

Superintendent's Office

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

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

2020-2021 Board of Education

President: Marty Phelan
Vice President: Yvonne Boucher
Treasurer: Brenda Hondorp
Secretary: Bruce Dennett
Trustee: Lenore Roede
Trustee: Chuck Fedewa
Trustee: Jason Pierson

2021 Board of Education Meetings

*District Services Building in the
Board of Education Room.
These regular meetings begin at
6:30 pm unless noted otherwise.*

July 19 (5:15)

August 23

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 6

Check www.bcpsk12.net
Board page for meeting specifics.

*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.*

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

Celebrating the Class of 2021!



This special edition of the BConnection is dedicated to the Class of 2021. In this unprecedented year, I applaud our senior class's significant accomplishments and celebrate with you and your families.

Whether you are entering the workforce, starting college, receiving additional training, or joining the military, I know you have the heart and skills to impact our world positively. Though you have come through some unusual, yes, even stressful times this past year, it has made you more flexible and adaptable; it

has made you dynamic and resilient, and it has made you care about others even more. In the face of adversity, you kept moving forward with positivity.

As Superintendent, I was delighted to see you, as graduates, parade through your elementary schools with pride. It was a highlight of my year. Wherever life takes you, remember that you are forever a part of the Byron Center community.

I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing what your future holds!



Kevin Macina, PhD
Superintendent of Schools



TOP SENIOR PROFILES

Byron Center High School proudly recognizes the Class of 2021 Top Seniors!

These students have achieved the highest academic standings amongst their peers. They have succeeded with college-level courses through Advanced Placement classes at the high school or Dual Enrollment classes through a local college.

Congratulations to the 2021 Top Two Grads!

Valedictorian



Noah Wiechertjes is graduating with a 4.58 GPA. He is the son of Bradley and Tera Wiechertjes. Noah is a four-year Academic All-State tennis player and was also on the swim team for four years. He was a member of the Science Olympiad team, where he won an award at a regional event. Noah is an AP Scholar with Distinction

and a National Merit Scholar. He is heading to the University of Alabama in the fall to study aerospace engineering and computer science.

Salutatorian



Ryan Pohlman is the son of David Pohlman and Kelli Conway. He was a member of the Science Olympiad Team. Ryan has been a tutor and volunteered at Hand2Hand Ministries. He is on the Youth Action Board at Kids' Food Basket. Ryan is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a recipient of a Letter of Commendation from the

National Merit Scholarship Program. Ryan will attend the University of Michigan and will study civil and environmental engineering.



3. Abigail Boyle is the daughter of Thomas and Karen Boyle. She was a member of the National Honor Society and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Abigail has played volleyball for BCHS and Far Out Volleyball Club. She was 1st Team All-State and All-Academic Team. Abigail will attend Valparaiso University to major in biology and play volleyball.



4 (tie). Alia Burgess is the daughter of Marty and Sara Burgess. She was a member of the National Honor Society, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and was involved in Discovery CRC Youth Group. Alia was team captain of the cross country and basketball teams and also played softball and soccer. She also played in the orchestra. Alia will attend Grand Valley State University, where she will study exercise science and athletic training.



4 (tie). Riley Nieboer is the daughter of Jon and Daphne Nieboer. She was a class officer, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and team captain of the gymnastics team at For the Kidz, where she received many gymnastics awards herself. Riley was a member of the youth group at her church, and she owns a photography business. Riley will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall, studying elementary education and Spanish.



6. Connor Bovia is the son of Bryan and Jennifer Bovia. He was a National Honor Society member and volunteered at Hand2Hand Ministries, Camp Sunshine, and his church. Connor was All-State in football and played lacrosse and hockey. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Connor will attend Hope College in the fall, where he will study pre-med and biochemical engineering.



7. Kyle Wall is the son of Mike and Theresa Wall. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction and was a member of the National Honor Society and the Debate Club. Kyle served as a class officer and volunteered at Hand2Hand Ministries, Kids' Food Basket, and church. He was a member of the jazz orchestra, marching band, and concert band. Kyle will attend Grand Valley State University, where he will study business and Spanish.



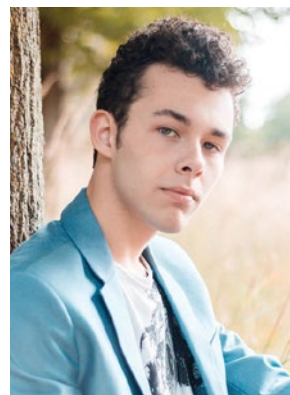
8. Paige Edwards is the daughter of John and Dawn Edwards. She was a National Honor Society member, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and volunteers at her church. She holds three school records for swimming and has been All-State for four straight years. Paige will attend Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, where she will be on the swim team and study psychology and pre-law.



9. Myah Medendorp is the daughter of Todd and Shannon Medendorp. She was a class officer, a National Honor Society member, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and volunteers at her church. Myah was a section leader for marching and concert bands and was a member of the jazz band. She played on the golf and tennis teams. Myah will attend Western Michigan University, where she will major in aerospace engineering.



10 (tie). Esme Lowry is the daughter of James and Wendy Lowry. She was the co-secretary of GSA, leader for the marching band color guard, played french horn, and participated in theater productions. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Esme will attend Oakland University Honors College, where she will study biochemistry.



10 (tie). Caleb VanHeck is the son of Mark and Renee VanHeck. He was a member of the National Honor Society, a class officer for four years, and a leader in the marching and concert bands where he played the clarinet. Caleb is an AP Scholar with Distinction and volunteered with Toys for Tots and Hand2Hand Ministries. He will attend GRCC in the fall, then transfer to Western Michigan University to study business and Spanish.

