and monitor student's literacy growth.

Entrance and Exit Doors: With the exception of the start and end of the day, all building entrance/exit doors will remain locked during the school day. When parents/visitors enter, they are to enter the front door and will need to have office personnel electronically unlock the door. Unknown guests may be required to state their business and show credentials. With few exceptions, visitors must sign in-out, report to the office and receive a pass if entering the building.

School Happenings

Technology Update:

Mid High students were issued chromebooks this week. A couple reminders

- All students received in-house orientation and training with regard to school expectations, proper use, caring for device, and liability
- Students are responsible for the device while in their care
- Devices are to be used EXCLUSIVELY for educational activity communicated by BCCS
- Device Insurance is available

Daily Preparation:

- Students are expected to bring fully charged devices to school each day
- Students are expected to use carry cases when traveling to and from school

No Put Down Zone/ Poster Contest: Our school is declared to be a No Put Down Zone. All members of the BCCS School Community, visitors and guests are expected to refrain from putting someone else down while at the school or any school related activities. Mr. Kasmer is holding the 4th (and final) annual No Put Down Zone poster contest. Students in grades K-5 and 6-12 will have an opportunity to submit one poster to Mr. Kasmer by Monday, September 19. The poster board will be available in a designated location. Please place the student's **name** and **grade** on the back of the poster. Winning students will receive an award, be recognized at school and have their posters displayed in the school for years to come. GOOD Luck!

Seeking Instruments: BCCS continues to need instruments for the mid-High Band program. If any BCCS parents /guardians have (or know of relatives, friends, neighbors who have) band instruments they would be willing to donate to BCCS, please contact Mrs. Holstege cholstege@byroncentercharter.org. While we continue to grow our inventory, it is our intent to provide BCCS families the option for a cost effective, in-house rental of band instruments. Your consideration is greatly appreciated!!!

School Events /Calendar

General

- Forms/ Sept. 9 Deadline
- Emergency Drills Practice Next week
- K-8 Testing Next 3 Weeks
- Jazz Band Practice Tuesday/Thursday 3:15-4:00
- Cross Country Practice Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
- 9/2 and 9/5 No School Observance of Labor day. Office will be closed
- 9/7 Cross Country Meet Riverside Park, GR (times TBA)
- Student Council Interest Meeting at Lunch (grades 6-12)
- 9/8 Picture Day All School (Forms and Information Sent Home this week)
Order Online @ INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER Code: 69839TA
- 9/8 PTO Meeting After School 3:30 Mrs. Bell's Room
- 9/9 Eagle Eye Organizational Meeting 3:15 (information forthcoming)
- 9/16 BCCS Fall Carnival 6-8 pm
- 9/16 Kickoff PTO Fall Sub Sale
- 9/28 Cross Country Meet Riverside Park, GR (times TBA)
- 9/23 Hat Day (\$1)
- 9/30 Golden Eagle Assembly

Students Acknowledgements, Recognitions and Awards

Summer Success Awards: The following students were recognized today as they earned the Summer Success Award for completing the GRASP Reading and/or Math Modules at 85% or better. Each awardee is to receive a \$10 gift card for each booklet submitted. An announcement will be made when the cards are received .

Lexi Beverwyk
Liam Borsk
Braedon Duncan
Grace Duncan
John Duncan
Logan Elliott
Ivan Finch
Za'Khi Green
Caden Harran
Allyson Houghmaster
Anna Higley
Owen Higley
Cooper Kruger
Luke Kaechele
Colton Nyenhuis
Amelia Pike
Natalia Rinvelt
Bella Stogsdill
Micah Thompson
Elina Wiersma
Good Job, Well Done!

News You Can Use

Nurses Corner

Medications: Please contact the school nurse regarding any and all student medication to be administered at school. Mrs. Houda has required medication administration forms and school protocols available.

COVID Update

- Cases: there has been one known positive COVID case in the school building since the start of school. The parents of students as close contacts were informed and school protocols were followed. Please communicate any positive cases with Mrs. Houda
- Testing: The school is participating in the State of Michigan's ***BACK PACK*** program again this year. Next Friday, the oldest and only students in each family will be given one test per BCCS student to take home for family use, as appropriate. Furthermore, the school will maintain tests on hand for anyone requesting to be tested .

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Tammy Houda, BCCS Nurse/Aide, or any and all school related medical questions/issues @ thouda@byroncentercharter.org

Counselor's Corner

Getting Settled: If you or your child needs any extra help getting settled in, please let us know.

Reminder to Seniors - If you need money for college, don't forget to complete the FAFSA. All college-bound students and their parents should fill out the FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>

Questions or related information please contact Mrs. Holly Cravino at hcravino@byroncentercharter.org

Important GSRP UPDATE

- At this time the start of the GSRP 4 year old preschool on our campus will be delayed due to supply chain and personnel issues. There are several spaces available, so please tell local friends and family who may be interested in a quality preschool experience. Information is presented below:

The GSRP classroom at Byron Center Charter School has room for more preschoolers to join this class!

Kent ISD GSRP Mission Statement

Our mission is to create shared relationships with families, teachers, and the local community by cultivating child-centered, purposeful, play-based environments that support critical thinking skills, develop positive self-concepts, and promote independence to create our main overall goal; every child will be socially, emotionally, and academically ready for kindergarten.

Kent ISD GSRP Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide high quality and joyful learning experiences for children to ensure kindergarten readiness with the completion of Kent ISD's Great Start Readiness Program.

Kent ISD GSRP Philosophy

Kent ISD GSRP is a state funded program designed to benefit four-year-old children in our communities. GSRP is guided by Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) through individualized instruction for all children. Each classroom utilizes intentional teaching practices designed to meet the needs of all children and families by using child data to provide purposeful instruction.

Kent County Preschool Intake

Welcome to the Kent County Preschool Intake ([at this link](#)). This is a step by step process to determine if your child is eligible to attend a FREE preschool program in Kent County--Great Start Readiness Program or Head Start. <https://preschool.kentisd.org/>

PTO Passive Fundraisers.....every bit helps

- Raise Right/SCRIP for Schools
- BOXTOPS
- Amazon Smile
- Paper Gator
- BCCS Fall Spiritwear Sale

MI School Safety Programs: Reminder of two school safety initiatives offered through the State of Michigan: OK2Say and Protect *MI* Child. Both programs are designed for families with school-age students. If you have not seen these it is worth your consideration as a member of the BCCS school community.....

- **OK2Say:** a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. <http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say/>

- **Protect Mi Child:** a tool designed to block adult-themed content from reaching your child's electronic device (phone, tablet, computer/ personal accounts). Just register your child's cell phone number, email address, etc... to help prevent ads for alcohol, tobacco, online gambling and even pornography from reaching your child. <https://www.protectmichild.com/>

In Closing

In recognition of Labor Day, we take a moment to honor the many contributions that workers have made in the development of the United States of America. In particular, we thank the people who work in the field of education and child development. At this time, I also believe we should recognize and thank those in the health care and emergency response professions for their service to fellow Americans.

For those traveling this weekend, please be safe, and a special wish for an enjoyable holiday weekend to all members of the BCCS Educational Community. MK