



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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8/4/23

Dear Parents of BCCS K-12 Students,

Warm greetings and Happy Summer from Byron Center Charter School!

This communication is sent to both returning and new families of BCCS regarding information and activities in preparation for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

First, we 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 school whose mission is founded upon three pillars:

- Academics
- Personal Connections
- Positive Character Traits

Welcome to the BCCS Educational Community!

The following information is intended to provide all families with important information for the preparation of the 2023-24 school year.

School Calendars

- [2023-24 BCCS Calendar](#)
- [Initial 2023-24 BCCS Events Calendar](#)

Opening of School Events

The New Family Orientation/Open House will be held on Thursday, August 24

Schedule of Event

- 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 and Staff
 - Obtain Opening of School Family Packets (one per family)
 - Provide 2023-24 BCC School Related Programs/ Services and General Information to Students and Families

Opening Week Schedule

Monday, August 28

- First Day of School
- ½ day of school 8:00-11:15
- *No food Services*

Tuesday , August 29

- First Full Day of school 8:00-3:00
- *No Food Services*
- Mid High Cross Country Practice 3:15-4:30

Wednesday, August 30

- Full day of school
- *Food Services Begin*
- Mid High Cross Country Practice 3:15-4:30

Thursday, August 31

- Full Day of School
- Mid High Cross Country Practice 3:15-4:30

Friday and Monday, September 1st and 4th

- Friday - No School
- Monday - No School: Statewide Observance of Labor Day

*****Important*** Food Service Program Notice**

Due to the school calendar of Byron Center Public Schools who provide the food services for BCCS students, the BCCS breakfast and lunch program begins on Wednesday, August 30. Students will need to bring a sack lunch with a drink on Tuesday, and there will be no breakfast services on the first two days of school (M-TU, Aug 28 and 29).

General Daily Schedule

7:35-7:55 Student Drop-off

- 7:35-7:45 Student Drop for those eating Breakfast
- 7:45-7:55 General Student Drop

8:00 Classes Begin

11:15-11:45 Student Lunch Period

- K-5 Recess Schedules vary

1:50-2:05 K-2 PM Recess

3:00 Dismissal

- Staggered Pick-up 3:00 and 3:10 (color coded driveline numbers)

KCTC Participating Student Reminder

BCCS 11th and 12th grade students participating in KCTC are expected to follow their school calendar for student attendance days ([KCTC 23_24 Calendar](#)). KCTC begins classes on Monday, August 21. Students attending KCTC are expected to provide their own transportation.

Byron Center Public School has agreed to transport our students during the school year. The bussing service will start August 30, Byron Center's first full day of school. Participating BCCS students are responsible for getting themselves to and from the high school as the buses exit and return from a designated location on the HS campus. The students driving to and leaving vehicles at BCHS are to call the high school to obtain a parking pass (required) to park their vehicles at the school parking lot (ph 616.878.6600). Questions??? Please contact Mrs. Cravino at hcravino@byroncentercharter.org.

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, PE and Health Teacher, as the returning BCCS Cross Country Coach. At this time, we are seeking middle and high school students to become members of the BCCS Fall Cross Country Team. BCCS will need to have a minimum of 10 runners to field a team. An introductory and informational letter can be found ([HERE](#)). Parents are asked to encourage their 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. Questions??? Contact sarringdale@byroncentercharter.org

Let's Go, Golden Eagles!

Student Supply Lists

All grade level supply and course lists are located on the school website, they can be found here ([LINK](#)). The parent/Guardians of any student needing assistance with purchasing classroom supplies may contact the school office. *Be prepared!*

Building Program and Procedural Changes

Personal Devices/Cell Phones Protocols Updated

No student will be allowed to have cell phones on their person during class time. This change mainly impacts HS students only as K-8 Students are not to have cell phones on their person from the time they enter to the time they exit school including all school related events (ie field trips/experiences). HS students may use cell phones before and after school, and during lunch/recess and passing times. By school policy cell phones are prohibited in the restrooms.

