

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

2023-2024

Board of Education Meetings

These regular meeting begin at
6:30pm unless noted otherwise.

DATES:

November 6, 2023
December 4, 2023
January 15, 2024
February 12, 2024
March 11, 2024
April 8, 2024
May 6, 2024

Check 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.



Welcome Back to School

Welcome back bulldogs! What a great start to the 2023-24 school year. It's so nice to see students and staff back in school buildings, at sporting events, and at performances.

We had an exciting start to the school year, by opening a brand new building for Robert L. Nickels Intermediate School. I spent the first day of school at Nickels, welcoming students and staff into the new space. I saw a lot of big smiles and excitement for the new learning environment. The transition into the building has been very smooth. Students and staff are really enjoying their new school. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this project a reality.

Construction is underway at the former NIS building, to transform it into a new K-4 elementary school for BCPS. Old walls are coming down and new walls are going up to create a brand new layout to help with better classroom sizes, more small group rooms, and age specific hallway wings. This fourth elementary school is important to the growth of Byron Center as we continue to welcome more families each year. We are looking forward to the opening of this new elementary school in the 2024-25 school year.

Bulldog pride is alive and well across the district and we have many things to celebrate here in Byron Center. From academics, to arts, to athletics, we are seeing success across the board. Students have earned top academic honors for their hardwork. Our talented fine arts students practice for hours on end to perform at their best. BC student-athletes have shown their dedication, with multiple fall athletic teams qualifying for state competition this year. Our amazing staff earned Educator of the Year and leadership honors from the Byron Center Chamber of Commerce, you truly represent all of BC.

I am looking forward to the school year ahead, I know it will be a good one. I am excited to continue our Bulldog success in and out of the classroom. Thank you students, staff, Board of Education, parents, and community members for your continued support of Byron Center Public Schools. Let's make it a great year!

Sincerely,



Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools





WE ARE
BC



NEW Nickels Intermediate

After nearly three years of construction, the new Robert L. Nickels Intermediate School building opened to students and staff for the 2023-24 school year. Byron Center Public Schools invited the community to celebrate the grand opening of the new building and to see the history of BC live on.

The 134,000 square foot facility is home to 5th and 6th grade BCPS students. The new building is equipped with flexible learning spaces, breakout rooms, brand new technology, and a state-of-the-art gym, cafeteria, and classrooms for music, art, and STEM.

“This building is built to withstand a long test of time within Byron Center,” Superintendent Kevin Macina said. “It gives our students the space they need to learn and it gives our district room to grow. This building is for the future of Byron Center.”

BCPS thanks Tower Pinkster, Owen-Ames-Kimball, and everyone involved in this special project. We appreciate all of the work put in to get this building up and running. Thank you to the Byron Center community for your support to make this a reality.



“I’m so excited to have the privilege to learn in an environment with so many new resources. Thank you for taking so much time and effort on making this new wonderful building.”



Lilia Damsgaard, NIS 6th grader

“I am really excited that I get to be a part of the first 6th grade class to be in this school. Thank you to all the workers, the community, and all the teachers that helped put this school together.”



Alexa Barr, NIS 6th grader

Educators of the Year

The Byron Center Chamber of Commerce has named Doug Adema and Gayle Corey as 2023 Teachers of the Year!



Doug has taught science at Byron Center High School for more than 35 years. He has also coached various sports throughout the years, served as a department head, class advisor, and more.

Doug was nominated by a fellow staff member who says “through Doug, I learned the importance of bringing a lot of energy every day to kids with the highest quality of education available.”



Gayle has been teaching at Brown Elementary for more than 25 years. She currently teaches 3rd grade and is known for supporting her students beyond her classroom.

Gayle was nominated by community members who say “Gayle’s dedication to her students’ success is evident in the way she tailors her teaching to accommodate different learning styles and abilities.”

Congratulations Doug and Gayle, we are grateful to have you in Byron Center!



Other BC staff honored by the Chamber

Heidi Morrell

2nd grade teacher at Countryside Elementary, named 2022 Teacher of the Year

Scott Joseph

BCPS Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, received the 2023 Ken Koster Circle of Honor Award



Academic Success

Byron Center High School has been named one of the best high schools in Michigan by U.S. News & World Report. BCHS is ranked 25th! The rankings are based on college readiness, college curriculum breadth, state assessment proficiency and performance, and graduation rate.

Thank you to all the students, staff, and community members that make Byron Center such a great place to learn.



AP School Honor Roll

Byron Center High School has been named to the AP School Honor Roll! The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools with AP programs that are delivering results and broadening access for students.

Schools can earn the Honor Roll recognition annually based on their ability to increase their school’s college-going culture, to provide opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximize college readiness. The AP School Honor Roll offers four levels of distinction: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, Byron Center High School has earned Silver.

“We are so proud of our students and teachers’ hardwork and dedication,” BCHS Principal Troy Reedy said. “Byron Center High School is committed to preparing all students for the next step in their academic career.”

2023 AP Testing Stats

Number of AP tests taken:.....	749
Number of students who took at least one AP test:	379
Number of tests passed:.....	631 (all-time BCHS high)
Passing rate:	84% (all-time BCHS high)
Number of AP classes BCHS offers:.....	19



Published Author

Congratulations to Byron Center Public Schools' Nutrition Services Director Vince Sturgis for publishing a children's book! The book, *Lunch Ladies Changing Lives: It's Crunch Time*, follows two lunch ladies who make a big impact on the students they serve.

"I was looking for a fun children's book for my food services staff, but found out one didn't exist. So I decided to write my own," Sturgis said. "This book encourages kids to have fun with food and make the most of their lunchtime, while teaching important lessons about the value of a good meal and laughter."

