



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

9930 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Mark Kasmer, Principal
Phone: (616) 878-4852 - Fax: (616) 878-7196 Email: office@byroncentercharter.org

BCCS February 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

Happy February BCCS...

With just two weeks into the second half of the year, we are reminded that historically, January thru March is the best time of the school year for growth in student learning. Let's all work together to make this a reality for all BCCS students this year.

As noted in our last update, uninterrupted and consistent academic learning time is a high priority of our school. Bottom line, disruptions in the school's programs and services are impactful to student learning. As a school community, we all need to do whatever possible to ensure regular, consistent and on time school attendance.

With the recent series of snow days, there have been questions and interest with how this impacts the annual state required school days and hours. It is important to understand that given the unique characteristics of *our small but mighty school*, unlike most schools BCCS is responsible for multiple calendars/schedules for days and hours. Specifically, there are three schedules/groups that we have to report (and meet) the days and hours of attendance to the State of Michigan: Elementary, Mid-High, and the days and hours for HS students attending KCTC or KCT programs through KISD.

With that in mind, Michigan requires a minimum of 180 days and 1098 hours of school annually. The state allows up to 6 days or the equivalent number of hours for which pupil instruction is not provided due to circumstances not with-in the control of school authorities. Thus far, we have used 5 days and had one delay of two hours this school year. Please note, the 2 hr delay did not impact BCCS (RE: did not impact the number of days KCTC HS students were able to attend, and we have more than 1098 hours in our Elementary and Mid-High schedules).

Moving forward, BCCS has 1 more day of forgiveness time available. However, schools can apply to the State Superintendent for up to 3 additional days for forgiveness due to extenuating circumstances. More than you want to know perhaps, and So What??? Well, at this time we do not have to consider adding hours or days to the current school calendar to meet the required days and hours instruction. Please know, timely information will be provided to parents/guardians if and when we have to apply to the State Superintendent for additional days (up to 3), the subsequent response that may include a plan to address any additional days and hours we are required to make-up, if needed.

Just a reminder that our school primarily uses WoodTV 8 for media communications regarding school closures and delays. The preferred method is to use the REMIND app as a text will be sent directly to your phone of choice by the school (need info?... contact Mrs. Boersma). Please contact the school office if you have questions or support is needed.

As always your awareness and consideration is appreciated.

Positive Character Traits in Action

During the month of February, BCCS highlights the character traits of HONESTY and TRUSTWORTHINESS. Trustworthiness and honesty fit well together. People often view honesty as the foundation for building trust and/or people who are viewed by others as trustworthy are also generally viewed as an honest and reliable person.

As adults guiding the development of school age children, we are helping to build honesty and trustworthiness among our kids. Like in the home, in the school setting there have been countless times where the student's reporting of an incident was not quite how it went. While their reasoning for not accurately reporting something may be understandable, *honesty is the best policy*, especially with trusted adults.

As members of BCCS we are called to look for and recognize acts of honesty and trustworthiness. Let's share the opinion that helping students grow these traits truly help to build a responsible and healthy member of the community. Let's do our part!

News From the Office

Grant Updates: Additional one-time grant money has been offered to Michigan schools for a variety of purposes. Our school applied and is the recipient of multiple grants. Some of the benefits of these grants include:

- **Additional Literacy Services:** Funding is being used for additional services in literacy development for designated K-5 students. Specifically, students are receiving individualized explicit phonics and phonemic awareness instruction by Ms. Young, MS ELA Teacher.
- **Additional Math Supports:** Grant funding enables BCCS to add extra math tutoring to mid-high students. Mathematics software XTRA-MATH has been added to help 1-7th grade students build their automaticity with basic math facts. Designated students in grades 5th-8th will have the opportunity to attend a summer math program designed to help grow the specific skills needed to successfully transition to the next grade and HS Algebra.
- **Safety and Wellness Services:** BCCS is adding social work services to designated students while funding the services of the school Wellness Officer, Mr. Devries. These services are intended to improve school safety for everyone while supporting the social emotional welfare of the students.

School News

K-5 Student Services Update

- Midyear Testing Complete: All mid-year testing is now complete. These tests are used as measures to monitor student progress and school programs and services. Testing data and teacher recommendations determine if a student is at risk of falling behind academically. Students who qualify for extra academic support will be notified with a letter sent home today. Congratulations to our students who have met their goals and are now at grade level!

