



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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May 3, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians of BCCS K-12 Students,

Coming into the final full month of school always comes quickly after Spring break....likely because it's such a busy time of year in the schools and in our homes. We call upon our BCCS parents/guardians to help the students stay focused and engaged through the end of the school year. Please help to ensure students are on time, and prepared for school each day. Kids tend to get a little excited this time of year so your awareness of the school happenings, and the support provided to your children in accomplishing the expectations of the school is greatly appreciated. In summation, your continued guidance and support is essential to an effective and productive end to the school year.

BCCS Character Traits Celebrated

In the months of May and June, our school community celebrates the character traits of *Loyalty and Citizenship*. It is widely believed that being loyal to something greater than oneself, such as faith, family, friends, school, is directly related to health and happiness. While the origin of the word has ties to a legal contract, in today's terminology, true loyalty comes from the heart. Citizenship is a strand of the social studies standards, and components of citizenship are taught at every grade/course level. We can all agree on the value of teaching our youth to be informed, engaged and responsible citizens. From communities large and small, good citizenship is primary to a well functioning community.. At BCCS we are a small but mighty community of learners; therefore, during the next month, let's find ways to show our loyalty and citizenship to the members of our school community.

From the Office

Teacher Appreciation

Next week is Teacher/ Support Staff Appreciation Week, and Tuesday, May 7th, is National Teacher Appreciation Day. BCCS is fortunate to have a dedicated and caring group of teachers and support staff. Being a K-12 educator is a valued and respected job.... and perhaps one of the most difficult jobs.

Please join in celebrating our teachers and teacher assists next week. On behalf of all members of the BCCS Educational Community, we THANK ALL BCCS Teacher and Teacher Assistants for their dedication and service to the students of Byron Center Charter School.

You are recognized, appreciated and celebrated!

BCCS Stakeholder Surveys

Each year BCCS administers school culture and climate surveys to all stakeholders (parents/guardians, students, and Teachers/Staff). These annual surveys provide valuable opinion/perceptual data from our stakeholders for school improvement purposes.

The 2023-24 surveys are being updated and a link will be sent out to BCCS parents/guardians in the next week. Students and staff will be administered the surveys during the school day. Each BCCS family is asked to complete at least one Culture and Climate Survey.

Your cooperation and feedback is needed and valued.

Summer School/Programs and Services

At this time BCCS has determined the 2024 Summer School Options. The information below provides grade-span/levels, whether in-house or in-home, if the program is offered to recommended students or an option for consideration, date ranges/time frames and the date parents can expect to receive the information.

The summer programs offered by BCCS include:

1. An in-house **K-3** Extended Year/ Early Start Program for recommended K-3 Students
 - a. 2 week sessions in June and August
 - b. 4 days per week (Monday-Thursday)/ Total 16 days
 - c. 9-11:30/2.5 hrs per day
 - d. Information release May 10
2. An in-home, self-paced **4-5** Reading and/or Math program for recommended 4th and 5th grade students (Using the GRASP/Grand Rapids Summer Academic Program Booklets)
 - a. 100 %Grant supported/no cost to parents
 - b. Information release May 17
3. An in-house Middle School (**grades 6-8**) Math Program for recommended 6th-8th grade students
 - a. 2 week session
 - b. 4 days per week (Monday-Thursday) Total 8 Days
 - c. 9-11:30
*** two options offered June and August***
 - d. Information Release May 10
4. An in-home, self-paced Middle School (**grades 6-8**) Reading program for recommended 6th-8th grade students (Using the GRASP/Grand Rapids Summer Academic Program Booklets)
 - a. 100 %Grant supported/no cost to parents
 - b. Information release May 17
5. A **K-8 Optional** in- home, self-paced Math and/or Reading program for any K-8 student (Using the GRASP/Grand Rapids Summer Academic Program Booklets)
 - a. Partial grant supported/ cost \$10 per booklet
 - b. Information release May 20
6. A HS Credit Recovery Program for recommended 9-11 Students through MySchool@Kent blended program (inline and face to face)
 - a. Course and instructors through Kent ISD
 - b. Courses begin in June and run through 2nd week in August
 - c. Information release by the end-of-year or as soon as made aware

As noted, specific information will be shared directly to the appropriate parents of students in the next two weeks.

- The parents of all students recommended for summer programming will receive information specific to the program(s) being recommended for their children
- The parents of all other K-8 students (not recommended) will receive information specific to the **optional** program, meaning parents may request participation.

Questions??? Please contact Mrs. Berner (BCCS Director of Students Services) at jberner@byroncentercharter.org

Your consideration is encouraged and appreciated!

School Happenings

State/National Testing Update

All M-STEP initial tests have been administered, Next week the test administration will include M-STEP make-up testing and NWEA (MAP) Testing at the 3-8 levels.

Please continue to help students be prepared for tests and encourage them to give a good faith effort. All testing is expected to be concluded by May 14.

Walk-A-Thon "24 Update

Next Friday we are to hold the 19th Annual BCCS Walk-A-Thon. The day features walking, music, games and competitions. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 . At this time we have raised a little over \$6,900. Soooo... the final push to get out there and raise money to support BCCS.

