



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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April 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

Back in the swing of things and moving along quickly..... Happy Spring everyone! The theme for the next month and a half is testing. All students will be administered state, national and in-house tests intended to measure a students growth and proficiency, and as a metric to measure school effectiveness. We should be reminded that the scores are a point in time, and a better reflection of a student's academic performance using multiple measures (state, national tests, daily performance and in-house tests) and looking at trend data, or performance over time. It is important that we all encourage students to give a good faith effort so that the results of the tests accurately reflect the student's ability. As parents/guardians, we call upon you to understand the importance of the annual state and national testing, to be aware of the test dates and to actively help prepare and encourage your children to give their best effort.

Positive Character Traits

The character traits are considered to be our school's shared values. They are celebrated each month, and they are intended to help guide our actions within and outside the school community. Whether it be your child, another student, a staff member, or a fellow parent/guardian, let's look for opportunities to recognize and affirm these traits in action.

The April BCCS character traits highlight FAIRNESS and COURAGE. Fairness means *impartial and just treatment or behavior without favoritism or discrimination*. An act of fairness combines honesty with equity, and often a little *courage* is needed. Courage is a person's ability to do the right thing especially when they know it is not going to be easy. Most of us view courage in the physical sense like bravery in battle. However, other types of courage that play a huge role in schools include social courage, intellectual courage and moral courage. From a student's viewpoint, fairness is often having the courage to do what is right.....not always the easiest road for sure! As members of our small, but mighty school community, we are called to look for and recognize acts of fairness and courage in our students.

From the Office and Counselor

State and National Testing

Your help please... *with all the state and national testing coming up we ask that parents/guardian ensure:*

- **Mid-High Student come to school with fully charged chromebooks and bring chromebook chargers to school**

- Students are on time for school (especially PSAT and SAT testers/late students are not permitted to test)
- Students get proper rest
- Students have breakfast (please have all students here no later than 7:45 if they are eating breakfast at school)
- Parental awareness and interest /dialogue with students about testing (i.e. good faith effort, encourage perseverance and inquire about the test...level of difficulty, their perceived performance etc...)

The value of your support is huge....and appreciated !

MI State Testing Schedule

Tuesday, April 16

- 8th grade PSAT

Wednesday, April 17

- 11th grade SAT
 - **No School Seniors**, expected to attend KCTC/BCPS transportation available
 - 11th grade may leave after testing and are **EXCUSED** from KCTC though welcome to attend
- 9-10th grades PSAT

Tuesday, April 23

- M-STEP Testing
 - 3-5 grades ELA
 - 6th grade ELA
 - 7th grade Math
 - 8th Grade Social Studies
 - 11th grade Science

Wednesday April 24

- M-STEP Testing
 - 3-5 ELA
 - 6th grade ELA
 - 7th grade Math
 - 8th Grade Science
 - 11th grade Social Studies

Thursday, April 25

- M-STEP Testing
 - 5th grade Science

Tuesday April 30

- M-STEP Testing
 - 3-5 grades Math
 - 6th grade Math
 - 7th Grade ELA

Wednesday May 1

- M-STEP Testing
 - 3-5 grades Math
 - 6th grade Math

- 7th Grade ELA

Thursday, May 2

- M-STEP Testing
 - 5th grade Social Studies

Test make-ups will be held on Fridays and Mondays and/or on grade level non-tested dates.

School Happenings

2024-25 School Enrollment Deadline:

By school policy, in order to ensure your spot for the 2024-25 school year, enrollment forms must be turned in by Monday, April 15th. Please contact the school office if any information is needed. FYI....

- [2024-25 Open Enrollment Announcement](#)
- [Enrollment Administrative Guidelines](#)
- [Enrollment Initiative Program](#)

BCCS 2024-25 Kindergarten Round-Up Open House for New/Prospective Students

Please feel free to share BCCS New Family Open House and Kindergarten Round-Up information to family and friends you believe may be interested in joining our school community Date: April 17

- [K Round-Up](#)
- [BCCS 24-25 Open House](#)

Please Note: existing families need not attend unless you have a Kindergarten student starting next year. All participants need to complete a registration for the event. SEE QR code embedded in the flyers or the direct link can be found [HERE](#)

Grand Friends/Special Friends Day

We have had a great response to the BCCS Grand/Special Friends Day. Here's what our guests can expect...*please share...*

- Event Times
 - K-2nd 9-10:30
 - 3rd-5th 12:30-2:00
- Activity Schedule
 - Welcome Opening/Gym
 - Grade Level Music Presentations/Gym
 - Classroom Activities/Student's Classroom

Guests will be offered refreshments....

