

### Superintendent's Office

8542 Byron Center Ave. SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616.878.6100

Superintendent: Kevin Macina, Ph.D.  
Asst. Superintendent: Jeff Wierzbicki  
Chief Financial Officer: Tamara Powers

### Board of Education

President: Marty Phelan  
Vice President: Crystel Imperi  
Treasurer: Brenda Hondorp  
Secretary: Chuck Fedewa  
Trustees: Jason Pierson,  
Amber Swift, and Thalia Tilma

### 2023

#### Board of Education Meetings

May 8

(regular meeting, 6:30pm)

May 22

(special meeting, 5:15pm)

June 12

(special meeting, 5:15pm)

June 19

(regular meeting, 6:15pm)

Check [www.bcpsk12.net](http://www.bcpsk12.net) board page  
for meeting specifics and locations.

Work Sessions will be scheduled  
as needed.

Upon request at least ten (10) days  
prior to a meeting, the District shall  
make reasonable accommodations  
for a person with disabilities to  
be able to attend and participate.  
Contact the Facilities Director at  
616.878.6100.

There is a time for public  
participation during a meeting as  
indicated in the agenda.

Official minutes are available and  
stored at the administration office.



BYRON CENTER  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



As we enter the final weeks of the 2022-2023 school year, it is wonderful to reflect on all the great things our students, teachers, and the staff have accomplished at Byron Center Public Schools. Our achievements in academics, fine arts, and athletics give us many reasons to celebrate!

As I look back on this school year, there are so many fond memories that showcase our Bulldog pride. There have been wonderful celebrations of academics. March is always a great time to highlight our students' love for reading with the excitement that comes around Reading Month. The fine arts continue to shine on so many levels, with many special events taking place, such as the Festival of Voices at the Van Singel. It was great to hear all the talented students back on stage after a long pause of this event. Our student-athletes continue to have great success on and off the field by showing exemplary sportsmanship to make Byron Center proud. Along with all these accomplishments, our Bulldogs keep the world around BC at the forefront. They truly understand that their actions make a big difference in the lives of all the people around them. With the partnership of parents and the hard-working staff members of BCPS, it helps create opportunities for all students to have an outstanding opportunity to learn and grow.

With all this fantastic success, Byron Center Public Schools continues to grow. It is a destination district that draws families to our community. The new Nickels Intermediate School is set to open in the fall, allowing more space for our 5th and 6th graders to learn. The current Nickels Intermediate building will be transformed into a fourth elementary school and is expected to open in the fall of 2024. We are proud of our growth and excited to expand our Bulldog community.

I want to thank the Board of Education, staff, parents, and the entire community for supporting Byron Center Public Schools and our students. We get to do extraordinary things because of your support, and those extraordinary things are what make BC so great. I am looking forward to finishing the school year strong with more great memories to come.

Sincerely,



Kevin Macina, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



Stay informed! Check out Byron Center Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for information on school closings, upcoming events, and more!

## Bond Update

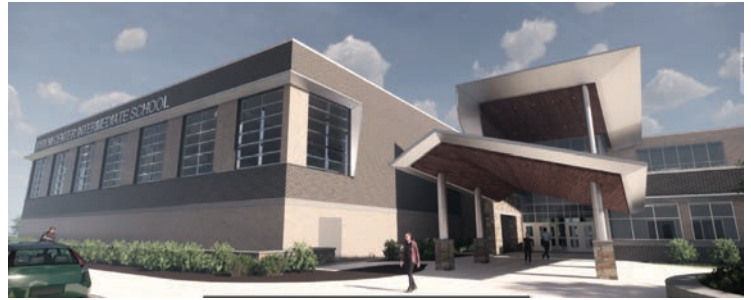
Progress continues on the new Nickels Intermediate School. Construction leaders said the building will be ready for students and staff by the end of summer, just in time for the 2023-2024 school year!

“Our staff has a sense of ownership with the new building because we have been a part of the process. We can’t wait to get into the building next school year,” Nickels Intermediate Principal Tom Trout said.

