



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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Sept. 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Hoping the start of the school year went well for all members of the BCCS School Community. While many families are getting back to the home/school routine, some families are just beginning to establish these routines.

As we are now entering our third week of the school year, all of us are reminded that educating students is a team effort...Go Team! ...as the saying goes, *'it takes a village to raise a child'*. It is important to understand the value and importance each of us play in the BCCS educational community. The fact remains that the level/degree of school effectiveness is directly related to the level of engagement/participation by stakeholders. To this end, we seek your help and support with the education of BCCS students.

Please consider the following :

- review all school correspondence
- be responsive to school requests
- ask questions when clarification is needed
- be aware of grade/course educational activity and student expectations
- establish daily structures and routines in the home that support school expectations
- address school related issues in a timely manner
- monitor and have dialogue with children about their academic activities and performance
- communicate directly with school staff when needed
- seek opportunities to be an active member in BCC school related events and activities

And, please note parents and guardians 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 to have at home and at 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 child development. Additionally, a person's ability to successfully work in a team is one of the most highly sought-after qualities in the world of work. For good reason, as a school community, we are called to grow student capacity and recognize and celebrate cooperation and teamwork in action.

Important Communications from the Office

School Annual Parent Signature/Acknowledgement Pages: All families are asked to have their annual and signature/acknowledgement pages submitted by Friday, September 15. This year, most

required forms are digital and were sent via email to the parents/guardians of BCCS students. Please refer to the opening of the school letter in the school's annual packets for details. Feel free to contact the office if clarification is needed.

Required Form Links....

- Acceptable Use Policy Form [LINK](#)
- Parent Notification and Consent to Treat and Bill [LINK](#)
- Concussion Awareness Educational Material Acknowledgement Form [LINK](#)

Federal School Meals Program Applications Needed

If you have not already done so, we ask every BCCS family to complete the application for school meals. In a recent publication the State of Michigan sent-out a reminder of the value of these applications in the determination of several state and federal grants and student support services (see [It's More Than the Form](#)) to all schools. As noted, this is especially the case for Charter Schools as there are no district boundaries. Please take a few minutes and complete the application. Select apply for benefits"Apply for Benefits" (even if you do not require them it helps the school to have it filled out) at this [LINK](#)

Your help, please!

Student Drop-off and Pick-up: Many thanks to the BCCS families as the student drop and pick-up driveline have been going well.

- GSRP (Preschool) begins Monday with additional cars and foot traffic. Preschool parents must park and walk students to and from class, with designated parking in the south west section of the lot.
 - Schedule: M-Th 7:45 to 2:45

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. Parents/visitors enter the front doors and office personnel electronically unlock the door for entry. 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. *The safety and welfare of students and staff is priority one.*

School Happenings

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.

BCCS Parent/Guardian Tech Resource:

Below you will find a link to resources that were exclusively created to help spread awareness and provide guidance for Parents/Guardians regarding home/school technology applications used at BCCS.

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

Thanks Mr. M!

School Issued Technology:

- All students received in-house orientation and training with regard to school expectations, proper use 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 until Sept. 15 (see [Technology Insurance](#))

Daily Tech Preparation:

- 6-12 Students are expected to bring fully charged devices to school each day
- 6-9 Students are expected to use carry cases when traveling to and from school and cases are to be used for school issued technology ONLY.

Cell Phones:

- K-8 :-prohibited on their person from the time entering school to the time exiting the school are prohibited. Includes most school related events during school.
- 9-12: may have use before/after school, during lunch and passing times.

Headsets: Bluetooth headsets should not be on their person in grades K-8 while at/in school and are prohibited in the 9-12 classrooms. BCCS Headphone Graphic [HERE](#)

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 and support is greatly appreciated!!!

No Put Down Zone/ Poster Contest: Our school is declared to be a No Put Down Zone. Anyone who enters BCCS is expected to refrain from putting someone else down while at the school or any school related activities. Mr. Kasmer is holding the 5th annual No Put Down Zone poster contest. Students in grades K-5 and 6-12 will have an opportunity to submit one poster to the office by Monday, September 22. The poster board is available in a designated location. Please place the student's **name, grade and date** on the back of the poster. Winning students will receive an award, be recognized at a school assembly school and have their posters displayed in the school for years to come. GOOD Luck!