- coffee/water and popcorn
 - *(popcorn provided by yearbook class and donations will be accepted)*

2024-25 Pre-School Open House

BCCS parents and guardians are encouraged to consider the GSRP 4 year old preschool program housed on our campus. Parents are also asked to share the open house information with prospective families. GSRP has been a welcome and wonderful addition to BCCS. The open house will be held on the BCCS campus.... see and share flyer [LINK](#)

Dates

- Thursday April 25 from 4:15-5:45 pm
- Friday, April 26 from 9-11:00 am



The goal is to raise \$10,000 this year!

We will be having our 19th annual Walk-A-Thon on **Friday, May 10th** at Byron Center Charter School from 1:45-2:45 pm. This annual event is one of our largest fundraisers for the school. The profits from this walk go directly toward sending our students on field trips, updating technology, and supporting our athletic program. All students will receive a Walk-A-Thon T-shirt commemorating the event!

If there are any families that know of a business that may be interested in donating to our school fundraiser this year please let us know and we will get you the sponsorship information. We will need that information and money back to the school by **April 26, 2024**.

- *Each student who brings in pledges of \$50.00 or more by **Wednesday, May 8th, 2024** will have his or her name go into a drawing for prizes.*
- *Raise \$100 and get your name in the grand prize drawing. Every \$100 after that gets your name in the grand prize drawing again.*

Walk-A-thon 2024 Online Fundraising Information

- [LINK](#)

BCCS Calendar of Events

BCCS April Events and Activities

Tuesdays and Thursdays Jazz Band and Mid High Tutoring
M and F MS Cross Country Practice

- Meets on Wednesdays, Riverside Park
 - 4:30 Boys
 - 5:00 Girls

Last full month of school for 2024 Graduating Class

- 4/15
 - Muffin Monday
 - Re-enrollment forms due...*Last Day* to reserve spot for next year
- 4/16 PSAT 8th Grade
- 4/17
 - 2024-25 Open House/ Kindergarten Round-up 6:30
 - MS CC Meet / Riverside Park
 - 4:30 Boys
 - 5:00 Girls

- SAT Grade 11, PSAT grades 9 and 10
 - *No School Seniors, expected to attend KCTC/BCPS transportation available*
 - *11th grade may leave after testing and are EXCUSED from KCTC though welcome to attend*
- 4/18 5th grade FT to GR Public Museum
- 4/19
 - Grand Friends Day
 - Popcorn Friday... .50 cents/yearbook
- 4/23 M-STEP Testing 3-8 and 11
- 4/24
 - MS CC Meet / Riverside Park
 - 4:30 Boys
 - 5:00 Girls
 - M-STEP 3-8 and 11
- 4/25
 - Hastings Jazz Festival
 - BCCS Jazz Band
 - M-STEP Testing Grade 5
 - GSRP Preschool Open House 4:15-5:45 (BCCS Portable)
- 4/26
 - 2nd grade FT J-Ball Zoo
 - Hat Day \$1/Student Activities
 - GSRP Open House 9-11:00 (BCCS Portable)
- 4/30
 - Elementary Concert Godwin Heights 6:30
 - 10th grade FT GR Ford Museum
 - M-STEP Testing Grades 3-8
- 5/1
 - Blood Drive: 1-5 pm BCCS Gym
 - MS CC Meet / Riverside Park
 - 4:30 Boys
 - 5:00 Girls
 - M-STEP Testing Grades 3-8
- 5/2 State Band Festival Lowell
 - MS 8:30-10 am
 - HS 10:15 am-12:15 pm
- 5/3 Golden Eagle Assembly