- K-5 SWARM Progress Reports: All K-5 students participating in SWARM reading will have progress reports sent home in student folders today. It's exciting to see the growth in our students. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home!
- K-3 Family Literacy Night: A Family Literacy Night for students in kindergarten through third grade who are involved in the SWARM program will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 6:00. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to learn fun ways to read together and do activities known to increase literacy development at home. Free books to take home will be provided! Look for an invitation in your child's folder today. Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 7th to make sure we have enough supplies.

■ [2024 Family Literacy Night Flyer.pdf](#)

Questions or concerns can be directed to Julie Berner - jberner@byroncentercharter.org

Mid High Band Update

- 2/4 Amelia Schmidt will audition for a concerto spot with Kalamazoo Concert Band
- 2/10 BCCS Solo Ensemble Participants meet on Saturday Feb 4th at Wyoming HS to include: Ian Emmelkamp, Amelia Schmidt, Amelia Pike, Gloria Gomez-Valasquez, Kinsley Duncan, Grace Duncan, Braedon Duncan, Liam Borsk, Max Ayon, Ellie VanDussen, and Lia Franson

*** *Keeping the Tradition of BCCS Excellence in Band/Good Luck Students and Mrs. Holstege!* ***

School Calendar and Events

Highlights

- Daddy-Daughter Dance: The 2024 PTO sponsored Daddy Daughter Dance for K-6 students will be held on Friday, February 16th from 6-8:00 PM. Ticket purchasing and general information will be sent home next week.
- Winter Formal Dance: The winter formal dance for Grades 7-12 will be held on Saturday, February 17 from 7-10 pm in the gym. Information regarding tickets will be sent home next week.
- BCCS Ski Club Continues ages 7 and Up : Feb 6, 13 and 21...snow permitting. Contact Mrs. Cravino for information hcravino@byroncentercharter.org
- Candy/Carnation Grams: The BCCS Student Council is organizing the annual Valentines Day Candy and Carnation Grams. Candy Grams and Carnations are \$1 ea, or \$2 total. Information is provided to all students.
- Pop Can Drive Announcement: BCCS is holding a POP CAN DRIVE to support the HS Prom. Parents are asked to drop-off cans by the shed during morning drop-off from February 5th-16th. Students will be in the parking lot to help collect donations. For safety purposes, parents with large quantities are asked to park, use the crosswalk, and deliver cans to the designated location.
- BCCS Mid-High GR RISE Volleyball Night: Mrs. Hittepole (HS Spanish Teacher) is organizing a GR RISE Professional Volleyball Game Night for interested BCCS Mid-High students on

Saturday, March 22. Participation and ticket purchase information can be obtained by students from Mrs. Hittepole rhittepole@byroncentryercharter.org.

- Tuesday and Thursdays:
 - Jazz Band
 - Mid-High Extended Day Tutoring

February Events Calendar

2/5-2/16 Pop Can Drive

2/8 Family Literacy Night 6-7 pm: K-3 Students and Parent

2/9 Popcorn Day .50 cents/ Yearbook

2/14

- Count Day
- Valentine's Day,
 - Elementary Card Exchange
 - Candy Gram/Carnations Delivery

2/16 K-6 Daddy Daughter Dance 6-8 pm

2/17 7-12 Winter Formal Dance 7-10 pm

2/19 **No School** Mid Winter Break/President's Day

2/21 Mid High Progress Reports Go Home

2/23 Hat Day

3/1

- Eagle Assembly
- Start of National Reading Month
- Mid High Sports Volleyball

News from the

Counselor's Chair

BCCS Opportunity for Graduating Seniors: Each year BCCS offers seniors an opportunity to be exempt from taking final exams in their last semester. Seniors can earn an exam exemption if...

- They maintain a class average of 83%/B for Semester 2.
 - Does not apply to online or dual enrollment courses.
- Have no more than 5 absences total for second semester, with no more than 3 absences during 4th quarter.
 - Exemptions are determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Have no suspensions, or major discipline issues.

Highly Recommended, and Best Wishes

Nurse's Corner

National Dental Month: February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

NEW: Dental Health Screening is a requirement by the State of Michigan for Kindergarten entry beginning next school year.

See the latest DHHS Memo to School Leaders [HERE](#) for the most recent information.

BCCS Student Recognitions and Awards

Appreciation: BCCS would like to thank all students, staff, friends and family who participated in the Blood Drive this past Wednesday. Your participation is a life saver, and a display of care and compassion for a serious issue in our community.

