

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

August 10, 8:30am

(Special Meeting at Haworth Center)

August 21, 6:30pm *(Regular Meeting)*

Sept 11, 6:30pm *(Regular Meeting)*

Sept 25, 5:15pm *(Special Meeting)*

Oct 9, 6:30pm *(Regular Meeting)*

Oct 23, 5:15pm *(Special Meeting)*

Nov 6, 6:30pm *(Regular Meeting)*

Nov 20, 5:15pm *(Special Meeting)*

Dec 4, 6:30pm *(Regular Meeting)*

Dec 18, 5:15pm *(Special Meeting)*

Check www.bcpk12.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.*



The Class of 2023



This special edition of BConnection is dedicated to the Class of 2023. Congratulations, seniors, you did it! Your diplomas show off your hard work as you move into the future. Graduating from BCHS is a great achievement for which you should feel proud. Quite a few of you earned this diploma while participating in extracurricular activities, working part-time jobs, having family obligations, and volunteering for worthy causes in the community.

Many of you plan to pursue higher education, some graduates will jump right into the workforce, and a handful of brave men and women will join the military. Wherever you are going, I want you to know that Byron Center will always be a place you can call home. The Byron Center Public Schools community, which has nurtured and challenged you, is cheering for you as you journey forward. Before you take the next step, I hope you will take a few minutes to reflect on those people who helped you get to where you are today--maybe it's a teacher or staff member, a friend, or even a family member. No one achieves success on their own, and though none of these people would ask for recognition, I'm sure they would appreciate knowing they are a part of your success.

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

Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



TOP SENIOR PROFILES

Byron Center High School proudly recognizes the Class of 2023 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 2023 Top Two Grads!

Valedictorian



LOGAN COLLER is one of the 2023 BCCHS Co-Valedictorians. He is the son of Dale and Jodie Coller. Logan is a member of the National Honor Society and the Eagle Scouts. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction. He wrestled, played football for four years, and was an Academic All-State Individual for both. He also played two years of baseball and two

years of track and field. Logan is planning to attend Kalamazoo College to study Chemistry and play football. He has been awarded the Lux Esto Scholarship and the Kalamazoo Alumni Scholarship.

Valedictorian



RYAN WALL is one of the 2023 BCCHS Co-Valedictorians. He is the son of Michael and Theresa Wall. Ryan was a member of the National Honor Society and a Senior Class Representative. He was a four-year band member and was a marching band section leader. Ryan also played two years of JV Tennis. Ryan is an AP Scholar with Distinction and last fall, he was

named a National Merit Finalist. It was just announced in June that he is a winner! He will use that scholarship to pursue a computer science degree at the University of Alabama.



OWEN FLANNERY is the son of Lee and Erica Flannery. Owen was in band all four years of high school as part of the wind ensemble. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Commended Scholar. Owen will be attending the University of Michigan to pursue a mathematics degree.



KALYNN DEPPE is the daughter of Mark and Sharon Deppe. Kalynn was a part of the Science Olympiad team and took 3rd place with her partner at the state competition. She was recognized for her artwork, including three Gold Keys and two Honorable Mentions from the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Kalynn is an AP Scholar with Distinction and has been offered several scholarships; she will use the WPI Presidential Scholarship to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study an area of STEM.



MATTHEW BROUGHAM is the son of Garrett and Jennifer Brougham. He played varsity hockey and was All-Conference and 2nd All-State. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Matthew plans to continue playing hockey for a few more years and then will attend college to study chemical engineering.



MAKENNA CRANDELL is the daughter of Jared and Ronda Crandell. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a Class Representative, a Pride Pack member, and is part of the Byron Center Revival Seekers. Makenna played tennis and basketball for four years and was named All-Conference and All-State multiple times. She was named the West MI Officials Association’s Girls Basketball Player of the Year. She also ran cross country and played volleyball for two years. Makenna is an AP Scholar with Honor and recently earned the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy and was awarded the Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. She will be attending Hope College to study special education and elementary education.



SERENITY METZGER is the daughter of Daniel and LaTori Metzger. She was the Science Olympiad team captain, a class officer, treasurer in the Knitting and Crocheting Club, and a Color Guard. Serenity has done two years of sideline and competitive varsity cheer. She has received College Board National African American Recognition and College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition. She is an AP Scholar with Honor and a National Merit Commended Scholar. Serenity will be using the Gates Scholarship, the U of M Hail Scholarship, and the Regents Merit Scholarship to attend the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in computer science.



OLIVIA PITSCH is the daughter of Joseph and Emily Pitsch. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Be NICE, Tutoring Club, Girl Scouts, and is a community and church volunteer. Olivia won several art and film awards, including Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Medal, Meijer Great Choices Finalist, KDL Film Festival Popular Vote, and Best Soundtrack, just to name a few. She ran cross country and played tennis for four years. She is an AP Scholar with Honor, received College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition, and has been offered numerous scholarships, including the GVSU Merit Scholarship, which she will be using to attend GVSU to major in film & production with a minor in Spanish.



JADA O'NEILL is the daughter of Walter and Felisa O'Neill. She is a volunteer musician with the Grand Rapids Symphonette. She was a section leader in our Chamber Orchestra and was on the Marching Band Leadership Team and the Color Guard Leadership Team. She played tennis and was on the dance team for one year. Jada received College Board National African American Recognition, College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition, and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. She will use the U of M Alumni Association LEAD Scholarship to pursue a nursing degree at the University of Michigan.



CATHERINE MORELL is the daughter of Patrick and Carol Morell. Catie was a Class Representative, founder of the Knitting Club, and a member of the AUA & GSA groups. She was on the Principal’s Advisory Board and volunteers in the community. Catie did one year of choir and basketball, three years of cross country, and four years of soccer. She recently received the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy and is an AP Scholar with Honor. Catie is planning to continue her education at the University of Michigan.