2021 SENIOR CLASS MOTTO

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." –Dr. Seuss

SENIOR Scholarships & Awards

Jenna Ackermann

Aquinas Merit Scholarship

Damien Afienko

AP Scholar, Grand Valley State Merit Scholarship

Alayna Arms

AP Scholars with Honor, Class Officer, BC PRIDE Respect Award, Central Michigan Centralis Gold Award Scholarship, Michigan Student Film Festival State Champion plus 2 Gold Medals of Excellence

Cristina Baar

Ferris State Academic and Softball Scholarships

Izaak Bailey

Eagle Scout

Tyler Birdsall

Kettering Merit Scholarship

Connor Bovia

AP Scholar with Distinction, Hope College Presidential Scholarship, BCHS Math Award

Abigail Boyle

AP Scholar with Distinction, Valparaiso University Presidential, Alumni and Athletic Scholarships

Mason Breit

United Bank Community Dedication Scholarship, BCHS Athlete of the Year

Clayton Brown

AP Scholar, Lake Superior State Laker Excellence Scholarship, Lake Michigan Credit Union Scholarship, Eagle Scout

Jacob Brunink

Western Michigan Bronco Merit Scholarship, Haworth College of Business Scholarship, Dean's Platinum Star Scholarship

Grace Bryan

University of Arizona Academic Scholarship

Alia Burgess

AP Scholar with Distinction, BCHS Physical Education Award, Grand Valley State Presidential Scholarship, BCHS Athlete of the Year

Anna Butler

AP Scholar with Honor, University of Northern Florida Presidential and Athletic Scholarships

Jackson Collard

AP Scholar

Harley Cook

Van Singel Fine Arts Council Scholarship, United Bank Community Dedication Scholarship, AP Scholar, Class Officer

Kyla Davis

Lincoln College of Technology Lincoln Scholarship

Trevor Davis

Versiti Donor for Life

Levi DeHollander

Grand Valley State Award for Excellence and The Seidman College of Business Dean's First Year Student Early Access Award

Paige Edwards

AP Scholar with Distinction, Bryant University Trustee and Swim Scholarships

Justin Essing

AP Scholar, Kalamazoo College Lux Esto Scholarship

Joshua Ferguson

AP Scholar, Principal's Award, BCHS Math Award

Solange Fingleton

AP Scholar with Honor, Hope College Distinguished Artist, Presidential, Covenant Leadership, and Heritage Scholarships

Zander Fortier

AP Scholar, Grand Valley State Presidential and Award for Excellence Scholarships

Shea Fortuna

Calvin University Stephen and Anne Scholler Family and Faculty's Scholarships, and First Generation Award, Class Officer, AP Scholar

Ean Gallagher

AP Scholar with Distinction, BCHS Science Award, Ferris State Founder's Scholarship, BCHS Best English Essay Award

Matthew Garbarino

Buist Electric Scholarship, Gaines Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, BC Sports Boosters Scholarship

Taylor Goeman

AP Scholar, Ferris State WNF Ember Scholarship

Ashley Halverson

Brink Wood Products Scholarship

Sophia Hernandez

Loyola University Chicago Dean's Scholarship

Amanda Hilliker

AP Scholar with Distinction, Principal's Award, BCHS Science Award, Hillsdale Athletic Scholarship, BCHS Math Award

Grace Hoorn

Grand Valley State Lake Scholarship, Maroon and Gold Merit Recognition Scholarship

Nathan Huynh

BCHS Physical Education Award

Trevor Ikhuisen

BCHS Science Award

Mackenzie Jessee

Liberty University Academic and Middle America Scholarships

Lydia-Grace Johnson

Versiti Donor for Life, AP Scholar with Distinction

Madelyn Joseph

Calvin University Joel David Koning Memorial and Provost's Scholarships And Legacy Award, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Erica Keillor

Western Michigan University Bronco Honors Scholarship

Jacob Koronkiewicz

Calvin University President's Scholarship; S-STEM: Building Foundations for Success in STEM Scholarship, Science Olympiad Regional Finals Award

Emma Koster

AP Scholar with Honor, Hope College Presidential Scholarship and RCA and Legacy Awards

Katelyn LaTour

Cornerstone University Pastor's, Presidential, and Cheer Scholarships

Jackson Lee

Ferris State University Academic Scholarship

Brianna Longcore

AP Scholar with Distinction, Grand Valley State Faculty, and Award for Excellence Scholarships

Morgan Lowing

Bite Cancer Scholarship, Grand Valley State Renewable Academic Scholarship

Esme Lowry

AP Scholar with Distinction, Oakland University Platinum Presidential and Graphic Region Scholarships

Ryann Mariner

Central Michigan Academic Scholarship

Brendan Marsman

Beating the Odds Award

Peyton McKellar

Muskegon Community College Soccer Scholarship

Myah Medendorp

Atlas Molded Products Scholarship, Buist Electric Scholarship, AP Scholar with Distinction, Principal's Award, BCHS Science Award, Western Michigan University Bronco Merit and CEAS Leadership Scholarship, BCHS Overall Excellence in English Award

Sydney Mitran

AP Scholar

Jayden Nguyen

Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award

Luke Nickolaus

Davenport University Academic Scholarship

Cyanna Nicolai

School of Art Institute Chicago Distinguished Scholar Scholarship, Michigan Student Film Festival State Champion, and Gold and Silver Medals

Riley Nieboer

AP Scholar with Distinction, Class Officer, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship

Trinity Niesing

Michigan Student Film Festival Gold Medal of Excellence

Emily Oegema

Class Officer, Hope College Distinguished Arts Award in Music and Presidential Scholarships