BCCS Calendar of Events Highlights

Mon, Sept. 11

- CC Practice (M,W & F) 3:15-4:30
- GRSP Preschool Begins

Tu, Sept. 12

- Jazz Band Practice (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4 pm)

Fri, Sept. 15

- Selection of Student Council Members: Speeches and Voting
- AUP 5-12 and 6-12 Student Home USE Agreement Forms Due
- PTO Sub Sale Fundraiser Kickoff
- BCCS Fall Carnival

Wed, Sept. 27

- 1st grade FT Gull Meadow Farms

Th, Sept. 28

- K Field Trip Post Family Farms
- K-5 Tile IA /SWARM Parent Information Night 6:00 pm
 - *Information Forthcoming*

Fri, Sept. 29

- Hat Day - Pay \$1 to wear a hat for HS School to Career Programs

Nurses Corner

Welcome back to a new school year! It's so exciting to see all of our returning students and new students who have joined us. Schools are required to ensure students have proper immunization on file. If your student(s) still needs required vaccines, there was a letter in your open house folder. It is important to set up an appointment with your child's physician or local health department to get vaccine(s) completed as soon as possible. Reminder letters will be sent out to you in the next week. If you didn't (and don't) receive a letter or phone call from me, your child is all set! Thank you so much for your promptness.

In keeping in line with other school's protocols this year, and keeping students in the classroom, our policy has changed a bit to treat COVID diagnosis similar to flu/influenza.

- If a student tests positive for COVID **and** has a fever or more moderate to severe symptoms, please keep them home until fever free for at least 24 hours **without the use of Tylenol or Motrin**.
- If a student(s) tests positive for COVID but has mild to no symptoms (similar to cold/allergies), they can still go to school as usual. Masks are optional.

CDC recommendations remain the same as COVID numbers continue to rise, especially with return to school. Day 0 being the day someone tests positive, isolating at home for 5 days, and then returning to normal activities if fever free for at least 24 hours without Tylenol or Motrin. Here is a link to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services additional current guidelines [COVID Guidance](#)

Counselor's Chair

Community Service - All students are required to complete 45 hours of community service before graduation. See Mrs Cravino for the service forms.

Senior Parents - Your student received their ACT WorkKeys Score Report. It gives a detailed score report for how they performed in the areas of Applied Math, Graphic Literacy and Workplace Documents.

PTO Update

Sub Sale: The PTO Sub sale starts Friday Sept.15 and runs through Monday Oct. 2. Delivery will be on October 20th. Information will be sent home with students next week. All proceeds support PTO sponsored school activities.

PTO Passive Fundraisers....every bit helps

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

Information is located in the BCCS Annual School Packets

Student Recognitions and Awards

Summer Success Awards: BCCS recognized 30 students at the first Eagle Assembly as they earned the *Summer Success Award* for completing the GRASP Reading and/or Math Modules at 85% or better. *Good Job, Well Done!*

Each student was entered in a \$25 Meijer gift-card drawing sponsored by PTO
Congratulations to the lucky winners ...

- Brandon Harran, 3rd grade
- Max Ayon, 9th Grade

Education pays off!

Ship Shape Award :

Aug 29-Sept 8 First Grade

Thanks for keeping our school beautiful!

Mid High Fall Cross Country

Congrats on a good showing by the Golden Eagles at the first of three races this past week. Stay strong, work hard and good luck with the next two races!

News You Can Use

MSP announces Ford Driving Skills for Life, Teen Safety Driving Clinics . Information is provided at this link [FORD DSFL FLYER Lansing 2023.pdf](#)

GSRP Openings Still Available: There are a handful of openings for GSRP (preschool) run through Kent ISD and Located on the BCCS campus (in the portable) for the 2023-24 school year. 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.

The Kent County Preschool Intake can be found ([at this link](#)). It provides 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/>

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....

As always there is much going on at our small but mighty school. We are off to a good start , providing a solid foundation for a successful school year. Thank you all.

In the next month there will be opportunities for student performance reviews through Parent/Teachers Conferences. Grade 6-12 students will also receive a mid-quarter progress report in early October. Starting in grade three parents have opportunity, and are encouraged to monitor student progress through Powerschool regularly and through Google classroom daily. It is important for our school to provide the communication, tools and resources for parents /guardians to routinely monitor their child's academic performance. Please feel free to ask for clarifying information regarding any of these resources, as they are intended to be methods to provide parents ongoing feedback about student performance. Your awareness and active engagement is appreciated.

W/ Care, MK