



# BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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October '23 BCCS Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS Students,

Warm greetings to BCCS Families! October generally represents a time when as parents/guardians and educators we are called to emphasize the student's responsibilities, and provide guidance to students for their understanding of how to meet the expectations of school. Let's make a point to question students about their awareness and understanding of their role as a student, then monitor and regularly provide feedback about their school-related activity and performance.

BCCS provides multiple ways to help parents in understanding how their children are performing in school:

- parents of student in grades 3-12 can log into PowerSchool to view student's grades, if you need help with this please contact Mrs. Boersma at [kboersma@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:kboersma@byroncentercharter.org)
- next Wednesday each mid-high student will receive an individual progress report
- parent/teacher conferences are held for all students on Thursday, October 12
- Parents of students in grades K-9 will receive their student's latest M-STEP and NWEA test scores

Below you will find a link to resources that were exclusively created for BCCS parent/guardians to help provide guidance for home/school technology applications used at BCCS (IE Powerschool, Google Classroom and SeeSaw)

- Parent Tech Resource page can be found [HERE](#)
- Informational Flyers are available in the office (IE [W/ QR Code](#) and [W/O QR Code](#))

*All parents/guardians are encouraged to take advantage of the academic information provided by the school, and, most importantly, have conversations with your kids and their teachers regarding their performance in meeting the educational expectations of school.*

## Building Character Traits

One of the three pillars in our school's mission is *Building Positive Character Traits*. The character traits during the month of October focus on *Responsibility and Self-discipline*.

Responsibility is a common word used in the educational setting...parents and teachers are frequently heard reminding students to be responsible or accept the responsibility for something. Self-discipline refers to the ability to do what is asked of them and/or overcome their weaknesses or personal feelings and do the right thing. An example in a school setting relates to a student's ability to have the self-discipline to prepare for tests while giving a *good faith effort* during test administration.

Providing opportunities in building positive character traits among our students is part of our purpose at BCCS. Let's look for, and recognize, responsibility and self-discipline in action with BCCS students, and let's identify the positive impact that comes from applying these traits in the school community.

## From the Office

Parent Teacher Conferences: Fall conferences will be held in person on Thursday October 12th from 12:30-8:00 pm. Registration will begin next week.

- The school will send a google doc to all families on Wednesday, October 4th
- Parents *with multiple students and parents of students with special needs* will have the first opportunity to register Wed - Friday (Oct 4-6).
- Registration *will open to all students' parents* after school on Friday (10/6) through Tuesday (10/10) .
- All conferences are to be scheduled prior to 7:30 am on Wednesday, October 12.

*Please Note:*

*The conference registration google doc will include a link for each teacher with available times. Parents select the time, then write their name and their child's name in the description box. Directions will be included.*

*Two common errors include*

- *Parents who register for conferences using their phones, yet their phones have the wrong time zone setting. Remedy: Check the time zone setting prior to registration and ensure the time is correct when you receive a confirmation email.*
- *Following the sequence of steps when having to change conference time Remedy: cancel the existing conference first, then register for a second conference.*

Student Test Score Reports: The latest student test scores (parent reports) will be shared at Parent Teacher Conferences to include 2022-23 Spring M-STEP and MME Reports (grades 4-9 and 12) and the 2022-23 Fall MAP Reports (Grades K-8).

- NWEA MAP Growth Reports will display trend data: a student's current and all past performance for MAP Growth Assessments administered at BCCS.
- M-STEP and MME Report information for parents can be found [HERE](#)

\*\*\*Unclaimed reports will be sent home with the students the following Monday.\*\*\*

## School News and Happenings

Harvest Festival for 6-12 students: Our annual Harvest festival will be held next Saturday, October 7th from 2-4 p.m. on the south side of school (or in the gym in the case of inclement weather). Students are invited to come for food, games, fellowship and fun. Note: This event is only open to current BCCS students. *Looking forward to seeing you there!*

Vision and Hearing Screening: We are scheduled for our Vision and Hearing testing for Oct. 17th and 18th if needed. We will be testing K-5, 7 and 9th graders. If a parent has a "concern" please let the office know and the student's name will be added to the list.