Students are prohibited from having personal devices at school including tablets, laptops, chromebooks unless designated for academic use by BCCS. The school provides chromebooks one to one for all Mid High students and has classroom sets of devices for all K-5 students. In some instances the school provides I-Pads to students as part of the individualized programming needs. In all cases of school issued technology, the devices are to be exclusively used for educational/school purposes. *Protecting academic learning time and student engagement!*

5th grade Band Returns

5th grade students will return to having a band rather than general music. As in the past, all 5th and 6th grade students will have band as part of their BCCS educational experience. Beginning in 7th grade, band is optional, and that continues through HS. Information regarding instrument fitting and rental will be shared through Mrs. Holstege, BCCS Music and Band Director. Questions??? Contact cholstege@byroncentercharter.org . *Keeping with the tradition of exceptional BCCS Bands!*

6th Grade Transition Year

Beginning this year, greater emphasis is given to the BCCS 6th grade as a transition year between Elementary and Middle School. At BCCS, 6th grade students will experience activities and events designed to help students transition as Elementary to Middle School students. While the students will change classes with mid-high, 6th graders will have a scheduled home room period each morning, and each student will be issued a common multi-subject folder for organizational support purposes. In addition, the 6th grade will have some events with mid-high and others as K-6. Specifically, 6th graders will be included in Daddy Daughter, Mother Son and Game nights with the elementary groups, and with mid-high students for Fall Festival and the Gingerbread House making competition. 6th grade will not be attending Mid-High dances as these will be reserved for students in grades 7-12 only. The transition year is intended to better serve our students in moving from an Elementary to a Middle School environment.

School Improvements

Technology Updates

The school continues to upgrade the quality of technology services for the BCCS student, Staff and families. We recently replaced the main server and connected to fiber which should improve the speed, safety and reliability of the school's technology. New and smaller chromebooks were purchased and issued for most of the HS students. All of the school devices have been cleaned, repairs made as needed and are being prepared for the transition to the 2023-24 school year. Parents should look for training to help better navigate and utilize the Powerschool, Google Classroom and SeeSaw management systems more effectively.

Safe, Secure and Efficient!

Physical Building Updates

During the summer months Mr. Boersma and company are replacing a variety of furniture items throughout the school with high quality and aesthetically pleasing items. Several rooms will have new shelving, storage areas, tables and chairs and the teacher workroom has been totally revamped and updated. The remnants from the pandemic have been removed and basically our school has never looked better. We continue to put emphasis on the look and feel of our school intended to help create a positive work environment for staff and an atmosphere that supports learning for our students.

Beautiful!

Summer Programming Update

K-3 Extended Year/Early Start: Next week marks the final of the 4 week summer program for designated K-3 Students. The focus of the program is primarily on literacy development with some basic math practice included. The primary purpose is to decrease the likelihood of learning loss over the summer months while supporting the preparedness of students for grade-appropriate academics for the upcoming school year.

K-8 GRASP: The final date to submit GRASP booklets to be eligible for the Summer Success Award is Friday August 11. Students who completed booklets and score 85% or better will enter drawings for Meijer Gift Cards and will be recognized at our first Golden Eagle Assembly. Parents may drop the completed booklets off to the school during work hours. Tutoring for MS students participating in the math program will be available next week Tuesday -Thursday from 8:30-11:30.

HS Credit Recovery: The high school (grades 9-11) credit recovery program with tutoring ended yesterday August 3. Those students who participated and passed their coursework are recognized for their effort and achievements. *Good job, well done!*

4 year Old Preschool Offer

GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program): We are happy to continue our relationship with Kent Intermediate School District to house a 4 year old preschool program on our school's campus. BCCS parents are encouraged to consider this program for their children and share this opportunity with friends and family. The services are free to eligible families and have a sliding scale for other participants (see below). The preschool has their own school calendar ([HERE](#)) and classes begin on September 11 and end on May 16. *Check it out!*

- 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](#)

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 educational welfare of students, staff and parents of BCCS. Our school does have openings in several 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. Please have them call the office to schedule a meeting and tour. 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, 2023-24 school. We are a small but mighty school, yet our success is dependent upon the participation and active engagement of all stakeholders. Let's get prepared and have a great opening of the 2023-24 school year.

Educationally,

*Mark Kasmer
BCCS Chief Administrative Officer*