Trevor Okhuysen

AP Scholar, BCHS Science Award, Lake Michigan Credit Union Scholarship

Alexis Olson

Atlas Molded Products Scholarship, AP Scholar, BCHS Science Award, DePaul Academic Scholarship, Sunshine Brooks Scholarship

Blake Paciencia

AP Scholar with Honor, Columbia College Chicago Faculty Recognition, Scholar and Dean's Scholarships, Michigan Student Film Festival Gold and Silver Medal Winner

Logan Parker

Adventure Credit Union Scholarship, Grand Valley State Academic Scholarship, AP Scholar, Robert L Nickels Athletic Scholarship

Ella Perry

Class Officer, University of Tennessee Academic Scholarship, Leukemia Lymphoma Society Citizenship Scholarship

Allison Peters

Daughters of the American Revolution Award, Peter Meijer Congressional Medal of Merit, Versiti Donor for Life, Yearbook Editor

Ella Pettit

Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key, 2 Silver Key Awards

Marin Phillips

Bite Cancer Scholarship, Lee University Dean's Scholarship, Sutton Foster Nominee Award

Ryan Pohlman

AP Scholar with Distinction, University of Michigan Academic Scholarship

Ryan Pratt

AP Scholar with Distinction

Reagan Procter

Byron Center Education Association Scholarship, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Scholarship, Aquinas College Anselm, Merit, and Priority Deadline Scholarships

Kaylenn Remer

Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Brink Wood Products Scholarship, Bite Cancer Scholarship, Grand Canyon University Academic Scholarship

Austin Roon

Syracuse Athletic Scholarship

Logan Sands

BC PRIDE Integrity Award, Grand Valley State University Academic Scholarships, Byron Center Sports Booster Scholarship, Michigan Student Film Festival Gold Medal of Excellence

Amy Savage

Versiti Donor for Life

Karsen Silvernail

Manchester University Academic and College Tour Scholarships

Magnus Smith

AP Scholar with Distinction, Eagle Scout

Colton Sommers

University of Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship, Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key Awards(2)

William Speyer

Future for Frontiers Scholarship

Tobias Strickland

AP Scholar

Paige Swartz

Western Michigan University Academic Scholarship

Nolan Tagg

Grand Valley State Laker Scholarship, BCHS Math Award

Kelsey Tedford

Grand Valley State Academic Scholarship

Krystal Thomas

Yearbook Editor

Sydney Tilma

AP Scholar, Cornerstone University Academic and Softball Scholarships

Abbie Townley

Van Singel Fine Arts Council Scholarship, AP Scholar

Alyssa Tram

AP Scholar with Honor, S 3 OAR Scholarship, Ferris State Academic Honors Scholarship

Brandon Tran

Davenport Academic Scholarship

My Tran

Ferris State Residential Life Scholarship

Jack Tungate

Calvin University President's Scholarship

Xavier Turner

Van Singel Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship, BC PRIDE Discovery Award, University of Hartford Performing Arts and Academic Scholarships, Sutton Foster Nominee Award, Grand Rapids Combined Theatre Paul A. Dreher Scholarship

Rylee Umfleet

MIPGA William B McHenry Scholarship

Caleb VanHeck

AP Scholar with Distinction, Class Officer, GRCC Board of Trustees Distinguished Scholar Award

Haley VanZanten

Bite Cancer Scholarship, Class Officer, Cornerstone University Presidential and Music Scholarships, Robert L. Nickels Athletic Scholarship

Jackson Vander Zwart

Hope College Presidential Scholarship and Legacy Award, AP Scholar with Honor

Rachel Vogel

Van Singel Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor, BC PRIDE Perseverance Award, Western Michigan University Bronco Merit Scholarship

Kyle Wall

AP Scholar with Distinction, Class Officer, Grand Valley State Academic Scholarship

Corinne Wayman

Calvin University President's Scholarship and Legacy Award, AP Scholar, Class Officer

Noah Wiechertjes

College Sponsored National Merit Scholarship Winner, BCHS Science Award, BCHS Math Award

Ashley Wells

Calvin University Trustee's Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor, Class Officer

Abigail Westers

AP Scholar, Sutton Foster Nominee Award

Annie Westers

University of Detroit Mercy at Aquinas Ignatius Award

Matthew Westra

AP Scholar with Honor, Albion College Presidential and Experience Scholarships

Mikayla Weststrate

Kent County Teen Film Festival Best Acting Performance Award

Morgan Weststrate

GRBS Perseverance Scholarship, Grand Valley State Laker and Thompson Working Family Scholarships, Mosaic Mobil Top Ten Finalist, Best Documentary and People's Choice Award Kent County Teen Film Festival, Michigan Student Film Festival Gold Medals of Excellence (3), Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key (2) and Silver Key Awards

Noah Wiechertjes

AP Scholar with Distinction, National AP Scholar, National Merit Award, BC PRIDE Excellence Award, Steven DeRose Family Scholarship, University of Alabama National Merit Scholarship Science Olympiad Regional Science Award, BCHS Science Award

Grace Wilson

AP Scholar, Aquinas John Veneklasen Tuition Scholarship

Sawyer Wychers

Calvin University President's Scholarship, Cornerstone University Presidential and Basketball Scholarships

Isabella Zylstra

Grand Valley State Award for Excellence

Exchange Student Recognition

Paula Klotz

Munich, Germany

Alaia Ruiz de Infante Beltran de Nanclares

Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain

INSPIRING Athletes

All-Conference Athletes

FALL

Elijah Schiltuis, Tennis
Andrew Dykstra, Soccer
Caden Balkon, Soccer
Mason Breit, Football
Austin Roon, Football
Connor Bovia, Football
Nolan Tagg, Football
Braylon Baker, Football
Brett Jacobi, Football
Sawyer Wychers, Football
Cam Roussey, Football
Jason Fredricks, XC
Macie Elzinga, Golf
Abby Boyle, Volleyball
Anna Butler, Volleyball
Taylor Humphrey, Volleyball
Cierra Laska, Volleyball
Paige Edwards, Swim
Brooklyn Beach, Swim