Children in Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades will have their hearing screened

Children in 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades will have their vision screened

*\*\*parent requests for vision or hearing screenings other than grade designations offered can be made to the school office by email to [office@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:office@byroncentercharter.org) \*\**

School Pictures: Student picture packets will be sent home with students today. Retakes are scheduled for October 26. If a parent requests a picture retake, the child must return the original picture packet on the day of picture retakes. Students and Staff who were absent on the initial date will also have pictures taken on the 26th.

2024 Keycards Available for Purchase (can be used immediately): The 11th and 12th grade students will again be selling *Keycards* to raise money for their upcoming Washington D.C. trip. They are \$30 each with half of the money going to students. These books have **hundreds of dollars worth of savings** for establishments such as Biggby, McDonalds, Boardwalk Subs, Culvers, car washes, golf courses, and more! Stop in to the office to see a display copy, contact an 11th/12th grader or email Mr. Emmelkamp ([bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org)) to get yours. *Worth the \$ and a worthy cause!*

Upcoming Blood Drive Our first blood drive will be held from 1-5 p.m. in the gym on Wednesday, November 15th. Walk-ins welcome; appointments are preferred. Sign up at: [https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/153889](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/153889) Contact Mr. Emmelkamp with any questions ([bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org)).

*Please consider joining this BCCS community outreach and service event and help save a life!*

## **BCCS School Calendar Highlights**

### **Weekly activities:**

- Mid-High Fall Cross Country Practice M,W & F
- Jazz Band Tu & Th

Monday, October 2nd

- PTO Fall Sub Sale Fundraiser Forms Due
- Muffin Monday (Sponsored by Seniors)

Wednesday, October 4th

- Mid-High Progress Reports
- State of Michigan COUNT DAY...please be present if at all possible or please ensure to call-in and report if absences are necessary

Thursday, October 5th

- PTO Meeting - 3:30 in Science Lab

Friday, October 6th

- Golden Eagle Assembly
- Popcorn Day (*sponsored by the yearbook committee*)

Saturday, October 7th

- Mid High Fall Harvest Fest Sponsored by Student Council from 2-4 pm

October 10-13 BCCS Spirit Week Details forthcoming

- Oct 10 Skate Night 3:15-5:15 ...*they are offering a Buy 1 Get 1 Free for schools. You may come back again with free admission and regular skate rental for the students any time this school year.*

October 11 - Cross Country Meet, Riverside Park 5:30 Girls/6:15 Boys

October 12 - Fall Conference 12:30-8:00/ PTO Book Fair 12:00-7:30

October 13 - NO SCHOOL

October 17 and 18 - Vision and Hearing Screening

October 20 - Fall Sub Sale Fundraiser Pick-up (after school)

October 26th

- Fall Band Concert (7 & 8th and HS ) 7:00
  - NOTE: Location Change to Corinth Church 100th Street
- October 26 Picture Retakes

October 27 Hat Day for \$1 (*supports HS Transition and Career Awareness Programs*)

October 30-31 BCCS Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest

*Save the Date: BCCS Blood Drive, Wednesday, November 1, 1-5 p.m. (see info above).*

**Counselor's Chair:**

Mrs Holly Cravino, BCCS Counselor ([hcravino@byroncentercharter.org](mailto:hcravino@byroncentercharter.org))



Career Chats are designed to provide 7-12 grade students a virtual opportunity to meet real professionals employed in real jobs. This series of 30-40 minute sessions will highlight professions from a variety of career pathways, giving students the opportunity to learn more about a career of interest, or to explore new option

[Click here to register](#)