2023 Senior Class Motto

“We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore.” -Andre Gide

SENIOR Scholarships & Awards

Ali Abu-Awad - GVSU

GV Faculty Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Madison Abuelhawa - GRCC-GVSU**Jacob Anderson** - MSU

1st division solo rating at state solo & ensemble, MSU Jazz Trumpet Scholarship

Shelby Asbeck - GVSU**Alex Awrey** - CMU

CMU Maroon and Gold Award, BCHS Applied Arts Award

Brianna Bagley - Air Force**Finnegan Banks** - MSU

Michigan Resident Scholarship

Riley Bares - Cornerstone University

Pastoral Scholarship, Chancellors Scholarship, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Dominic Batrville - FSU

BCHS North Star Academy Award

Rylee Baumbach - WMU

WMU Bronco Merit Scholarship

Kaylee Bazuin - Calvin University

Calvin Trustee's Scholarship, BCHS Math Award

Haylee Beek - NMC

BCHS North Star Academy Award

Olivia Beld - University of Northwestern Ohio

BCHS Service Award

Ashlee Benkert - GRCC**Bennett Birtles** - Coast Guard**Kyle Bishop** - GRCC**Amelia Bodinaku** - WMU

WMU Scholarship, Scholastic Art And Writing: Silver key and honorable mention, Kelsey Auto Law Scholarship, Joseph T. and Dorothy P. Permoda Journalism Scholarship

Josh Boersma - Aquinas College

M.R. Bissell Memorial Scholarship

Seth Boettger - Davenport University**Avery Booth** - University of South Carolina

National Honor Society

Jackson Bossenbroek - U of M**Elijah Bostelaar** - Michigan Technological

University

National Honor Society, MTU Distinguished Leader Award, MTU Excellence Award, MTU Presidential Silver Scholars

Jeffrey Bowling - WMU

Brown and Gold Scholarship

Mackenzie Bowling - NMC

BCHS Physical Education Award

Loren Brehm - Northwood

Academic Scholarship

Brady Breit - Hope College**Austin Briggs** - Electrical**Amber Bright** - Calvin University

Calvin Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society

Camryn Broekhuizen - CMU

Maroon and Gold Merit Scholarship, BCHS Physical Education Award

Matthew Brougham

BCHS Science Award, 2023 Hockey All-Conference, 2023 Hockey 2nd team all-state

Aaleah Brubaker - FSU

Ferris Provost Scholarship, Ferris Bulldog Bonus Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Tanis Brummel - FSU

Bulldog Bonus Scholarship, Ferris Forward Scholarship

Austin Buckley - Calvin University**Aaron Burgess** - GVSU

Academic All State for football and wrestling, BCHS Physical Education Award, National Honor Society, GVSU Award for Excellence, Buist Foundation Scholarship

Zach Bush - GRCC

Spartan Cup Winner, Golf Scholarship

Logan Carmer - WMU

WMU 3.00

Ben Chase - Air Force**Kayne Clark** - LCC

Code Red Robotics Team Award

Tim Clay - Hope College

Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship

Logan Collier - Kalamazoo College

Co-Valedictorian, BCHS Science Award, National Honor Society, Eagle Scout, Academic All State in Football, Lux Esto Scholarship, Kalamazoo Alumni Scholarship

Abi Collier - MSU

Michigan Resident Scholarship

Mal Corwith

Certified Green Industry Professional Certificate (KCTC)

Cassidy Coval - The Salon Professional Academy

National Honor Society, Blood Donor

Makenna Crandell - Hope College

West Michigan Officials Association Girls Basketball Player of the Year, BCHS Social Studies Award, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, Hope College Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Jackson Crittendon - Aquinas College

Cristi Curtis Memorial Academic Scholarship, Aquinas Baseball Scholarship

Max de La Pena - GVSU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS ESL Award, The Thompson Working Family Scholarship

Alexa Deising - Davenport University

1st Place Regional HOSA Competition Community Awareness

Audrey Denhof - GVSU

National Service Award, National Honor Society, GVSU Award for Excellence, BBB Trust Scholarship, GRBS Perseverance Scholarship, United Bank Scholarship, EVERFLY Financial Literacy BEE Scholarship, Honor Award from the Michigan Community Service Commission

Kalynn Deppe - Worcester Polytechnic Institute

BCHS ELA and Math Award, BC Pride Award for Discovery, Science Olympiad Regionals Award, Martha Bayard Stevens Scholarship, WPI Henry T. Heald Scholarship

Karen Diaz - CMU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Dinara Domeier - FSU

Ferris State Founders Scholarship, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Spanish Award, National Honor Society

Sophia Eckart - Indiana Wesleyan University

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, IWU John Welsey Scholarship

Payton Farrow

Brink Wood Products Scholarship

Chloe Feather - University of Alabama

Academic All-State for Cheer, Michigan Leader for Life (blood drive), BCHS Math Award, National Honor Society, Lake Michigan Competitive Cheer Officials Association Scholarship, GreenStone Farm Credit Services Scholarship, D.K. Sprague Scholarship, University of Alabama Competitive Scholarship, BBB Trust Scholarship, Atlas Molded Products Scholarship, Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship

Alissa Fedewa - MSU

Individual All-State Academic for Volleyball, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Social Studies and Spanish Award, National Honor Society, BC Pride Award for Respect, Maroon and Gold Merit Recognition Award, Byron Center Education Association Scholarship

Hannah Felan - Life EMS**Anna Feldpausch** - Aquinas College

Ignation Award, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society

McKenna Ferguson - Wayne State University

First Team All Conference for basketball, BCAM Academic All State, BCAM Division 1 All State, Academic and Athletic Full Ride Scholarship

