



BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

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August 12, 2026

Hello BCCS Families!

As we continue to gear up for the new school year we wanted to share a few important pieces of information:

Welcoming Our New Staff: Please extend an exceptionally warm welcome to our newly hired staff! We are so excited to have them on board to help and enrich our school community:

- Darrylhi Locklear - Kindergarten
- Kylan Arnold - 2nd Grade
- Alyssa Simons - Secondary Science
- Jessica Kuncaitis - Social-Emotional Paraeducator
- Audra Kowalski - Elementary Academic Paraeducator

Free and Reduced Meals Application: Michigan has officially decided that school meals will be free for all students for the 2026-2027 school year. We encourage all families to complete the Free and Reduced Meals Application, as it helps BCCS in many ways, including access to state and federal funding for educational programs. *Failure to complete the Free and Reduced Meals Application jeopardizes full access to state and federal funding for our school and could literally result in us missing out on hundreds of thousands of dollars!* I am asking for every family to please complete the application located at [free and reduced meal application](#) even if you're unsure whether you qualify (and "Apply for Benefits"). Byron Center Public Schools (BCPS) provides our meal program, please note the school in this portal is Byron Center Public Schools and Byron Center Charter School is listed in the participating schools with BCPS.

- BCPS Monthly Food Service Menus can be accessed at <https://www.bcpsk12.net/district/food-services/menus/> or <https://bcpsk12.nutrislice.com/menus-eula>
- Please note school meals will begin on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

Driveline: Our top priorities are student safety and efficient traffic flow during pick-up and drop-off. Please be on the lookout for driveline information at our Open House on Thursday, August 20, 2026 (6-7:30pm). Your cooperation helps ensure a smooth and safe process for all!

Eagle Eyes Safety Team: "Setting students up for a great day!" is our new motto! Our Eagle Eyes Safety Team is back and ready to serve our school community. This dedicated team of volunteers seeks to ensure a safe and welcoming experience for every student. Thank you for waving, smiling, and helping our students feel seen and supported! If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Mrs. Polly Timmerman (ptimmerman@byroncentercharter.org).

Parent Teacher Organization: Nothing is more rewarding than getting involved with your child and their education and our PTO is a great way to do just that! The PTO helps support school events, student activities, and staff appreciation.

PTO Leadership Team for 2026-2027 is comprised of:

- President - Brittany Hubbel
- Vice President - Katie Braun
- Treasurer - Julie Weincek
- Secretary - Tayna Veldheer

From organizing the upcoming September 18, 2026, Carnival to helping with Trunk-or-Treat and the Fall Mum Sale, there are many ways to get involved. Learn more at Open House or join us at the next PTO meeting on September 3, 2026, at 3:30pm - everyone is welcome! Contact the PTO with any questions at pto@byroncentercharter.org.

Blood Drive: We're starting the recruitment for our first blood drive this year early for a couple of reasons:

- Our first blood drive is coming next month - Thursday, September 3, 2026, from 1-5pm in the gym.
- The school will earn \$500 from Versiti if we have 20 people donate!
- Donors will receive a pair of flannel pants to stay warm in the chilly weather this fall.
- This is a great way to save up to 3 lives by giving a pint of blood and an hour of your time.
- Please sign up using this [link](#).
- Contact Mr. Emmelkamp with any questions: bemmelkamp@byroncentercharter.org
- Thanks so much!

Hand2Hand: As we enter the 2026–2027 school year if you would like to sign up for [Hand2Hand](#) services please fill out the Google Form ([Hand2Hand Permission Slip](#)). Paper slips are no longer being used. We are hoping our church partners will be able to start feeding students by September 12, 2025, this year.

Thank you for being such an important part of the BCCS community. We're looking forward to a strong start and a meaningful year of learning, growth, and connection.

Mr. John Krajewski
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