## Career Chats *Virtual*

3:30pm 4:00pm

**Upcoming Sessions:**

- Thursday, October 5  
Bill Fryling, Electrician
- Tuesday, October 10  
Mara Schneider, FBI Special Agent
- Wednesday, October 18  
Sarah Barry, Event Coordinator



Designed for students in grades 7-12, these free career exploration events are like getting 5 job shadows in one! Students can hear directly from a panel of professionals, ask career questions, and tour the employer's workspace. Professionals will share their own career path, the inside scoop on what their jobs are really like, along with their perspective on what you can do to prepare for a career that interests you. Parents and Educators are welcome. Offered each month, from 6-7:30 PM Check out the current schedule at [kentisd.org/talkandtour](http://kentisd.org/talkandtour)

## **Nurses Corner**

BCCS Nurse Aide, Mrs. Tammy Houda ([thouda@byroncenercharter.org](mailto:thouda@byroncenercharter.org))

**Fall Allergies:** Fall and spring are the seasons of allergies. In the fall there are primarily 3 culprits:

Molds, in particular piles of damp leaver are perfect breeding ground for breeding of mold spores.

Dust Mites, in particular dust mites grow in heating and cooling ducts during summer and are released into the air when first turning on the heat in the home.

And Ragweed....the biggest trigger of all! We have plenty of it...The months of September and October have the highest amounts of Ragweed pollen in the air

Allergy symptoms can make a person feel lousy and are annoying ... .itchy, watery eyes, stuffy nose, sneezing & coughing ,scratchy throat and sometimes causes breathing issues especially for asthmatics. Of course, speaking to a primary care physician is recommended, yet there are over-the-counter allergy medications suitable for children that may be administered to reduce the impact and symptoms. A pharmacist can assist in selecting the proper meds for the age of the child.

## **PTO Update**

**PTO Request for Help:** The PTO will be sending Sign-Up Genius Links to all families seeking help for two events during the upcoming parent teacher conferences

- Food for BCCS Teacher/Staff Meal
- Staffing For Book Fair

*Your consideration and support is appreciated!*

**Fall Fundraiser:** Reminder the Subs, Soups and Cinnamon Rolls fall fundraiser order forms and money is due this Monday, October 2 and pickup is scheduled for October 20 after school.

**Carnival Appreciation:** A big thank you to all who helped with the School Carnival this past month. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by participants.

*Thank you for supporting the BCCS Parent Teacher Organization!*

**PTO Passive Fundraisers....every bit helps**

- Raise Right SCRIP
- Paper Gator

\*\*\* information located in the *Keep At Home* sleeve of the annual school informational folder\*\*\*

Please Note: the Amazon Smile and GM Box Tops fundraisers are no longer used and/or available to BCCS

## **Student Recognitions and Awards**

Pease Note: Will be shared after the Golden Eagle Assembly next Friday...

*Don't want to spoil it!*

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE....**

**Medicaid Recipient and Student Insurance:** The MDE has requested that schools share information with families regarding medicaid renewals and affordable insurance for students through the [MIBRIDGES](#). There is an informational article about the request [Keep Your Family Covered](#) and a [flier](#) for easy reference, FYI....

*News you can use cont...*

Post Graduate Resource Requirement : MCL 380.193 requires ISDs, LEAs and PSAs to share Post-Graduation resources with students in grade 8-12 by October 1. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development has developed a web page specifically designed for this purpose. Contents include college information, financial aid, career and job specific information and current trends, and information about joining the armed forces and/or public safety sector. The link to this resource can be found [HERE](#). Please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Cravino (School Academic Counselor) with questions about post secondary options and related information.

*In Closing.....There is much information presented in this newsletter, as there is much going on in this Small But Mighty School. Please remain vigilant in being aware of the school happenings while engaging in the school community when called upon. If clarification is needed, please ask. We are grateful for your continued cooperation and support as education is a team and cooperative effort by all stakeholders, and for good reason.*

*Have a wonderful weekend! MK*