Owen Flannery - U of M

AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation, BCHS Math Award

Cade Fortier - FSU

Ferris State Founders Scholarship

Jackson Garbarek - U.S. Navy

Ben Gilpin - Hope College
BCHS Performing Arts Award for Band, Academic and Athletic Full Ride Scholarship

Madeline Glerum - MSU
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Josiah Gonzalez - FSU
Ferris Deans Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, BCHS Service Award

Joshua Hager
BCHS Art Award

Haarika Hebbur - GVSU
1st place at HOSA (Health Occupation Student of America Competition) Regionals, 3rd place at HOSA State, Science Olympiad Regionals Award, BC Pride Award for Excellence, National Honor Society, BCHS Service Award

Ashton Hedges - GRCC-MSU
National Honor Society

Juan Herrera-Raymundo
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Jocelyn Heyboer - GRCC
GRCC Academic Scholarship

Riley House - MSU
AP Scholar Award, Michigan Resident Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Adriana Howland - MSU
Honor Roll

Shayla Humphrey - Marine Corps

Judzia Irwin - GRCC
President's list for both fall and winter semesters at GRCC, Most Encouraging Award from BCHS Theatre

Hailee Jarchow - GVSU
GVSU Academic Scholarship

Zachary Jeruzal - GVSU
National Honor Society, GVSU Academic Scholarship, Chick-fil-A Scholarship

Kennedy Johnson
1st Place Regional HOSA competition, Community Awareness

Evan Kaiser - FSU
National Honor Society

Lauren Kenney - Cornerstone University
CU Partners For Success, CU Influence Grant, MI Achievement Scholarship, BCHS Service Award

Jayda Kerns - Aquinas College
Aquinas Merit and Golf Scholarships, Aquinas Spectrum of Scholarships competition award, BCHS ELA Award

Paul Kimball - Video Editing
Sutton Foster Award Nomination, BCHS A/V Award, 3rd Place at Courageous Persuaders National Competition

Landyn Kooiker - GRCC
BCHS Service Award, West Michigan Official Association Student Athlete of the Year, West Michigan Official Association Scholarship

Austin Krauss - MSU
OK Conference Scholar Athlete, Sports Boosters Scholarship, Bulldog Power Award

Adam Lee - U of M
BCHS Applied Arts Award,
Buist Foundation Scholarship

Chloe Lee - Cornerstone University
Chancellors Scholarship, Cornerstone University Pastors Scholarship, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, BCHS Service Award

Kara Lein - Hope College
Science Olympiad Regionals Award

Brody Lenger - Byron Center Fire Department

Evelyn Looman - GVSU
Unsung Hero/Outstanding Musician/Outstanding Leader-Byron Center Marching Band, GVSU Faculty Scholarship, Thompson Working Family Scholarship

Jessica Lukins - Calvin University
ChoiceOne Bank Scholarship, Brink Wood Products Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Calvin Trustee's Scholarship, MI Achievement Scholarship, BCHS Math and Science Awards, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation

Cora Malinski - GRCC
GVSU Academic Scholarship

Gabrielle Martin - GRCC
Honor Roll

Jennifer Martinez - MSU
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Spanish Award, Michigan Resident Scholarship

Colton Mathiesen - GRCC
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Anataya Matthews
BCHS Performing Arts Award for Choir

Aspen Matthews
BC Pride Award for Integrity, BCHS Learning Strategies Award

Eli Maxwell - Air Force
Honor Roll

Kylee McConnell - Davenport University
Davenport University Scholarships

Jocelyn Metcalf - Ingredients Dance Company
BCHS Performing Arts Award for Orchestra, BCHS Service Award, Van Singel Fine Arts Scholarship, GVSU Laker Scholarship for Academics

Serenity Metzger - U of M
Science Olympiad Regionals Awards, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation, U of M Hail Scholarship, The Gates Scholarship, U of M LEAD Scholarship, Regents Merit Scholarship

Gabe Miheve - MSU
National Honor Society, Bowling Academic All-State, MSU Academic Scholarships, MSU Michigan Resident Scholarship

Turner Miles - NMU
NMU Art and Design Incoming Freshman Scholarship, Chick-fil-A Remarkable Futures Scholarship, DeHaan Tile and Flooring Sponsored Scholarship, 1st Div. Rating at State and Regional Solo and Ensemble for a Solo, MAEA State Recognition for Art, All-State Performance for an Ensemble at Solo and Ensemble

Hudson Miltner - MSU
Michigan Residential Scholarship

Noah Mitran - WMU
WMU solo recognition, Honor Roll, Bronco Merit Scholarship, Haworth College of Business Scholarship

Catie Morell - U of M
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Social Studies Award

Avery Mouw - GVSU
Scholastic Gold Key Award, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Pastors Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence

Ashleigh Nelson - Ohio Northern University
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, All-Conference Athlete, Ohio Northern University Academic Scholarship

Logan Nickolaus - Wisconsin Windigo of the NAHL
Honor Roll, 1st team all state, All Conference, and Mr. Hockey Finalist

Abigail Noel - GRCC
BCHS Service Award

Mary O'Neal - FSU
Ferris State University Merit Scholarship, Ferris Bulldog Bonus

Jada O'Neill - U of M
U of M Lead Scholarship

Jessica O'Neill
Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship, Beating the Odds Scholarship

Thomas Oegema - WMU
Alumni Scholarship, Merit Scholarship

Seth Paddinge - WMU
WMU Bronco Merit Scholarship

Lucas Parker - GVSU
Atlas Molded Products Scholarship

Ashanty Perez - GRCC
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Jackson Perez - GVSU
BCHS Physical Education Award, BC Pride Award for Perseverance, GVSU Award for Excellence,

