



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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1/25/24

Winter Greetings Parents Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,
Wow.... it's hard to believe the recent weather! How impactful the cancellations must be on the members of the BCCS School Community on so many levels: daily routines, schedules, childcare etc... for our parents/guardians, traveling in this mess for everyone, and the loss and disruption to academic learning time are significant.

As a school, it is appropriate to ask for your hypervigilance with your awareness and engagement in your children's education. Please stay attune to the school's expectations of students and routinely monitor the performance and progress of your children. Please help assure that students remain timely in attending their classes and time-appropriate completion of assignments and school-related tasks with a good faith effort. Please communicate with teachers and staff when there are questions or concerns. For those Mid-high students scheduled to receive extended-day support on Tuesdays and Thursdays, please help ensure their attendance in each session made available to them to honor the agreement and, most importantly, receive the support needed in the classroom. Educational research is quite clear in regard to the difficulty meeting the annual academic standards/expectations in the K-12 environment. In fact, most curriculum analysts agree, meeting the annual academic standards of student learning with fidelity within the timeframe of a common school year (180 days) is pretty much unattainable. With this, and on the heels of the recent pandemic, in mind, all of our consideration, awareness and support is deserved and appreciated.

In the recent past, our school shared several school accountability and transparency performance reports for your awareness and reference. At this time, the final, and perhaps most useful, mid-year report is provided with this update: the [BCCS 2023-24 Annual Education Report](#) (AER). While the AER includes references and links to recent performance reports shared, the information also includes our school's perceived challenges with intentional strategies to address them, our school's current plans of improvement along with multiple data points. The report was presented and approved by the BCCS Board of Education this past Tuesday, and is now available to our parents/guardians and the general public. The 2023-24 AER is specific to data and related information from the prior school year and includes trend or multi-year performance data in several areas. BCCS parents/guardians are encouraged to review the AER to better understand our school's performance, challenges and plans of improvement.

The following present timely information and upcoming school related events for your awareness and understanding. The BCCS February Newsletter will be sent next Friday.

Mid-Year Benchmark Testing Reminder: The recent school closings have pushed several mid-year tests back. At this time, all K-8 students are administered NWEA MAP Benchmark test in reading and Math while all K-3 and designated 4th and 5th grade students receive individual Fountas and Pinnell Reading tests. These tests are designed to be one of the metrics our school uses to monitor student progress and program effectiveness. The MAP scores Student scores will be shared with parents during parent teacher conferences in March, and we are hopeful that we can share F and P scores along with student report cards. Please encourage students to give a good faith effort to increase the reliability of the scores.

Blood Drive Reminder: Our second blood drive of the school year is coming up quickly! It will be held next Wednesday, Jan 31 from 1-5 in the school gym. We need your help! If you are eligible and willing, please consider. Our school has a long history of supporting our area blood banks. Let's help continue the tradition of service to the community.

- Schedule your donation [HERE](#)

Questions? Feel free to reach out to Mr. Emmelkamp bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org.

Family Literacy Night Announcement: *The K-3 Family Literacy Night* is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th. The purpose of this evening event is to support our early learners who demonstrate a need with their literacy development. Our teachers and Title I staff will provide strategies and resources for families to engage in evidenced-based home activities that have proven to advance the literacy development of early learners. The parents of designated K-3 students will be sent a letter of invitation to participate next week. We ask parents to please RSVP for the event so that we can best prepare for our families.

Upcoming School Events and Happenings

Friday, 1/26

- 2nd Qtr/1st Semester Report card go home
- K-6 Game Night 3:15-4:15 in the gym. Students must have signed permission forms to attend and please bring games and place the student's name on the .
 - No Mid High After- School Sports
 - Thank You PTO
- 5th Grade Field Trip GR Ford Museum

Tuesday and Thursday, 1/30 and 2/1

- Mid-High Extended Day Tutoring
- Jazz Band

Thursday, 2/1

- Valentine Candy Gram Sales Begin /Student Council
-

Friday, 2/2

- Combined Eagle Assembly
- Mid High Sports/Floor Hockey 3:15-4:30 GYM
- Schoolwide February Newsletter

Closing.....

This school has sooooo much potential. I often count my blessings for being part of such a dedicated and committed workforce that truly believes in the mission of BCCS. The three pillars or foundation of our school's mission are Academics, Personal Connections, and Positive Character Traits. Please join me in sharing appreciation to our teachers and staff when opportunities arise. I also want to again welcome Ms. Spearow, the newest member of our school community. I can honestly say that we are fortunate to have hired such a well-rounded and grounded educator. I believe the fit will prove to be exceptionally good for the BCCS students and families. Starting a new role as a Mid-High Science teacher is no small task. This is especially true of our Mid-High teachers as they have more classes to prepare for than most in the business. Please join in welcoming her to BCCS ,and your awareness and understanding of being new to the school is appreciated. Have a great weekend ! MK