Following the move to the new Nickels, the old building on Byron Center Ave. will be renovated and turned into a fourth elementary school. The extra building is crucial as Byron Center continues to welcome new families into the district.

*“It’s great because there will be a lot of new things to it and a bigger building with more stuff to do.” - Alexa Barr, current 5th grader*

*“I’m really excited for a new building because we’re going to be the first ever 6th graders in there.” - Silas Buter, current 5th grader*



## Unified Champion

Byron Center High School, West Middle School, Nickels Intermediate, and Marshall Elementary were named Unified Champion Schools through the Special Olympics for their support of the LINKS program. LINKS is an inclusion program at BCPS where students partner together to engage and learn throughout the school day and beyond. Students partner around school work, social behaviors, and building independence.

Being a Unified Champion School allows Byron Center to promote inclusive opportunities for students with and without disabilities, focusing on youth leadership and sports engagement.



# Kids Heart Challenge

Byron Center Public Schools elementary students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge to learn about heart health and overall wellness. Brown, Countryside, and Marshall raised more than \$60,000 for the American Heart Association during the challenge.



# Kids Food Basket

Byron Center High School, West Middle School, and Nickels Intermediate students, staff, and the community came together for the Kids Food Basket's spring food drive. The organization serves kids 0-17 in Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, and Allegan counties who are food insecure. The National Honor Society, Junior National Honor Society, and Nickels Student Leadership Team organized the food drive to collect healthy snacks so area students won't go hungry. Together, BCPS collected more than 500 pounds of food to help the community!

# Polar Plunge

The Byron Center Boys Swim/Dive Team took the Polar Plunge to raise more than \$1500 for the Special Olympics. A very cold dip for our student-athletes, but we're proud of them for giving back to their community.



# ACADEMICS

## In the Classroom

Countryside Elementary 4th graders got some hands-on learning dissecting sharks. Dissection is a great opportunity to allow students to see how everything in the body fits and works together. Some students were more excited about the assignment than others...



## Spelling Bee

5th grader Buyaung Zawngbuk is a Spelling Bee C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N! 5th grader Toby Nguyen was the runner-up at the annual Nickels Intermediate competition.



## Global Travel Fair

West Middle School 7th graders took fellow students and their teachers around the world with their Global Travel Fair Projects. The students picked and researched a country, then taught tourists all about their country, including government, currency, music, climate, food, and more.



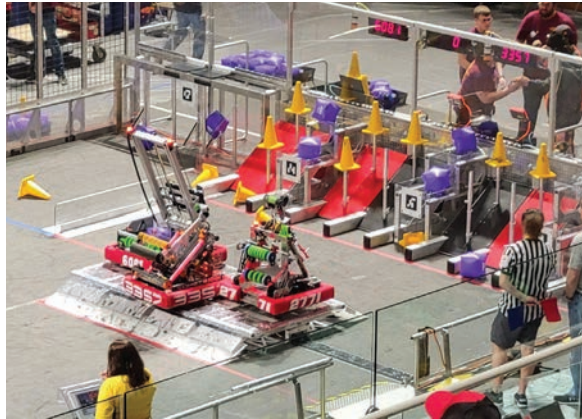
# Science Olympiad

The Byron Center High School Science Olympiad team made school history by winning a record number of medals. During a regional competition at Grand Valley State University, every team member walked away with at least one medal. The team also competed in the state finals for the second time in school history, taking home medals in three events!



# Code Red Robotics

Byron Center High School's robotics team, Code Red Robotics, had a successful season. The team won its first competition of the year at Calvin University. During the season, Code Red Robotics was given a Creativity Award and the FIRST Impact Award, which is awarded to the team that best represents a model for others to follow.



The team competed in the Michigan State Championship and traveled to Houston, Texas, for the World Championship where more than 600 teams competed!