Stephen Perez - Michigan Career
Technical Institute

Aleiah Peterson
Certified Green Industry Professional Certificate (KCTC)

Laiken Pettit - MSU
Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Rachel Phelan - MSU
National Honor Society, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Spanish Award, Bulldog Power Award, Positive Coaching Alliance Triple Threat Competitor Scholarship, Chamber of Commerce Rod Korhorn Scholarship, MSU MI Resident Scholarship, Northwest Hardwoods Scholarship, United Bank Community Dedication Scholarship, Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship, BC Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Joshua Philo - Calvin University
Calvin University Scholarship, Rick Deneweth Memorial North South Showcase, National Honor Society, BCHS Applied Arts Award, BCHS Service Award

Allyson Pitsch - MSU
Michigan Achievement Scholarship,
Michigan Resident Scholarship

Olivia Pitsch - GVSU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Rural and Small Town Recognition, Honorable Mention in Scholastic Region, KDL Film Fest Most Original Concept, BCHS Spanish and Art Awards, National Honor Society, BCHS Service Award, Finalist at the Courageous Persuaders National Competition, GVSU Merit Scholarship, GVSU Zukaitis Honors Scholarship

Aidan Pollock - U of M

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, All-District Soccer Player, University of Michigan Alumni Club of Grand Rapids Scholarship

Emmie Pratt - FSU

Ferris NEXT Scholarship, Ferris Merit Scholarship, BCHS Service Award

Keaton Premo - Firefighting and Pressure Washing

Hannah Reda - GVSU

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Honorable Mention, Top 50 in the MAEA regional show, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS ELA Award, Gaines Township Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Provosts Scholarship, Brink Wood Products Scholarship

Paloma Krystal Reyes Ibarra

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Katie Richards - MSU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Social Studies Award, National Honor Society

Luis Rosado Rosario

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Giavanna Rossi - CMU

Central Michigan Merit and Gold Scholarship

Jacob Russell - GVSU

National Hispanic Recognition, Grand Valley Merit Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Mallory Sanderson - FSU

Robert H. Skutt Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Ferris State Merit Scholarship

Brayden Sandholm - WMU

National Honor Society

Carmenlinda Santiago-Saez - U.S. Army

Sophie Schans - Hope College
Heritage Award

Hunter Schichtel - Taylor University

BCHS Business Award for Accounting and Finance, 2x All-Conference Football, All-Region Football, Grand Rapids Dream Team Football, Honorable Mention All-Conference Bowling, Honorable Mention All-Conference Baseball, Football Scholarship

Elijah Schneider - U of M

National Honor Society, State Solo and Ensemble outstanding rating, Western Michigan Jazz Festival honorable mention soloist, BCHS Math Award

Ethan Schut - GVSU

GVSU Faculty Scholarship

Shayden Shaffer - GVSU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Esabella Siersma - GVSU

BCHS Business Award for Marketing, GV Excellence Academic Scholarship

Jazzy Singh

Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Award for Excellence Scholarship

Caydence Sparpana - Davenport University

Davenport University Academic Scholarship, Going Pro Recognition at KCTC

Chloe Steffen - GVSU

GVSU Scholarship

Mackenzie Stubblefield - Calvin University

Teachers Academy Scholarship, Calvin Academic Scholarship, BCHS Principal's Award, National Honor Society, Kent Career Tech Center Teachers Academy PRO of the Month, BCHS Service Award

Payton Stuck - The Salon Professional Academy

BCHS Service Award

Nya Susan - CMU

Lizzy Szymaniak - Michigan Technological University

1st place at HOSA regionals for Pharmacy Science, 2nd place at HOSA state for Pharmacy science

Grace Taylor - MSU

Honor roll

Megan TenHarkel - Trine University

Trine University President's Scholarship

Shannon Tessmer - Saint Mary's College

National Honor Society, Saint Mary's College Le Mans Award

Brianna TeWinkel - Cedarville University

Cedarville University President's Scholar Award, Cedarville University's Early Start Scholarship, BCHS German Award, BCHS Service Award

Drew Thomas - GVSU

GVSU Academic Scholarship

Bryanna Tromp - GVSU

GVSU Award for Excellence, Brink Wood Products Scholarship

Ethan Trout - GVSU

Mckenna Turnbull - GVSU

Advanced Chemical Concepts Business Athlete Scholarship

Brady Unthank - Grace Christian

Baseball Scholarship

Allison VanderSloot - GVSU

BCHS ELA Award, BCHS Photography Award, Two National Silver Medals in Writing, Four Regional Gold Medals in Art and Writing

Ryleigh VanderTuin - GRCC

Academic, Athletic, and Merit Scholarships

Ryan Wall - University of Alabama

National Merit Finalist, Co-Valedictorian, BCHS Math Award, National Honor Society, National Merit Finalist Scholarship, Collegeboard National Small Town and Rural Scholarship

Jonathan Wallace - GVSU

GVSU Athletic Scholarships

Katherine Wells - GVSU

National Honor Society, GVSU Award for Excellence Scholarship

Avery Wilson - WMU

National Honor Society, WMU Scholarship

Kira Wilson - GVSU

BCHS Service Award, 2nd Place Science Olympiad Medal, 6th Place Science Olympiad Medal, BCHS A/V Award, Finalist at the Courageous Persuaders national competition

Colin Woniewski - WMU

BCHS Performing Arts Award for Band, Outstanding soloist winner in class "A" at CMU Jazz Festival, Soloist recognition at WMU Jazz Festival, Overall outstanding soloist for big band at WMU Jazz Festival, WMU Bronco Honors Scholarship, Jazz Area Award, MCBA Scholarship, VSFAC Scholarship

Ethan Wood - GRCC/GVSU

OK Conference Scholar Athlete, 2023 Male Athlete of the Year

Alexis Zimmer - FSU

FSU Academic Scholarship

Olivia Zoulek - Coastal Carolina University

Merit Scholarship



BC PRIDE Awards

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

P



Jackson Perez
Perseverance

R



Alissa Fedewa
Respect

I



Aspen Matthews
Integrity

D



Kalynn Deppe
Discovery

E



Haarika Hebbur
Excellence

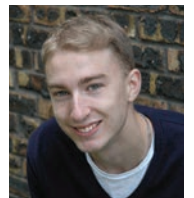
THANK YOU!