Results: 169% to projected goal. WOW!!!

Goal: 16

Donors: 26

Pints Donated: 27

Impact: 81 patients receive life-saving blood!

**** Way to go, folks! ****

December Character Trait - Joyfulness

Elementary

- K -Leo Dupree, Cali VanNoy
- 1 -Connor Milburn, Emily Higley, Yaretzi Rivera, Carter Donegan
- 2 - Josiah Miller, Piper Martin, Nora Kuncaitis
- 3 - Grant Smith, Hazel Covert, Torrance Heintz
- 4 - Jayden Leon, Liam Stratton, Orion Warner, Judah Beute
- 5 - Fiona Bolt, Chase Smith, Hannah Bunnell

Mid. High

- 6-8 Josh Hoort, Addi Cox, Emma Marais, Aidan Heintz, Isaac Higley,
- 9-12 Anna Hoort, Tori DeVries, Liam Borsk, Lia Franson, Xavier Coffey, Owen Higley, Rosie Minnie, Matt Conover, Max Ayon, Dominic Stratton, Grace Duncan, Colton Nyenhuis, Breanna Uhl

December Student of the Month:

K-2 Lucas Beute

3-5 Jael Torres

6-8 Emma Marais

9-12 Nick Dies

January Character Traits - Compassion & Caring

Elementary

- K - Royce Campos, Harper Veldheer
- 1 - Athena Greenfield, Keira Hanrahan, Emily Higley, Yaretzi Rivera, Ruby Kuncaitis
- 2 - Angela Palasek, Roman Campos, Jensen Braun
- 3 - Raelynn Blue, Aeris Leyer
- 4 - Koda Rodriguez, Liem Stratton, Zach Miller, Orion Warner, Gia Hockenberry
- 5 - Maxwell Brown and Lilly Miller, Iva Covert

Mid High

- 6-8 - Elina Wiersma, Sophia Hockenberry, Leiah Barker, Grace Pike, Anna Higley, Kaydense Downing, Isaac Higley, Miriam Apotheker, Bayley Houghmaster, Aiden Heintz, Hanna Peterson, Addelyn Hubbel
- 9-12 - Emma Orban, Max Ayon, Alydiah Coffey, Amelia Pike, Rose Minnie, Kinzie Anderson, Bre Uhl, Nick Dies, Owen Higley, Lia Franson, Christa Frank, Ava Syswerda

January Student of the Month:

K-2 - Asher Beute

3-5 - Melanie Donegan

6-8 - Rebekah Rocheleau

9-12 - Violet Orban

****AWESOME.... GOOD JOB. WELL DONE STUDENTS!****

Ship Shape Awards

- Third Grade is the winner of the Ship Shape 1st Semester Award...Congratulations
- Week of January 29th: 5th Grade

****Thanks for taking such good care of our school !****

Mid High 2nd Qtr First Semester Honor Roll Recognitions

Middle School All A Honor Roll

Miriam Apotheker, Nolan Bolt, Camden Cashman, Annika Emmelkamp, Sorren Gillikin, Emma Marais, Cody VanDussen

Middle School A/B Honor Roll

Leiah Barker, Micah Barker, Alice Bylsma, Addyson Coffey, Kaiden Coffey, Kaydense Downing, Noah Fisch, John Ganka, Deyton Hiekema-Verner, Josh Hoort, Abigail Rocheleau, Elina Wiersma

High School All A Honor Roll

Tori DeVries, Grace Duncan, Ian Emmelkamp, Ella Franson, Violet Orban, Amelia Schmidt, Ava Syswerda

High School A/B Honor Roll

Kinzie Anderson, Elijah Coffey, Nick Dies, Kinsley Duncan, Rhys Houda, RJ McCarthy, Emma Orban

*****Salute.... You are commended for your accomplishments!*****

In Closing... When given the opportunity, please share a comment of awareness and support to students who received an award, were recognized and/or who have upcoming competitions. Having members of the BCC School Community verbally recognize a student, especially other than their own, for receiving one of the school awards, recognitions and/or wishing them well on upcoming competition is likely to have lasting impact on their feelings of accomplishment, and likely their, and others, motivation to put forth the time and effort to do well. Making Personal Connections with our students is one of the three pillars of our school's mission. Your thoughtful support helps raise the awareness and importance of student awards and recognition and the value of making personal connections with students in our small but mighty school. Your consideration is appreciated. And.... Good Job, Well Done Students! MK