WINTER

Austin Briggs, Boys Swim
Michael Grover, Boys Swim
Josh Boersma, Boys Bowling
Adam Coval, Boys Bowling
James Wheeler, Boys Bowling
Jeff Wheeler, Boys Bowling
Sharley Bilot, Girls Bowling
Mady Kamrad, Girls Bowling
Jenna Kroff, Girls Bowling
Avery Zeinstra, Girls Basketball
Lily Zeinstra, Girls Basketball
McKenna Ferguson, Girls Basketball
Sawyer Wychers, Boys Basketball
Katelyn LaTour, Cheer
Corrine Wayman, Cheer
Gracie Pepper, Cheer
Lani Khuu, Cheer
Ethan Wood, Wrestling
Luke Nickolaus, Hockey
Logan Nickolaus, Hockey
Trevor Davis, Hockey
Josh Froyland, Hockey
Mason Breit, Hockey
Carson MacKenzie, Hockey

SPRING

Liz Vincent, Tennis
Makenna Crandell, Tennis
Taylor Humphrey, Tennis
Avery Zeinstra, Track & Field
Elijah Maxwell, Track & Field
Nolan Tagg, Track & Field
Payton McKellar, Soccer
Megan Malek, Soccer
Ella Perry, Soccer
Maddie Lange, Soccer
Grace Wilson, Soccer
Kristina Baar, Softball
McKenna Ferguson, Softball
McKenna Hinkle, Softball
Cierra Laska, Softball
Sydney Tilma, Softball
Jack Crittendon, Baseball
Jackson Steensma, Baseball
Nate Wieber, Baseball
Mason Breit, Boys Lacrosse
Braylon Baker, Boys Lacrosse
Jack Tungate, Boys Lacrosse
Gage Smith, Boys Lacrosse
Brayden Elzinga, Golf

Individual State Qualifiers

FALL

Paige Edwards, Ashleigh Nelson, Bryanna Tromp, Brooklyn Beach, Lili McAvoy, Ella Peters, Natalie Holmes, Girls Swim

WINTER

Michael Grover, Boys Swim (State Champ)
James Wheeler, Adam Coval, Boys Bowling
Maddie Kamrad, Jenna Kroff, Girls Bowling

Team State Qualifiers

FALL

Girls Golf

WINTER

Boys Swim, Boys Bowling

SPRING

Girls Tennis, Boys Golf



Athletes of the Year



Alia Burgess



Mason Breit

Sports Boosters Scholarship

Sydney Tilma Sawyer Wychers

Robert L. Nickels Scholarship

Hayley VanZanten Logan Parker

Cristi Curtis Memorial Scholarship

Harley Cook

Triple Threat Award

Alia Burgess Katelyn LaTour Austin Ottow
Cameron Roussey Kolton VanNest
Corrine Wayman Joe VanTuinen Austin Roon

2020-2021 Championship Teams

Football: Conference Champs

Coach Marc Cisco

Girls Basketball: Conference Champs

Coach Jen Slot

Volleyball: District Champs

Coach Katie Vandermeer

Boys Bowling: Regional Champs

Coach Walt Dyer

**Hockey: Conference & Regional Champs,
State Finalists** - Coach Taylor Keyworth

**Girls Soccer: Conference, District,
& Regional Champs** - Coach John Conlon

Softball: Conference Champs

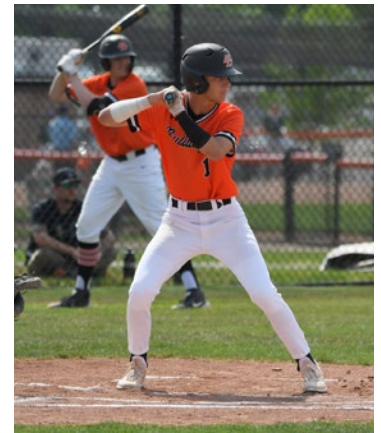
Coach Crystal Laska

Boys Golf: Regional Champs

Coach Jeff Krauss

Baseball: District Champs

Coach Pat MacKenzie



OK Conference Scholar Athletes

Kristina Baar	Amanda Hilliker	Justin Sevigny
Nikolas Babinec	Madelyn Joseph	Karsen Silvernail
Braylon Baker	Erica Keillor	Nolan Tagg
Tori Bakker	Katelyn LaTour	Sydney Tilma
Cade Baumbach	Alia Lewis	Jack Tungate
Connor Bovia	Myah Medendorp	Jackson VanderZwart
Abigail Boyle	Blake Paciencia	Hayley VanZanten
Alia Burgess	Logan Parker	Corrine Wayman
Anna Butler	Ella Perry	Analicia Westers
Jackson Collard	Ella Pettit	Noah Wiechertjes
Adam Coval	Ryan Pratt	Grace Willson
Trevor Davis	Myah Riley	Brayden Woudstra
Paige Edwards	Austin Roon	Sawyer Wychers
Joshua Ferguson	Cameron Roussey	Sara Zimmerlee
Matthew Garbarino	Logan Sands	
Avery Herron	Alexander Schmitt	

CELEBRATING Fine Arts

Celebrating our artists and musicians who bring excellence, beauty, and inspiration to the world around them.

“Perseverance. That is what I will always remember and cherish from the Class of 2021. I have loved working with you for the last four years, and I will always appreciate your senior year in particular. During that time, all of us focused on what matters most - relationships, shared experiences, and living life to the fullest. Congratulations and best of luck in the future!”