We wish to honor the following 2023 graduates who have enlisted into the Armed Services. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve!



Brianna Bagley
Air Force

Bennett Birtles
Coast Guard



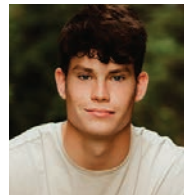
Benjamin Chase
Air Force

Jackson Garbarek
Navy



Shayla Humphrey
Marines

Elijah Maxwell
Air Force



CarmenLinda Santiago-Saez
Army

North Star Academy

Congratulations to the 23 seniors who graduated from our North Star Academy this year! This was our 15th graduating class. The North Star Academy staff, along with Byron Center Public Schools, is dedicated to model leadership through passion, relevance, relationships, and high standards while seeking an alternative teaching approach. They are committed to providing appropriate support while building students of character who can excel in critical thinking, social awareness, problem-solving, and employability skills.

The personalized, blended-education program at Byron Center is designed to prepare students for their individual plan after high school while completing BCHS graduation requirements and receiving a BCPS diploma.



Kent Career Tech Center

Kent Career Tech Center offers education focusing on career exploration, career preparation, and continuing education leading to successful employment. Students who participate in a one or two year program receive high school credits, and in some cases, students may earn college credit.

These 32 BCHS seniors have earned industry-recognized certifications in the KCTC program. Some of these students will go on to receive additional training, while others are ready to enter the workforce. Congratulations, seniors!

- Jason Barrix** - Advanced Auto Tech - Engines
- Olivia Beld** - Diesel & Equipment Tech
- Bennett Birtles** - Auto Collision Repair
- Kayne Clark** - Aviation Maintenance Tech
- Mal Corwith** - Agriscience for Plants and Animals
- Alexa Deising** - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech
- Kierstyn Dykema** - Teacher Academy
- Alyssa Dykstra** - Teacher Academy
- Hannah Felan** - Health-Emergency Medical Services
- Jakeb Godt** - Advanced Auto Tech - Electrical
- Haarika Hebbur** - Health-Diagnostic/FSU
- Jayda Johnson** - Hospitality-Advanced Pastry
- Kennedy Johnson** - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech
- Lauren Kenney** - Teacher Academy
- Brody Lenger** - Health-Emergency Medical Services
- Kylee McConnell** - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech
- Hunter Mckenna** - Heating Ventilation AC and Refrig
- Mahrle Miller** - Welding
- Aleiah Peterson** - Agriscience for Plants and Animals
- Anthony Pitsch** - Advanced Auto Tech - Engines
- Keaton Premo** - Hospitality Intro
- Mallory Sanderson** - Engineering & Architectural Design
- Logan Shaw** - Aviation Maintenance Tech
- Caydence Sparpana** - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech
- Mackenzie Stubblefield** - Teacher Academy
- Carson Stutes** - Diesel & Equipment Tech
- Alysa Szymaniak** - Health-Pharmacy Technician
- Shannon Tessmer** - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech
- Bryce Thompson** - Welding
- Aliah Trevino** - Health-Emergency Medical Services
- Kendal Vandermolen** - Agriscience for Plants and Animals
- Isaac Wheaton** - Auto Collision Repair

Senior Class Motto

"We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Andre Gide

Senior Class Flower

Orange Dahlia



Senior Class Song

"I Lived" by One Republic

Class Officers:

Chloe Feather
Serenity Metzger
Adriana Howland
Makenna Crandell

Class Advisors:

Mrs. Madison Cove
Mrs. Christy Tripp-Arkema

Our Exchange Students

- Nika Banovic** - Bosnia
- Maleen Borrman** - Germany
- Leonie Carbon** - France
- Natalia Castro Alcalde** - Brazil
- Marta Fernandez Gonzalez** - Spain
- Emily Istenes** - Germany
- Helina Jirka** - Austria
- Hsing An Ku** - Taiwan
- Maina Soumare** - France
- Javier Ubis Muras** - Spain



CELEBRATING Fine Arts

To all our visual artists, actors, dancers, singers, and musicians: Well done!

We hope you continue developing and using your creative talents as you go from here. The world needs more beauty and inspiration that the arts provide! The Byron Center Fine Arts program desires the best for our graduating seniors!

Byron Center Theatre

FALL PLAY: *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

Cast size: 35 students, five elementary students & four violinists

Crew size: 20 students

SPRING MUSICAL: *CINDERELLA*

Cast size: 50 students

Crew size: 20 students

Tech was completely student-run

Sutton Foster Awards Nominations:

Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role, BCHS Junior Indigo Umlor as The Fairy Godmother, and BCHS Senior Paul Kimball as Prince Christopher



Fall Play: *A Christmas Carol*



Spring Musical: *Cinderella*

Thomas Oegema plays in the Marching Band



Band, Choir, and Orchestra

BAND

Marching Band placed 3rd in the State

District Solo and Ensemble: 55 First Division Ratings & 21 Second Division Ratings

State Solo and Ensemble: 29 First Division Ratings, 17 Second Division Ratings & All-State Performance - Clarinet Choir

Western Michigan University Jazz Festival:

18 Students Awarded Outstanding Performance & Jazz Band Named Outstanding Ensemble



Marching Band performs in the State Competition at Ford Field

JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award

1st Place at CMU Jazz Festival

1st Place at WMU Jazz Festival

Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival placed Top 15 in the country



Jazz Orchestra

CHOIR

Regional High School Honors Choir:

Three Students Selected

District 10 Solo and Ensemble:

15 First Division Ratings & Six Second Division Ratings

District 10 Choral Festival:

Bella Voce - First Division Ratings & Vocal Expressions - First Division Rating

State Solo and Ensemble:

10 First Division Ratings & Vocal Expressions - First Division Rating

ORCHESTRA

District Orchestra Festival:

First Division Ratings & Chamber Orchestra - First Division Rating

District 10 Solo and Ensemble:

11 First Division Ratings & 10 Second Division Ratings

State 10 Solo and Ensemble:

Five First Division Ratings & One Second Division Rating



Vocal Expressions perform at Artastic



Jazz Orchestra practicing for performance

Visual Arts

KDL TEEN FILM FESTIVAL

Olivia Pitsch & Kalynn Deppe won "Best Original Concept" for their submission "Serenity."

SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL WINNERS

High School - 131 Awards

SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL WINNER

Allison Vandersloot won Two Silver Medal Awards in Writing for Novel Writing & Flash Fiction.



Allison VanderSloot



Colin Woniewski performs at Essentially Ellington

SILVER MEDAL OF HONOR

Annoying Things Kids Do - Kira Wilson & Paul Kimball

GOLD MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Drinking and Driving Don't Mix - Paul Kimball

The Coffee Shop - Kira Wilson & Paul Kimball

The Haunted Condo - Paul Kimball

The Story of the Hicks Family - Kira Wilson & Paul Kimball

You're Not You When You're Hungry - Kira Wilson, Paul Kimball, Olivia Pitsch

BEST OF SHOW - STATE CHAMPIONS!

Serenity - Olivia Pitsch & Kalynn Deppe

Drinking is a Dumb Way to Drive - Kira Wilson, Paul Kimball, Olivia Pitsch



Kalynn Deppe, Kira Wilson, and Olivia Pitsch win Best of Show at the Michigan Student Film Festival. Not included in photo: Paul Kimball

INSPIRING Athletes

OK Conference Scholar Athletes

Finnegan Banks	Zachary Jeruzal	Madelyn Pitsch
Rylee Baumbach	Jayda Kerns	Olivia Pitsch
Avery Booth	Paul Kimball	Aidan Pollock
Elijah Bostelaar	Austin Krauss	Katie Richards
Mackenzie Bowling	Devon Lay	Giavanna Rossi
Loren Brehm	Drew Leatherman	Mallory Sanderson
Aaron Burgess	Adam Lee	Brayden Sandholm
Timothy Clay	Jessica Lukins	Hunter Schichtel
Logan Coller	Gabrielle Martin	Esabella Siersma
Abisola Collier	Jennifer Martinez	Chloe Steffen
Makenna Crandell	Elijah Maxwell	Mackenzie Stubblefield
Audrey Denhof	Gabriel Miheve	Grace Taylor
Dinara Domeier	Catherine Morell	Shannon Tessmer
Ellie Dunn	Avery Mouw	Andrew Thomas
Sophia Eckart	Logan Nickolaus	Matt Truong
Chloe Feather	Thomas Oegema	Katherine Wells
Alissa Fedewa	Jackson Perez	Avery Wilson
McKenna Ferguson	Laiken Pettit	Cameron Wolters
Jackson Garbarek	Rachel Phelan	Ethan Wood
Madeline Glerum	Joshua Philo	Olivia Zoulek
Ashton Hendges	Allyson Pitsch	

Senior Athlete Awards



McKenna Ferguson



Ethan Wood

Sports Boosters Scholarship
Jayda Kerns Austin Krauss

Robert L. Nickels Scholarship
Tim Clay Rachel Phelan

Cristi Curtis Memorial Scholarship
Alissa Fedewa

**Advanced Chemical Concepts
Business Athlete Scholarship**
McKenna Turnbull Carter Patrick
Payton Stuck Blake Hoppe

Triple Threat Award

- Brady Breit - FB, Hockey, Lacrosse
- Logan Coller - FB, Wrestling, Baseball, Track
- Makenna Crandell - XC, VB, Basketball, Tennis
- Dinara Domeier - XC, Bowling, Soccer, Tennis
- Austin Krauss - Tennis, Basketball, Baseball
- Hunter Schichtel - FB, Basketball, Bowling, Baseball



Boys Golf



Girls Golf



Conference Boys Track

All-Conference Athletes

FALL

Jayda Kerns, Golf
 Macie Elzinga, Golf
 Brady Pettit, Tennis
 Sydney Law, XC
 Levi Green, XC
 Caroline Baker, Volleyball
 Bri Whitfield, Volleyball
 Makenzi Bennett, Volleyball (HM)
 Hunter Schichtel, FB
 Tim Clay, FB
 Isaac Lee, FB
 Blake Ottow, FB
 Jason Sevigny, FB
 Luke Laska, FB
 Brady Breit, FB
 Joel Perez, FB (HM)
 Landon Tungate, FB (HM)
 Collin Ford, FB (HM)
 Josh Philo, Soccer
 AJ Dykstra, Soccer
 Carlos Castro, Soccer (HM)
 Ashleigh Nelson, Swim
 Brooklyn Beach, Swim
 Jillian Vanderhorst, Equestrian,
 All District

