



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students

Wishes of warmth and joy to all of you.

This year is flying by as it is hard to believe we are encroaching upon the year 2024 and the end of the first semester. Customarily, at this time of year the State of Michigan's Department of Education has released the Public School Rating Index for the prior school year. To date, the ratings have not been released to schools for review and/or subsequent public release. Please know that BCCS will provide you folks with the information as soon as it is made available by the department. However, please note the website to access is [HERE](#) for all school performance indicators to the public to include annual performance ratings, individual school performance data along with the ability to compare to other schools (encouraged). Finally, the department has resources for public access and understanding to include *The Michigan School Index Guide*, and *School Preview and Access Instructions* that can be found at this [LINK](#).

Parents experiencing difficulty accessing or understanding the information are welcome to reach out to Mr. Kasmer with questions.

Your awareness and consideration is appreciated.

Positive Character Traits in Action

The character trait highlighted during the month of December is Joyfulness. Joy is an emotion that is quite noticeable and contagious. Many distinguish between joy and happiness by saying that joy is an inner attitude or choice whereas happiness is a fleeting emotion based on circumstance. It is traditional for many of us to share expressions of joy during the Holiday/Christmas season....perfect timing BCCS. Many would agree that choosing to be in a state of well-being and happiness is good for our culture and what better place to start than with the BCCS community of learners. As a member of the BCCS school community, we are called to seek opportunities to bring joyfulness into the atmosphere of the building. So, choose joy, as this is an important character trait to share among our school family.

From The Office

Attendance

As parents/guardians and students of BCCS, the expectations and protocols for attendance should be understood and followed. All schools are obligated to carry-out the school BOE Policies and comply with the regulations of the State of Michigan. Parents/guardians and particularly HS students are highly encouraged to reacquaint themselves with these school's expectations of student attendance, specifically the impact absences can have of obtaining course credits for graduation.

Please understand the reason for the continued emphasis on attendance from this office is the impact absences and tardies have on individual students, their peers and teachers, and the fact that BCCS has a history of above average disruptions in daily attendance. Finally, should any parent need assistance with their children, please request through the school office.

HS Attendance and Course Credit Eligibility

By BCCS School Policy, any HS student who has more than 10 absences in a semester will not be issued credit for the course. Tardies are also impactful as every 3 tardies equates to an additional absence in that class.

Our school believes attendance should not be the sole reason students do not receive credit; therefore, BCCS offers students an opportunity to make-up time for absences.

Students may attend the extended day program Tuesdays and Thursdays to make up hours for absences. A student may receive 1 hr of time for each day he/she attends the extended day program. All dates attended during that semester can be used toward make-up time. Please be reminded each day attended equates to one hour make-up time in one class; therefore, if a student has 11 absences in 6 classes, then 6 hours of make-up time are required to be eligible for credit in all six all courses. It is the student's and parent's responsibility to monitor and track attendance, and request to stay after school as make-up time for credit. Parents and students should monitor attendance and request for make-up time when needed. The first semester ends on January 19. All make-up must be realized by then so as not to impact eligibility for credit.

School Related Information

***NEW* BCCS HS Euro Challenge Competition**

BCCS is pleased to announce the offering of a new academic club for HS students. The Euro Challenge is a national competitive club for high school students. Teams analyze and recommend solutions to economic challenges faced by countries within the European Union. Students research and present ideas to judges that are scored on a variety of educational criteria. This program also develops students' research skills, presentation and public speaking skills, and gives them a chance to compete against other schools in the Midwest region. Being our first year, a few details need to be finalized and students and parents are asked to be understanding this year as a learning year for all of us. Mrs. Walenta is spearheading this effort and is the BCSS Coach. Presentations were made to HS students and information will be coming home with interested students. A parent/guardian Information and Permission form can be found [HERE](#).

Hat and Mitten Tree

We would like to decorate the tree, in the main hall, with hats and mittens/gloves for children in need. These items should be new. We will be donating these items to *In the Image*, an organization that helps families in need in the Wyoming, Kentwood, and Grand Rapids areas. Please help decorate our tree to keep children warm this winter. We will be collecting these items until December 22. Thank you for helping others in our community! If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Timmerman (BCCS First Grade Teacher) ptimmerman@byroncentercharter.org

The PTO Holiday Shoppe

Next week Friday, December 8, 2023 is our annual PTO Holiday Shop for K-5th grade students. The shop is open from 9am-2:30pm. The students will be pulled during the school day and will be able to shop for their families. There are several different items ranging in prices from \$1-\$10. PLEASE remember to send money to school with your child on Friday as there is only ONE day to shop. Change will be sent home with students as needed. Please make checks payable to Byron Center Charter PTO.

Key Cards For Sale

The 11th and 12th grade classes are raising funds for their Washington D.C. trip later this year by selling KeyCards. These books provide discounts to hundreds of area businesses and pay themselves off quickly. They also make the perfect holiday gift. They can be purchased for \$30; contact any 11th and 12 grade students or Mr. Emmelkamp at bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org.

BCCS Ski Club is Back

Let the snow fly! We are excited to offer the ski club again this year. Bittersweet Ski Resort has made changes to their ski club guidelines this year. Below are the details.