Marc Townley
Fine Arts Director



Congratulations to **Xavier Turner**, awarded runner-up as best actor in a Michigan high school musical with The 2021 Sutton Foster Awards (with Wharton Center).

Xavier Turner



BC Orchestra Seniors



BC Marching Band Seniors

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! It has been an honor watching you grow from 6th grade until now. You have shown true resilience, especially in these past two years. Use what you have learned to make this world a better place! I wish you all the best!”

Megan Soukup
Band Director

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! I have been a teacher for many years, and every time I see a class graduate, I know that the dreams your teachers have for you are coming true! I hope that we never forget each other because my memories with you are some of my favorites. I will always think of you as some of the best students I have ever had the privilege of teaching, and I'm proud of you all!”

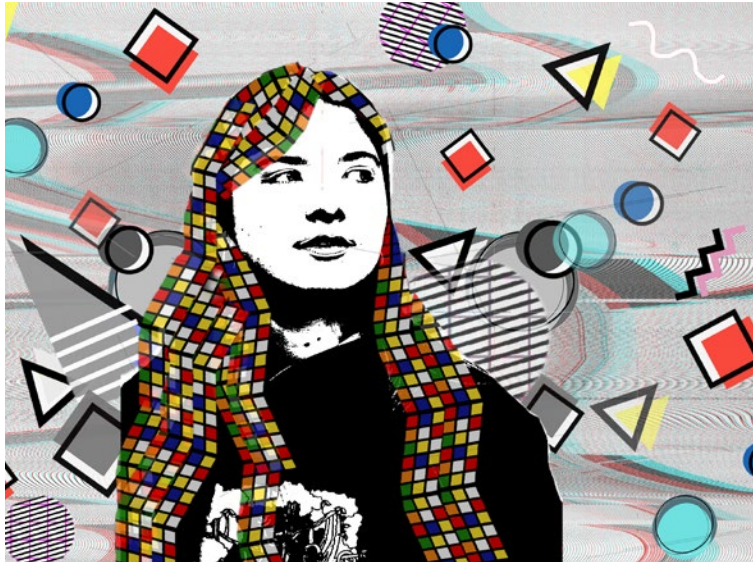
Nicole Langford
BC Orchestras



BC Jazz Orchestra

“Art is a reflection of life. Our visual artists took themes like the pandemic and portrayed messages that were meaningful and thought-provoking. I am so proud of everyone for taking a chance and putting their message out there for the world to see. It is truly a blessing and honor to work with our talented BC visual artists.”

Julie VanderLaan, Visual Art Instructor & BCTV Manager



Puzzled Mind, created by Morgan Weststrate

STATE CHAMPIONS!

Cyanna Nicolai - Narrative Film (2nd year in a row) -
Moonlight Sonata

Alayna Arms - Narrative Film - *Quiet*

MAEA REGIONAL WINNERS

Colton Sommers	Jayden Nguyen
Morgan Weststrate	Harley Cook
Allison VanderSloot	

KDL TEEN FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS

Morgan Weststrate - Best Documentary & People's Choice Award

Mikayla Weststrate - Best Acting Award

MEIJER GREAT CHOICES FILM FESTIVAL

Morgan Weststrate - Top 10 Finish

Alayna Arms - Top 10 Finish

Paul Kimble - Top 10 Finish

Alex Awrey - Top 10 Finish

SCHOLASTIC ARTS WINNERS

Alayna Arms	Ella Pettit
Harley Cook	Colton Sommers
Mallory Corwith	Bryanna Tromp
Joshua Hager	Allison VanderSloot
Jayden Nguyen	Morgan Weststrate
Cyanna Nicolai	

OTHER WINNERS:

Morgan Weststrate - 3 Gold Medals of Excellence

Butterflies on the Wall

The New Abnormal

Why Is This So Hard?

Alayna Arms - 2 Gold Medals of Excellence

Quiet Part 2

Moonlight Serotonin

Paul Kimble - Silver Medal of Honor

A Somewhat Apocalyptic Situation

Blake Paciencia - One Gold Medal & One Silver Medal

Dwellers

Stand Up and Live

Logan Sands - Gold Medal of Excellence

Dwellers

Cyanna Nicolai - One Gold Medal & One Silver Medal

Seasonally Depressed

The Room

Trinity Neising - Gold Medal of Excellence

The Astronaut and the Bee

Olivia Pitsch - Silver Medal of Honor

The Treasure of Crystal Cape

Brody Zondervan, Ryan Jonkman, Kira Wilson - Gold Medal of Excellence

Wandering Minds



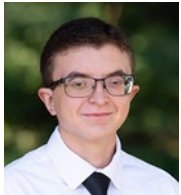
THANK YOU!

We wish to honor the following 2021 graduates who have enlisted into the Armed Services. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve!



Brayden Birtles
Coast Guard

Matthew Garbarino
Naval ROTC at Purdue



Brendan Marsman
Navy

Allison Peters
National Guard

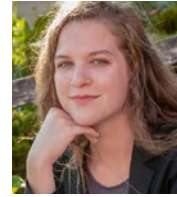


Gabriele Ruby
National Guard

BC PRIDE Awards

These students exemplify the Five Pillars of Character that BC Pride represents. Congratulations to these seniors!

P



Rachel Vogel
Perseverance

R



Alayna Arms
Respect

I



Logan Sands
Integrity

D



Xavier Turner
Discovery

E



Noah Wiechertjes
Excellence

BEATING THE ODDS Award



Brendan Marsman

Our Beating the Odds award is graciously sponsored by Lumberman's in Byron Center and is given to a student who has overcome significant adversity and challenges. The student that earns this award has shown exemplary grit despite their difficult circumstances.