# Battle of the Books

Nickels Intermediate 5th and 6th grade students competed against each other in a Jeopardy style competition, testing their knowledge on various books. The 5th graders came out on top, beating the 6th graders and breaking a school record for the most points earned in a Battle of the Books competition.



# READING Month

## Author Visits

Author Jennifer Shaw visited Marshall Elementary to share her book, *Dumplings Mean Family*. The book is told from Shaw's son Ethan's perspective, as he shares what it was like to join their family after his adoption. Shaw shared how this book was a family effort, with her oldest daughter Rinnah serving as the illustrator. Shaw introduced a new culture to students and even inspired some to try out the dumplings recipe printed in the book.

Author Karen and Illustrator Darrin Brege visited Brown Elementary to teach students how reading has influenced their lives. Karen is the author of the bestselling children's series

*Mick Morris Mystery Solver*. She explained the writing process to students and how reading helped her become a better writer. Darrin is the cover artist and illustrator for the *Mick Morris Mystery Solver* book series. He even taught students a few simple steps to follow when drawing their own cartoon characters.



## Who is Your Favorite Book Character?



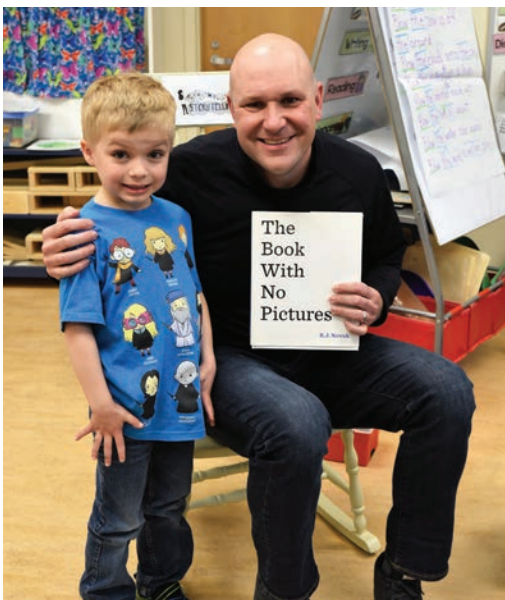
**Byron Center Public Schools K-6 students collectively read more than 12,000 hours or 720,000 minutes during Reading Month 2023!**

**Brown Elementary** went to outer space! They hosted a magician, author, and illustrator to get everyone excited about reading. Students exchanged book recommendations, read with their reading buddies, and dressed up as their favorite book characters.

**Countryside Elementary** had a ball! The celebrations included inviting special guests to read with students, such as former staff, Principal Cindy Viveen, and Dr. Macina. Each student set their own WIG (wildly important goal) to reach during the month.

**Marshall Elementary** took a trip around the world! They welcomed an author and guest readers and invited parents from other countries to talk about their experiences in other places. Schoolwide, students set a goal to read for 2023 hours. They crushed it by reading 3245 hours.

**Nickels Intermediate** got wild about reading! The whole school turned into a safari, and students were challenged to read as many books as possible. There was even a book bracket challenge, where students got to vote for their favorite book. The winner was *Steve the Dung Beetle: On a Roll*.



## Scholastic Awards

Byron Center middle and high school students won Scholastic Art Awards. West Middle School students earned 85 awards across 16 categories, with 41 Gold Keys.

“To have this many awardees earn that honor from our age group is unheard of, and I cannot emphasize enough the level of success our students achieved this year,” WMS Visual Arts Teacher Janine Campbell said.

Byron Center High School students earned 46 art awards. In addition, senior Allison Vandersloot won TWO National Scholastic Silver Medal Awards in Writing! She won in the categories of Novel Writing and Flash Fiction.

“It has been my honor to work with Allison for the past two years as she developed her voice in writing,” BCHS Media Arts Instructor Julie VanderLaan said. “In this time, Allison has written two novels and numerous short stories.”



## Road to Ellington

Byron Center Jazz Orchestra has ONCE AGAIN been selected for the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival in New York City. As part of the honor, the Lincoln Center sends a special guest to work with the young musicians. BCPS students welcomed Trumpet Artist Bijon Watson!