Student Recognitions and Awards

BCCS Character Trait Recognitions for March (*Courtesy and Respect*) Elementary

- K - Libby Apotheker, Riley Meyer, Hazel Gillissen

- 1 - Raelynn Minnie, Carter Donegan, Nehemiah Torres
- 2 - Henry Veldheer, Natasha Olson, Lillian Lubbers
- 3 - Lydia Olson, Hazel Covert, Zeke Barker, Nathan Commans
- 4 - Melanie Donegan, Liam Stratton, Devin Boelema, Russell Lubbers, Zach Miller, Orion Warner
- 5 - Iva Covert, Max Brown

Middle School

Aiden Heintz, Deyton Hiekema-Verner, Sophia Hockenberry, Leiah Barker, Isaac Higley, Elina Wiersma, John Ganka, Lilly Bauer, Isaiah DuPont, Anna Higley, Noah Fisch, Annika Emmelkamp

High School

Torstin Edwards, Christa Frank, Amelia Pike, Owen Higley, Gloria Gomez-Velaskquez, Tori DeVries, Lia Franson, Tate Anderson, Braedon Duncan, Tyler Ganka, Amelia Schmidt, Grace Duncan, Max Ayon

Student of the Month for March

K-2 Illiana Domingo-Velasquez

3-5 Torrance Heintz

6-8 Aidan Heintz

9-12 Owen Higley

BCCS Honor Roll 3rd Quarter 2023-24

MS All A Honors

Miriam Apotheker, Nolan Bolt, Addyson Coffey, Annika Emmelkamp, John Ganka, Sorren Gillikin, Emma Marais and Cody VanDussen

MS A/B Honors

Leiah Barker, Micah Barker, Camden Cashman, Kaydense Downing, Isaiah DuPont, Isaac Higley, Joshua Hoort, Grace Pike, Abigail Rocheleau, Rebekah Rocheleau and Zavian VanNoy

HS All A Honors

Tori DeVries, Nick Dies, Grace Duncan, Ian Emmelkamp, Ella Franson, Lia Franson, Amelia Schmidt and Ava Syswerda

HS A/B Honors

Elijah Coffey, Kinsley Duncan, Gloria Gomez-Valasquez, Rhys Houda, Violet Orban and Ellie VanDussen

*****Good Job Well Done!!!*****

Ship Shape Awards

- Week of 3/11 1st grade
- Week of 3/18 Kindergarten
- Week of 3/25 & 4/12 1st grade

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

Festival of the Arts

Many thanks to students and staff for making another successful year for the annual BCCS Festival Of The Arts, an event that showcases the visual and performing Arts talents in our school community.

2023-24 Festival of the Arts Video Links

- Elementary and Mid-High [LINK](#)

Mid High Winners

- Performing Arts: Zavian VanNoy/*Drum Solo*
- Visual Arts: Amelia Schmidt, '*Bloom*' pencil portrait

****BRAVO!!****

In closing..... This is a busy place...small, but mighty. As we are now a couple weeks into the final marking period, there will be a continuous flow of information coming from the school. Realizing spring in general tends to be a busy time for families, I ask for your diligence and support in being aware of school-related activities and requests for support from the home. Do not hesitate to contact the school for clarifications/questions as needed. Information for summer programming including specific recommendations for student participation will be coming out toward the end of the month. In particular, we are planning to have in-house 5th-8th Math Summer Programming for designated students. Our school performance data indicates this is likely the grade span and subject area having the most residual impact as a result of the disjointed learning during the pandemic. I am encouraging and hoping parents/guardians are able to have their children take advantage of this offering as our school applied for and received grant funding specifically dedicated for this purpose. Finally, I want to thank the teachers and staff members involved with the recent extracurricular activities offered to our BCCS students including the Festival of the Arts, 1st BCCS Euro Challenge, 3-5 Flag Football, HS Sports Club, MS Cross Country, Jazz Band, Mid-High Band Solo and Ensembles YearBook Cover Pages, Skate Night, Spirit Week Activities, Reading Month Activities and the recent Washington DC trip for 11th and 12th grade students....what a team of dedicated individuals who demonstrate their value in our school's mission. Thank You! MK