Brendan Marsman was struck by a car two years ago, an accident that nearly took his life. Every day, through perseverance and determination, he got stronger and stronger. Brendan worked hard in physical therapy and other various appointments. When he

was able to come back to school, he would not accept any accommodations. He was bound and determined to work hard and make it to graduation on time and on his own. This year his grades were better than they have ever been, he has continued to display a positive attitude throughout this journey, and he graciously served as the manager of our hockey team.

We are blessed to have Brendan receive this special award.

MESSAGES to Our Graduates

“Clase de 2021, WOW. You have been through a lot, and this pandemic has created challenges that you ALL have overcome. You should be so proud of yourselves! I hope you remember this time where you realized what was truly important in life and that you have learned to find JOY in even the most challenging situations. It has been an honor watching you all grow from Middle School on up. ¡Buena Suerte!”

Kat Sibalwa

WMS/BCHS Spanish Teacher

“Dear Class of 2021: Congratulations! You all have had to face several challenges throughout some of your school years, and your senior year was certainly that. I know through it all you have grown, learned, and overcome so many obstacles. You all are truly amazing! I so enjoyed getting to know so many of you as you started your school journey at Marshall and Brown and watching you grow through the years. I am so excited to see all you will do as you move forward in your next adventure in life! I know you will change the world for the better and make a difference in so many lives! Thanks for letting me be a part of your journey!”

Kristi Takens

Brown and Marshall School Counselor

“Dear Class of 2021 - It has been several years since you left Nickels, but I still remember your smiling faces and your positive outlook on life. You are moving on to bigger and better things now, and it will be important to keep that positive outlook. As Henry Ford said, 'Whether you think you can or can't, you're probably right!' ”

Tom Trout

Nickels Principal

“Class of 2021 - We rocked the HURNicanes title for my first year of teaching, and we had a lot of WONDERful times together. Maybe you remember my cheesy jokes now ;) Congratulations - enjoy the next chapters in your future!”

Kjia Pawloski

Nickels 6th-Grade Science Teacher

“Dear Class of 2021 - It's been an honor to work with you and to see what extraordinary people you already are. I'm so sorry you've lost out on so many pivotal high school moments, but I see your strength and resilience, and courage through it all. I hope that the next chapter for you is full of incredible gifts.”

Erinn Caley

BCHS 11th-12th Grade English Teacher

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD: Arts, Academics, Athletics

Each year Mr. Joseph selects seniors who exemplify excellence in the three areas of arts, academics, and athletics to receive the Principal's Award. This year's recipients are **Joshua Ferguson**, **Amanda Hilliker**, and **Myah Medendorp**.



**Joshua
Ferguson**



**Amanda
Hilliker**



**Myah
Medendorp**

All three of these students are extremely hard workers, great communicators, and true servant leaders. Each of these students is an AP Scholar and has various other academic awards and achievements. They were all outstanding percussionists in the band and worked extremely hard to become excellent musicians.

Joshua Ferguson played soccer and was a member of the marching band, concert band, and jazz orchestra. Amanda Hilliker played volleyball and helped the athletic department in a variety of ways. She played in marching band, concert band, and percussion ensembles. Myah Medendorp played golf and tennis and ran the scoreboard at athletic events. She marched for five years (the first five-year marcher ever) and was involved in concert band, percussion ensembles, and was a pianist for one year in the jazz program.

MESSAGES to Our Graduates

“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”
~Audre Lorde. BCHS Seniors, go out and celebrate the differences you see in this world. Make our world better. I'm so proud of you!”

Christy Tripp

ESL Teacher, AUA Diversity Club Advisor

“When I reflect back on this class, I remember how fun and competitive you all were. I really enjoyed all the times we had together, either down in the gym or out on the football field. Thank you all for the fun and exciting moments these past six years. I look forward to seeing where life takes you. Always remember, once a part of the Nickels Nation, ALWAYS a part of the Nickels Nation!”

Matthew Amo

Nickels Physical Education Teacher

“Class of 2021 - You have all been through so much the last year and a half, and you are all still smiling and making things happen. You truly are an inspiration, and your grit and attitude give me hope for our future! It's always so much fun to watch you come in as freshmen and maneuver through some of the most critical times/years in your life.

What a blessing it has been for me to be a part of that time with you. Go out and use your gifts for this crazy world! We are SO PROUD of you!”

Christy Wierenga

BCHS/NSA Student Development

“Dear Seniors - I want to tell you what an honor it has been for me to have known so many of you over the years. Your resilience and drive have been inspiring to watch over the past few years, especially, and I know that you have what it takes to thrive in this world no matter what is thrown your way. I hope wherever you go or whatever you do that you always have a song in your heart. And to my choir seniors, you are always welcome home to your choir family. You are loved!”

Jennifer Metcalf

BCHS Choir Teacher

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! I'm proud of you for your resilience in a time like no other that we've seen. Best wishes for an amazing road ahead!”

Dan Volkers

Countryside 4th-Grade Teacher

“Congrats to you all! I couldn't be more proud and thankful for each of you. Your grit and determination just keep on shining. Don't ever forget to just “BE YOU!” Be amazing. Be determined. Be kind. Be loving. Be unique. Be special. You are all bound for great and amazing things.”