Sturgis is reading his book to students in classrooms across the district as a fun way to encourage kids to make healthy choices.

Lunch Ladies Changing Lives: It's Crunch Time can be found on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Nickels Bench Dedication

The Byron Center Public Schools Maintenance/Grounds team built a beautiful bench for Nickels Intermediate School to honor Facilities and Operations Director Doug Gallup. The crew used wood harvested from trees at the current Nickels location and materials from the old Nickels building to construct the bench.

The bench has a sign that reads "Trying To Be A Blessing," which is one Doug's sayings that he tries to live by. BC is very thankful for Doug's leadership.

The bench sits in the main entrance of Nickels Intermediate School.



NUTRITION Services

Free breakfast and lunch

Byron Center Public Schools is excited to offer free breakfast and lunch to students for the 2023-24 school year, thanks to the Michigan School Meals Program.

Every BCPS student K-12 gets one breakfast and one lunch free of charge every school day. Second meals and a la carte items are not included and must be purchased separately. Please visit Family Portal to view a student's account, check the balance, and make deposits.

Additional full-price meal costs:

Breakfast (grades K-6).....	\$1.75
Breakfast (grades 7-12.....)	\$2.00
Elementary and Nickels Lunch.....	\$2.50
Middle School Lunch.....	\$2.75
High School Lunch.....	\$3.25



Free and reduced meal application

Even though meals will be provided for free, it is important for BC families to complete the free and reduced meal application on the Family Portal in order for BCPS to receive full access to federal and state funding for educational programs.

The free and reduced meal application determines the amount of federal funding for the district, impacting all students.

Benefits of completing the Free and Reduced Meal Application:

- Increased funding to support your child's school
- Discounts on pay-to-participate fees for qualifying student athletes
- Additional funding for technology and internet access
- Discounts for fees associated with college application process
- Discounts for SAT, ACT, and AP testing fees, along with scholarship opportunities
- Discounts on Chromebook Care Plans for qualifying families
- Possible EBT cards
- Discounts on fees associated with credit recovery



A new application is required every school year. So, even if you applied last year, a new application must be submitted for the 2023-24 school year. Fill out an application at <https://byroncenter.familyportal.cloud/>

Marching Band

The Byron Center High School marching band has practiced over the summer, gearing up for their fall competition season. The marching band's theme for 2023 is Wanted - A Western Adventure.

Good luck to the band this season!



In the classroom

Students are back in the classroom and jumping right into learning. At West Middle School, students worked on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) collaborative animations. They used technology tools and animation methods that they learned to create 30 second PSAs that focus on the concepts of healthy choices, celebrating diversity, and building character.



Theatre

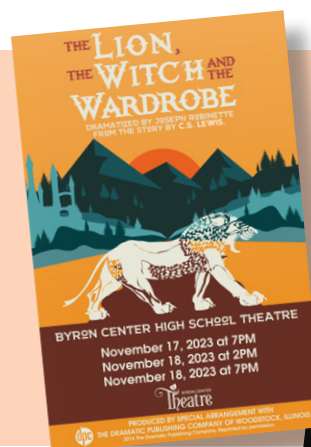
The Van Singel Fine Arts Center's community theatre program put on a production of *The Sound of Music*. Many Byron Center Public Schools students and staff starred in the show, including Byron Center High School administrative assistant Betsi Ingersoll who played Maria!

"Students and adults from all across the community auditioned for the show," VSFAC Managing Director Michelle Wagner said. "It's really neat to see whole families involved in a production."



Upcoming Byron Center High School Theatre productions:

- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, November 2023
- Beauty and the Beast, February 2024



ATHLETICS

USTA Outstanding Facility Awards

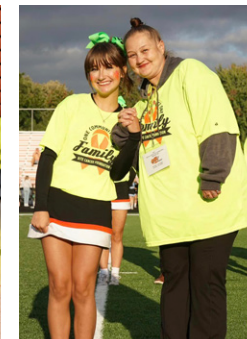
Byron Center Public Schools West Athletic Complex has been named an Outstanding Facility by the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Former BCBS principal Scott Joseph, boy's varsity tennis coach Andrew Ely, and boy's JV tennis coach Jared Crandell traveled to the US Open in August to accept the award. BCPS also received a grant from the USTA to maintain the current tennis venue.



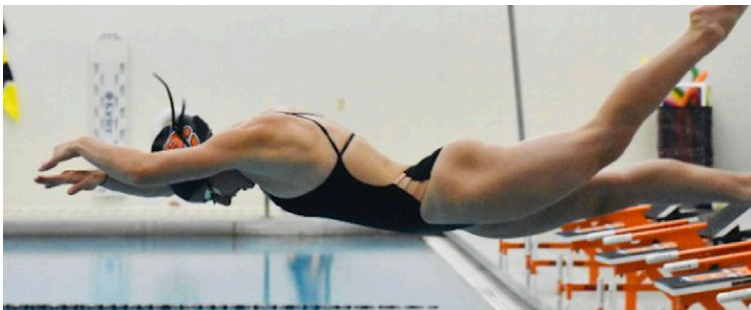
We are so grateful for our beautiful facilities!

BC Bites Cancer





**Effort.
Attitude.
Excellence.
Respect.**





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

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2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR IMPORTANT DATES

- NOVEMBER 22-24: THANKSGIVING BREAK
- DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 5: WINTER BREAK
- JANUARY 17-19: K-12 EXAMS, HALF DAYS
- FEBRUARY 19: NO SCHOOL
- MARCH 29-APRIL 5: SPRING BREAK
- MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY, NO SCHOOL
- JUNE 6-7: K-12 EXAMS, HALF DAYS
- JUNE 7: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