- Adult and Student Discount passes are available for purchase for \$32 per pass.
- Discount passes can **ONLY** be used on the days BCCS goes as a group and on Sunday after 3pm.
- One lesson is included.
- BCCS will go as a group on the following dates
January 9, 17, 23 and 30
February 6, 13 and 21

Contact Mrs Cravino if you have additional questions or would like to purchase a pass.

hcravino@byroncentercharter.org

Student Council Events for December

BCCS Hot Cocoa and Candy Cane Gram Sale

- Orders/Sales December 11-19th. \$1 each
- Delivered on Friday, December 22nd.

6-12 Gingerbread Decorating Contest Grades 6-12

Date: : Wednesday, December 20

Time: 3:15-4:00 p.m.

Location : BCCS gym

Requirements: Participants need a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian and returned to school by Monday, December 18th.

***See Mr. Emmelkamp to obtain and return slips**

Holiday Spirit Week December 18-22

Monday: Holiday Flannel: Wear your festive flannel.

Tuesday: Fancy Christmas: Wear your fanciest holiday clothes.

Wednesday: Holiday Colors: Come dressed in red, green, gold, white and/ or silver.

Thursday: Christmas Character: Come to school dressed as a Christmas/holiday book/movie character.

Friday: Ugly Sweater: Wear your best (or worst!) holiday sweater.

December School Calendar Highlights

12/4 Muffin Monday \$2 (seniors)

12/5

- HS Art Class FT Grand Rapids Art Museum
- K-4 Music Program 6:30 Godwin Heights
 - *Please have student there at 6:10*

12/6 Wed Mid High Progress Reports Go home

12/7 PTO Meeting 3:30 Science Lab

12/8

- Popcorn Friday 50 cents (yearbook)
- PTO Holiday Shoppe K-5
- Mid High After School Sports Club Cup Stacking

12/11 Hot Chocolate Candy Cane sale begins (11-19 orders /22nd delivery)

Dec 12 Winter 5th-12 Band Concert 7pm Godwin Heights

Dec 15 Mid-High After School Sports/Table Tennis

Dec 18 Student Council Holiday Spirit Week

Dec 20 6-12 Student Council Gingerbread House Decoration Contest

Dec 21 Elementary Classroom Holiday Celebrations

Dec 22

- Hot Chocolate and Candy Cane deliveries
- Hat Mitten tree delivery to In the Image

Student Recognitions and Awards

MID-HIGH Band Awards and Recognitions

Middle School

- Braelyn Bowker, Addelyn Hubbel, and Hanna Peterson performed at solo and ensemble festival in Lowell and received a I (Superior) Rating

High School

- Ian Emmelkamp, Amelia Schmidt, and Ava Syswerda were selected to represent our school in area High School Honors Bands. They were able to participate with several of the best area high school musicians in October and November. The two Honors Band events were held in Grand Rapids (Ian, Amelia, and Ava participated) and DeWitt ,(Ian and Ava participated).

Congrats Musicians, We are proud of your hard work!

Character Trait *Appreciation* Recognitions

Elementary

Mason Guzman, Myles Lichvar, Lincoln Hill, Adam Gonzalez, Ruby Kuncaitis, Nora Kuncaitis, Eli Hubbel, Oliver Hill, Sam Buck, Lydia Olson, Hannah Bunnell, Leila Hubbel, Orion Warner, Theodore Barker, Jael Torres, Luna Gillikin, Angela Palasek, Carter Donegan

Middle School

Amanda Boorsma, Micah Barker, Riley Balfoort, Annika Emmelkamp, Aidan Heintz, Hannah Feltzer, Westley Kruger (Cooper), Abigail Rocheleau, Isaac Higley, Braelyn Bowker, Isaiah Dupont, Josh Hoort,

High School

Amelia Schmidt, Christa Frank, Brianna Hoort, Rhys Houda, Tyler Ganka, Xavier Coffey, Elijah Verburg, Nick Dies, Max Ayon, Joel Garcia-Cardoza, Amelia Pike, Grace Duncan, Owen Higley, Lia Franson, Ava Syswerda

BCCS November Student's of the Month

K-2 - Hazel Gillissen

3-5 - Maxwell Brown

6-8 - Kaydense Downing

9-12 - Kinzie Anderson

*** *Good Job, Well Done Students!****

News You Can Use

Nurses Corner: As the holiday season approaches so does increasing concern of flu and other respiratory illnesses such as COVID, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and others. Early symptoms of each can look similar for many children, including congestion, cough, runny nose, muscle aches, fever, and headache. Since each virus typically begins as an upper respiratory infection, it can be difficult to know which one you are dealing with when your child gets sick. The only way to determine which virus is causing an infection is by getting tested by a physician if symptoms persist.

If your child is sick and/or has medication(s) that they need to take during the school day, here is a review of our school policies:

1. Medications can only be administered after a medication permission form has been filled out.
This includes ALL over the counter medication (examples: Tylenol, Advil, Aleve, Benadryl, triple antibiotic ointment, even cough drops)
2. As required by state law, schools are not able to provide any over-the-counter medications. These must be provided by the parent or guardian.
3. Any medications sent MUST BE IN ORIGINAL CONTAINER and properly labeled with the student's name. Parents must deliver the medication to the office.
4. During any illness, student(s) may return to school ONLY after they are fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications. (Fever is defined as a temperature of 100 degrees or above without the use of fever-reducing medications.)

As always if you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to email me at thouda@byroncentercharter.org

In Closing.... As always there is much going on in our 'small but mighty' school. The students 'engagement in the gratitude chain, the can food drive and the upcoming hat and mitten tree are wonderful ways to share in the gift of giving. During this season, I extend a special wish to all BCCS students and families for a joyous and happy holiday season.