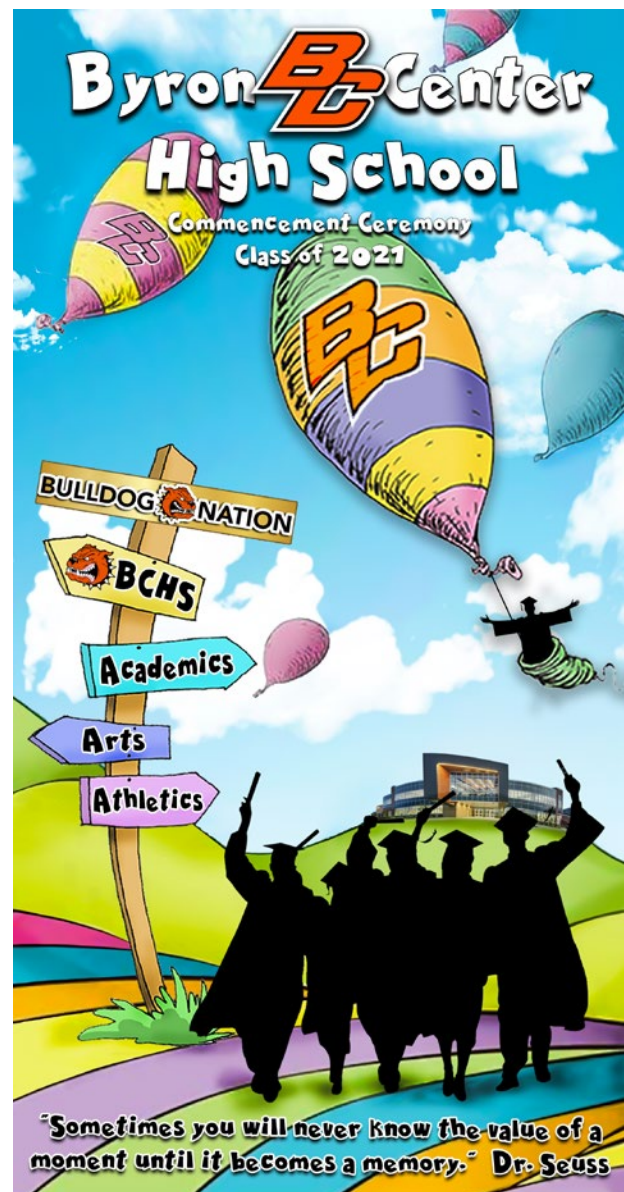
Lisa VanderVeen

DK, Countryside (formerly 2nd Grade)

“Congratulations to the class of 2021! I'm so proud of all the hard work and dedication that you have put forth in your years at Byron Center. Wherever your path takes you, know that you will always be a BC kid. Your dedication, determination, and grit are seen by all. Enjoy EVERY day to the fullest. You make us all proud.”

Allison Abbott

Countryside 4th-Grade Teacher





“Congratulations, Class of 2021! This is definitely a year you won't forget! I remember your “third-grade faces,” and you will always hold a special place in my heart! I hope to connect with you in the future through social media and can “watch” and hear about all the great things you do in this world! I know you will do AMAZING things! I wish you all the best!”

Jenny Curtis

Countryside 4th-Grade Teacher
(Formerly 3rd Grade)

“A big congratulations to all of you. I know the last couple of years have been anything but easy, but through your hard work, perseverance, and flexibility, you did it! I've had the pleasure to watch you grow as musicians and individuals the past couple of years, and I'm confident that you'll all do great things. The best is yet to come!”

Maddy Peters

BCHS Orchestra

What a pleasure it has been to be your assistant principal. Whether you shined in the classroom, on stage, on the athletic field, or created a masterpiece, you are ALL amazing young adults who persevered through many hurdles, especially this last year. Continue to be unique, work toward your passion and never give up. As you now face the fork in the road as high school comes to a close, I wish each and every one of you the best of luck as you select a new path to continue your success story.”

Lesley Emmons

BCHS Assistant Principal

“It has been such a pleasure spending the last four years with you! What a nice class for me to wind up my career with. Make this world a better place.”

Robin Michell

Para-Professional

“Class of 2021, congratulations on reaching this milestone! Your journey wasn't easy, especially during the last stretch and completing the task through a worldwide pandemic. However, you made it! Thanks for showing your Byron Center “Grit” and sticking with it. I am proud of you all! From the author of Winnie the Pooh, “You are braver than you believe and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” Go make a difference in this world!”

Melissa Thomas

Nickels 6th-Grade Teacher

“Hi, 2021 Grads! I am sending big hugs and much love as you start on your new adventures. I still see you as little ones, and you will always be my kids. I so look forward to hearing about the wonderful things you will do and the happy lives you will have. Be amazing!”

Linda Grit

Brown Librarian

“Congratulations, Class of 2021 - I'm sure going to miss all of your bright smiles around the halls! I am so proud of your hard work and ability to push through a year of uncertainty. Be safe, have fun & make good choices!”

Kellie Merritt

BCHS Math Teacher

“Congrats! You can most certainly say you will never forget your senior year of high school.

Always remember that life is about doing for others. You will find joy in all that you do so long as you are doing for someone else. ‘One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others.’ - Lewis Carroll.”

Abby Kanitz

WMS Assistant Principal

“Congratulations, Class of 2021. May the months and the years ahead be filled with joy. May you find peace when the world is chaotic. May you hear words of hope, and may you speak words of hope into the lives of those around you. Best wishes for an amazing future.”

Dan Burns

Nickels 5th-Grade Teacher

MESSAGES to Our Graduates



“Congratulations, Class of 2021! It has been an absolute joy to watch so many of you grow up. Your class has so many incredible students, athletes, actors, and musicians. Byron Center will not be the same without you. You will be missed! Let your lights shine, and I know you will accomplish great things.”

Tracy Ferguson

Brown Kindergarten Teacher
(Formerly 2nd grade)

“Class of 2021, you will go down as one of the most unique graduating classes in schooling history. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and watching you persevere through the challenges that high school brings. I believe your legacy at BC will be your discipline and positive energy. I have no doubt that you will go on to change the world and make tomorrow a brighter, better place!”