- Fundraising Collection Form Options:
 - Online Fundhub information [LINK](#)
 - Paper Pledge Form [LINK](#)

Senior Activities

- Senior Tribute @ Golden Eagle Awards Assembly, Today May 3rd
- Senior Last Day, Monday May 20
 - Senior Luncheon
 - Final Walk 2:45
- Graduation Thursday 5/23 7pm, BCCS
- Senior Trip , Friday May 24th , Michigan Adventure
*** Remember to send pictures for Slideshow and Ceiling Tile information will be forthcoming for those interested***

Calendar Highlights

- Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Jazz Band
 - Mid-High Tutoring
- MS Cross Country
 - Monday, May 6, final practice
 - Wed, May 8 Conference Meet/family and friends run (Riverside Park) anyone can run!

- **4th Grade Band Instrument Fittings**
 - Monday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 22 are days for band fitting for current fourth grade students and any other new families that might be interested. It will be held in the band room from 3:15-4:15. Students will be shown how to make sounds on several instruments, in order to make a selection that will give them the greatest success. Beginning band instruments are typically flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. Information about acquiring an instrument as well as a list of recommended brands will be given out.
 - *4th Grade Parents*
 - *Please send an email to Mrs. Holstege indicating the date selected to attend with your child, and/or if there are questions at cholstege@byroncentercharter.org*

May Field Trip Highlights

- 5/8 Designated HS Students DNR Service Project, Saugatuck State Park
- 5/9 Designated HS Students DNR Service Project, Holland State Park
- 5/15 HS Art Class FT to Meijer Garden
- 5/22 9th Grade FT to Ford Museum
- 5/23 Designated 11th Grade Students FT to MCTI
- 5/29 Kindergarten FT to Critter Barn
- 5/30 3rd Grade FT to GR Public Museum

Other School Events/Activities

May 8th Mid High Progress Reports Sent Home

May, 9 PTO Meeting

May 10

- 19th Annual Walk-A-Thon
- Mid-High After School Sports/Ultimate Frisbee

May 11 HS Prom, Studio 18 Door

May 14 Career Awareness Day 8th-12 Grades

May 16 Spring Band Concert (5th, 6th, MS and HS) 7:00 pm Godwin Heights

May 17

- Mid-High After School Sports/ Dodgeball
- Popcorn Friday \$1 for Student Services

May 21-22 Senior Exams (if applicable)

May 23 Graduation Commencement Ceremony, 7 pm BCCS

May 24

- Field Day K-5
- Hat Day \$1
- Mid-High After School Sports/Flag Football

May 27 Memorial Day No School

May 31

- Mid-High After School Sports/Soccer
- Mid-High Band to Play National Anthem at Whitecaps Game

Recognitions and Awards

Mid-High Bands Recognized

Once again the 2023-24 Mid-High Bands continued the tradition of excellence by their recent performances at the recent festivals:

- BCCS HS Band received a 1/Superior rating at the State festival in Lowell
- BCCS MS (7th and 8th) Grade Band received a 2/Excellent rating at the State Meet in Lowell
- BCCS Jazz Band was also invited and played well at the Hasting Jazz Festival

AWESOME and Congratulations to Mrs. Holstege and our BCCS Mid-High Band Students for another outstanding and successful year!!

BCCS Blood Drive Summary

Date: May 1

Donors: 20 Participants

Pints Donated: 18 pints

Impact: estimated over 50 patients receive life-saving blood!

THANK YOU to all the students, staff, and parents who made the choice to give 'the gift of life' to local patients!!

Students of the Month/April

- K-2 Lillian Lubbers
- 3-5 Devin Boelema
- 6-8 Josh Hoort
- 9-12 Gloria Gomez-Valasquez

Good Job, Well Done!

Student Character Trait Recognitions for April/Fairness and Courage

Elementary

- K - Ayva O'Brien, Allen Hawkins, Hazel Gillissen
- 1st - Yaretzi Rivera, Adam Gonzalez, Emily Higely
- 2nd - Hailey Gonzalez, Brian VanDusen, Henry Veldheer
- 3rd - Aeris Leyer, Jael Torres, Hazel Covert, Lydia Olson
- 4th - Simon Apotheke, Ayden Gonzalez, Chaira Kish, Melanie Donegan
- 5th- Ally Houghmaster, Fiona Bolt, Chase Smith, Max Brown

Middle School

- Josh Hoort, Deyton Heilkema-Verner, Riley Balfort, Alexandra Beverwyk, Alice Bylsma, Hanna Peterson, Addelyn Hubbel, Noah Fisch, Kaydense Downing, Nolan Bolt, Annika Emmelkamp

High School

- Brianna Hoort, Jedaiah Armour, Kinsley Duncan, Tyler Ganka, Kinzie Anderson, Amelia Schmidt, Lia Franson, Christa Frank, Jaylynn Steiner-Ary, Nick Dies, Violet Orban, Ian Emmelkamp

Thanks for showing positive character traits in action!

Ship Shape Awards:

- Week of 4/15= 5th Grade
- Week of 4/22= 3rd Grade
- Week of 4/29= 1st Grade

Thanks for taking care of our beautiful school!

In Closing.....

Your understanding and engagement with the end-of-year school events and academic expectations is a critical part of our school's effectiveness. I encourage parents/guardians to contact the office, or staff members, if you have questions about any of the events and/or related expectations of the school.

Weekly updates from the office will be sent each Friday through the end of the school year. Your awareness, consideration and support is much appreciated.

Let's have a successful and strong finish to the 2023-24 school year.

Have a wonderful weekend! MK