## Top 100

West Middle School students Avery, Sharon, and Leo made the Top 100 in the 2023 Michigan Art Education Association Statewide Art Show. Take a look at their amazing work!





# Solo & Ensemble Festival

Byron Center Public Schools band and orchestra students performed at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District Solo & Ensemble Festival. Students received 66 first division ratings and 31 second division ratings.

“Success at this festival denotes a key aspect of success in our overall programs as this is an individual festival where performances are rehearsed and led by the students,” BCHS Fine Arts Director Marc Townley said.

Seventy band and orchestra students went on to perform at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival. They earned 34 first division ratings and 18 second division ratings.

In addition, the BCHS Clarinet Choir was named one of the Outstanding Overall Ensembles in Michigan!



# Cinderella

Byron Center Theatre students put on a production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. This modern take on a classic and heartwarming fairy tale gave students the chance to bring magic, joy, heartache, and laughter to the audience.



# ATHLETICS

## Hockey

Division 2 State  
Runner-Up

Coach Jordan Steger  
named Division 2  
Coach of the Year

OK White Conference  
Champions

OK White All-Conference  
Players

Brady Breit  
Matthew Brougham  
Jackson Froyland  
Carson MacKenzie  
Logan Nickolaus  
Josh Philo  
Cade Prat



## Bowling

Boys 5th place in  
State Finals

Girls OK White Conference  
Champions

OK White All-Conference  
Players

Dom Batrville  
Layla Batrville  
Sharley Bilot  
Josh Boersma  
Matt Boersma

Honorable Mention

Vincent Batrville  
Adrey Bilot  
Dinara Domeier  
Alyssa Dykstra  
Hunter Schichtel



## Swim

Austin Briggs:  
State Champion,  
2023 MHSAA Division 2  
50 Yard Freestyle

Qualified for State Finals

Eli Bostelaar  
Andrew Hill  
Cole Mitchell  
Carter Nelson  
Aaron Petroelje  
Lucas Ritsema  
Colton Standorf  
Cam Wolters

OK White All-Conference  
Players

Austin Briggs  
Colton Standorf

## Dive

Jack Olivier: 5th place in  
State Finals

Qualified for State Finals

Ike DeVries  
Jonathan Wallace

OK White All-Conference  
Player

Jack Olivier



# Girls Basketball

District Champions

OK White Conference Champions

1,000 Career Points

McKenna Ferguson  
Lily Zeinstra

West Michigan Officials Association Student-Athlete Scholarship Award

Makenna Crandell

OK White All-Conference Players

Makenna Crandell  
McKenna Ferguson  
Lily Zeinstra

Honorable Mention

Avery DePagter  
Mattie Sandholm

# Boys Basketball

District Finals Runner-Up

West Michigan Officials Association Student-Athlete Scholarship Award

Landyn Kooiker

OK White All-Conference Player

Austin Buckley

Honorable Mention

Camden Karel

# Competitive Cheer

8th in Division 1 Districts

Lake Michigan Competitive Cheer Officials Association Scholarship

Chloe Feather

OK White All-Conference Players

Emma Carlson  
Chloe Feather  
Gracie Pepper  
Hanna Pulawski

Honorable Mention

Paige Huizenga  
Addison Yerkes

# Wrestling

Ethan Wood:  
5th place in State Finals,  
150 career wins

Blake Ottow:  
7th place in State Finals,  
100 career wins

Coach Tom Barker  
named Regional Coach  
of the Year

OK White  
All-Conference  
Players

Austin Coleman  
Ethan Wood





**BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
8542 Byron Center Avenue SW  
Byron Center, Michigan 49315  
www.bcpsk12.net

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## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL JUNE 2, 2023

### 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR IMPORTANT DATES

- 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL K-12: AUGUST 30
- THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 22-24
- WINTER BREAK: DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 5
- SPRING BREAK: MARCH 29-APRIL 5
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: JUNE 7