Derek Boillat

BCHS Psychology and Sociology Teacher

“Dear Class of 2021, It has been a year like no other. This is one of those years you will tell stories about to the younger generations for some time, and what a unique story you will have as Seniors who persevered and took on the various challenges that came our way. I am proud of your adaptability to change, hard work, and the positive attitude you displayed as we navigated this school year. I wish each and every one of you the very best as you go on to pursue those dreams and plans I have had the pleasure of learning about in your writing and in conversations. Congratulations!!”

Linda Baas

BCHS Senior English Teacher

“Congratulations to ALL of you on an incredible journey! Best of luck in all you do! Enjoy every second and make the best of every moment. Believe in yourself! You are amazing and can do anything you set your mind to do!”

Shelly Glover

Brown Kindergarten Teacher

“Congratulations, Class of 2021!!! You have a special place in my heart as you are the first class to graduate since I became the principal at Countryside. I'm incredibly proud of the grit and tenacity you've exhibited, especially over the last two years. The end of your high school careers may not have been as you imagined, but you can hold your heads high knowing you've finished strong!!! You have made us all proud!!”

Jolynne Dobson Knowlton

Countryside Principal

“Class of 2021! You did it! Congratulations on completing this crazy part of your journey. I have known many of you for almost six years now, and it has been awesome to see you all grow so much over the years! You have overcome many obstacles and have persevered through it all! I am so excited to see what you do in the future, and I look forward to watching you change the world! It has been an honor to be a part of your journey!”

Brett VanDeRoer

BCHS Science Teacher

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! You made it! I smile as I look back at pictures of you in first and second grade. I had some of you in first grade, some in second, and nine of you in both first and second! I have so many great memories from those years! To all of you, best wishes in all you do. I know you will do AMAZING things!”

Jamie Johnson

Brown Elementary 1st-Grade Teacher
(Formerly 2nd grade)

“¡Felicidades en la graduación! It has been a pleasure working with such an amazing group of young adults. You have shown resilience and maturity as you navigated your senior year under difficult circumstances. Thank you for having a positive attitude and making the best of a strange school year. You have bright futures, and I look forward to hearing about your adventures and accomplishments!”

Laura Showers

BCHS, Spanish Teacher

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! It has been a pleasure to have you as students and watch you start out in school as five/six-year-olds. You have so much to be proud of and so much to look forward to in your future. Never give up, strive for excellence and enjoy life while making the best choices you can! Good Luck Always.”

Michelle Montgomery

Countryside Kindergarten Teacher

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! It has been so fun to watch you grow over the past four years. You are my first class that I've been able to see all the way through, which is pretty special! Thank you for all of the laughs, leadership, and participation in class. I am so excited to see where these next few years take you, and I wish you all the best! Thank you for letting me be a part of your high school experience. You will be missed!”

Kristi Stuive

BCHS Mild Cognitive Impairment Teacher

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! I have so many great memories from when you were in 1st grade. You were a great group of students! I am very proud of all you have already accomplished, and I wish you the best in your future!!”

Jodi Keller

Countryside 1st-Grade Teacher

Seniors, I cannot believe that you are graduating. It seems like just last year that I had you in my class. I have enjoyed watching your progress through school as both students and athletes. You are an amazing group of students, and I cannot wait to see the incredible things that you accomplish. I wish you all the best in your next stage of life. Enjoy every moment of it. Don't forget to stop by and say hello. I look forward to hearing about all of your adventures. Be amazing!!!

Brian Blok

Nickels 6th-Grade Teacher

“Class of 2021: You have persevered through so much and worked so hard to get to this point. We are really proud of you for all that you have accomplished and the positive attitude you've shown through it all. Continue to keep working hard. Thank you for letting us be part of this chapter in your life; we wish you all the best!”

**Ashley Binger, Kaycee Ledebouer,
and Danielle Stricklin**

BCHS Learning Strategies Teachers



“¡Muchas Felicidades - Congratulations, Clase 2021! I have so many memories with this group. After teaching many of you in Spanish 1 and Spanish 4, watching you at concerts, plays, musicals and sporting events, I have enjoyed seeing you mature. Chatting with you in the cafeteria and helping you become confident drivers on the range and on the road brought happiness to my days. ¡Muchas Gracias! Coaching some of you on the tennis courts & traveling with others to España in 2019 will always be my most rewarding experiences in my career. Find something that you LOVE to do - go make a difference! Stay in touch, Amigos. 'Mi salón de clase es su salón de clase.'”

Randall Domeier

BCHS Spanish Teacher

“Dear Class of 2021: Congratulations! I am so proud of each and every one of you for this milestone accomplishment! It takes effort, determination, and a whole lot of perseverance to reach this goal. I hope you will continue to make and reach your goals as you enjoy each and every moment of your life to the fullest! A quote by Albert Einstein I ran across recently sums up what we value in life: “Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.” I acknowledge/see your character in accomplishing this goal, and that counts!! :-)”

Carla Nienhuis

Countryside School Counselor

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! What a year it has been! You will always hold a special place in my heart. Remember to never wait for the perfect moment; instead, take that moment and make it perfect! Wishing you the best on your graduation day and more success in the future.”

Gayle Corey

Brown 3rd-Grade Teacher



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A Note from Mr. Joseph



Class of 2021,

I have watched you grow up, and I am so proud of the young adults you have become! You have more than endured. You have persevered, shown respect, held integrity, discovered who you are, and excelled through a global pandemic. That is true, BC PRIDE!

As we move into our post-pandemic world, remember three things to help us all to reunite:

1. Be curious, not judgmental - Walt Whitman.
2. Do small things with great love - Mother Theresa.
3. When the pressure and heat around you build, be like coffee.

Congratulations, class of 2021! You did it!

Scott Joseph
 BC High School Principal