WINTER

Austin Coleman, Wrestling
 Ethan Wood, Wrestling
 Gracie Pepper, Comp Cheer
 Chloe Feather, Comp Cheer
 Emma Carlson, Comp Cheer
 Hanna Pulawski, Comp Cheer
 Paige Huizenga, Comp Cheer (HM)
 Addison Yerkes, Comp Cheer (HM)
 Dom Batrville, Bowling
 Matt Boersma, Bowling
 Josh Boersma, Bowling
 Layla Batrville, Bowling
 Hunter Schichtel, Bowling (HM)
 Vincent Batrville, Bowling (HM)
 Dinara Domeier, Bowling (HM)
 Alyssa Dykstra, Bowling (HM)
 Audrey Bilot, Bowling (HM)
 Sharley Bilot, Bowling
 Austin Buckley, Boys BB
 Camden Karel, Boys BB (HM)
 Austin Briggs, Swimming
 Jack Olivier, Diving
 Colton Standorf, Swimming
 Lily Zeinstra, GBB
 McKenna Ferguson, GBB
 Makenna Crandell, GBB
 Mattie Sandholm, GBB (HM)
 Avery DePagter, GBB (HM)
 Brady Breit, Hockey
 Matthew Brougham, Hockey
 Eli Kamminga (S. Christian), Hockey (HM)
 Gage Pietenpol (S. Christian), Hockey (HM)
 Bryce Permoda (S. Christian), Hockey (HM)
 Jackson Froyland, Hockey
 Carson MacKenzie (Wayland), Hockey
 Logan Nickolaus, Hockey
 Josh Philo, Hockey
 Cade Pratt, Hockey

SPRING

Calena Foster, Track
 Natalie Formsma, Track
 Lauren Milward, Track
 Chloe Feather, Track
 Madison Leifer, Track
 Aidan Pollock, Track
 Brody Leyendecker, Track
 Elijah Maxwell, Track
 Ethan Trout, Track
 Jackson Perez, Track
 Jayden Brock, Track
 Jonathon Lennon, Track
 Owen LaTour, Track
 Parker Holford, Track
 Xavier McCallum, Track
 Makenna Crandell, Tennis
 Addison Devos, Tennis
 Katie Richards, Tennis
 Brady Breit, Lax
 Tobin Brems, Lax
 Josiah Karnehm, Lax
 Connor Ferguson, Lax (HM)
 Claire VanZanten, Soccer
 Rachel Phelan, Soccer
 Avery Wilson, Soccer
 Laiken Pettit, Soccer
 Jordan Kerns, Soccer (HM)
 Isabella Kalbfleisch, Girls Lax (HM)
 Kellen Payne, Baseball
 Luke Laska, Baseball
 Jack Crittendon, Baseball
 Hunter Schichtel, Baseball (HM)
 McKenna Ferguson, SB
 Sophie Holverstott, SB
 Mattie Sandholm, SB
 Addy Streelman, SB
 Ellory Dykstra, SB
 Jessie Lukins, SB (HM)
 Lexi Struble, SB (HM)
 Drew Leatherman, Golf (HM)



Hockey Conference Champs



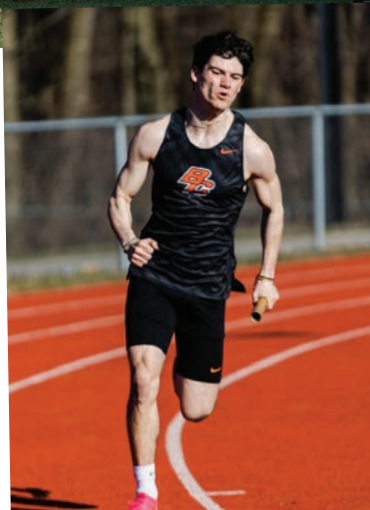
Austin Briggs



Soccer District Champs



Makenna Crandell
 Bulldog Award



Jackson Perez
 Bulldog Award

Individual State Qualifiers

FALL

Macie Elzinga, Golf,
Overall State Champion Div 2

Sydney Law, XC

Eli Maxwell, Ethan Trout, Parker Holford and Jackson Perez,
Track, 4X 100 and 4 X 200

JJ Brock, Track, 8th Place
Long Jump

Brody Leyendecker, Track,
400M Dash

Natalie Formsmma, Track,
High Jump

Brooklyn Beauch, Swim,
200 Medley Relay, 200 IM,
100 Butterfly, 200 Freestyle
Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay

Maleen Borrmann, Swim,
200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle,
200 Freestyle Relay,
100 Backstroke,
400 Freestyle Relay

Chayse Campbell, Swim,
200 Medley Relay,
200 Freestyle Relay,
100 Breaststroke,
400 Freestyle Relay

Addison Deppe, Swim,
50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle

Lili McAvoy, Swim,
200 Freestyle, 500 Freestyle,
200 Freestyle Relay,
400 Freestyle Relay

Ashleigh Nelson, Swim,
200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle,
100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle
Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay

Ella Peters, Swim, 200 Medley
Relay, 50 Freestyle,
100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle
Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay

WINTER

Ethan Wood, Wrestling

Blake Ottow, Wrestling

Austin Briggs, Swim, 50 Freestyle (1st),
100 Breaststroke

Ike Devries, Swim, Diving

Andrew Hill, Swim, 500 Freestyle

Cole Mitchell, Swim, 100 Backstroke

Carter Nelson, Swim, 500 Freestyle

Jack Olivier, Swim, Diving

Colton Standorf, Swim, 200 IM, 100 Fly

Jonathan Wallace, Swim, Diving

**Cole Mitchell, Austin Briggs,
Colton Standorf, Cam Wolters**,
Swim, 200 Medley Relay

**Austin Briggs, Aaron Petroelje, Colton
Standorf, Cam Wolters**, Swim, 200
Free Relay

**Aaron Petroelje, Lucas Ritsema,
Andrew Hill, Eli Bostelaar**,
Swim, 400 Free Relay

SPRING

**Eli Maxwell, Ethan Trout, Parker
Holford, and Jackson Perez**,
Track, 4 X 100 and 4 X 200

JJ Brock, Long Jump and High Jump,
8th Place Long Jump

Brody Leyendecker,
Track 400M Dash

Natalie Formsmma, High Jump

2022-2023 Championship Teams

Girls Bowling: Conference Champs
Coach Walt Dyer

Boys Bowling: 5th Place - Coach Walt Dyer

Boys Golf: State Qualifier - Coach Jeff Krauss

Boys Swim: 11th Place - Coach Sam Hoekstra

Girls Basketball: Conference & District Champs
Coach Jen Slot

**Hockey: Conference & Regional Champs,
State Runner-Up** - Coach Jordan Steger

Softball: Conference Champs
Coach Crystal Laska

Boys Track & Field: Conference Champs
First In School History
Coach Colin Hunter



Macie Elzinga



Girls Bowling



Boys Bowling



Girls Basketball

MESSAGES to Our Graduates

“Congratulations, Class of 2023! You will always have a special place in my heart as you are my first class of graduates since I started teaching in BC. I remember your 3rd grade faces well! Always remember you are special and full of potential. I know you will do AMAZING things! I wish you all the best!”

Mrs. Koenig
Countryside 3rd grade

“Congratulations, Class of 2023! Do all that you can to travel; it will change your life!”

Mrs. Tripp
WMS and BCHS ESL

“Congratulations, Class of 2023! You did it! What a great accomplishment. So proud of each and every one of you! Celebrate this moment and get ready for your next big adventure, whether it is college, military, or entering the workforce. Seize the Day!”

Mrs. Thomas
Nickels 6th Grade

“Herzlichen Glückwunsch!! I hope that you all enjoy this special time and look back on your high school time with fond memories (despite the weird start with Covid). I hope that whatever path you are going on next is filled with success, happiness, and fulfillment!”

Frau Finkbeiner
BCHS German

“Class of 2023, huge congrats to you! I am so proud of you all. Thank you for making this a place I love to be every day. Thank you for all of the laughs, kindness, grace, and strength you have shown. Wishing you the absolute best in this next chapter, be big out there!”

Mrs. Merritt
BCHS Math

“Congratulations, Class of 2023! Making it through high school is no small achievement! You all have made an impact on your school and community, and I have no doubt that you will continue to achieve and make an impact in your lives after graduation!”

Mr. Kransberger
BCHS Social Studies

“Class of 2023 - you did it! Way to go! It has been so fun watching you all grow up and discover what makes you, YOU! Go out and change the world.”

Miss VanEngen
Countryside 1st grade

“You all are overcomers! Your High School experience was drastically different due to COVID, but you all came out stronger and more equipped to handle adversity in your future. My advice: travel the world, learn about others, and show empathy, kindness, and compassion. ¡Buena suerte!”

Sra. Sibalwa
WMS & BCHS Spanish

“I have wonderful memories of working with you in the WMS choir room! I wish you blessings and courage as you graduate and go on to do great things. A big shoutout to our first grandson, Brody Lenger- we love you and are so very proud of you!”

Mrs. Lenger
WMS Choir Accompanist

“We are really proud of our Class of 2023, and we cannot wait to see all your accomplishments in the next chapter. All of your hard work and perseverance have led you to this proud moment in your lives. Know that you will ALWAYS have a home with BC! Best wishes on your next adventure!”

Mrs. Wagner
BCHS Theatre Director &
Brown Elementary Music Teacher

“¡Estamos orgullosos de Uds.! We look forward to hearing about all of the positive ways that you change the world. ¡Buena suerte en el futuro!”

Sra. Showers
BCHS Spanish

“Seniors, we have made such a beautiful family in our classroom. I wish you all so many blessings in your next adventure. Please remember to be kind and enjoy your moments. You all deserve that. Congrats, seniors.”

Mrs. Owens
BCHS Marketing
Pottery

“I have some really great memories of this class while you were here as a part of the Nickels Nation! I have appreciated the times that I have seen many of you since your time here at Nickels. Always stay positive, encourage others, and take advantage of the opportunities that life presents you!”

Mr. Amo
Nickels Intermediate
Physical Education

“¡Muchas Felicidades, Clase de 2023 - Congratulations! ¡Lo hiciste - you did it! It has been a pleasure working with all of you! Remember to experience World Travel & appreciate everyone who has guided you all these years. Be kind to others! Continue to set goals & realize that life throws challenges at all of us. Be flexible & willing to adapt. Stay strong & strive to carry that Bulldog Pride & the Spirit of Resilience in your Hearts. ¡Qué Viva La Clase de 2023! ¡Estamos en contacto, Amigos - Stay in touch! “Mi salón de clase es su salón de clase.””

Sr. Domeier

HS Spanish, JV Girls Tennis & Driver's Ed

“Class of 2023....WOW! When you were at Nickels 6-7 years ago, 2023 seemed like the very distant future. It is now here, and hard to believe how quickly that time has passed. Although time moves forward at the same speed throughout your life, you'll find that it seems to move faster as you get older. Be intentional about taking the time to appreciate the important things while balancing hard work with play. Congratulations, Class of 2023...we are proud of you!”

Mr. Trout

Nickels Intermediate, Principal

“Congratulations, Class of 2023, YOU DID IT!!!! Know that we're all proud of you. Wishing you all the best as you move on to the next chapter; enjoy every moment.”

Mrs. Abbott

Countryside (4th Grade) PE Teacher

“Way to go, Class of 2023! Wishing you all the very best in your next adventures! Go out and change the world for the better! You've got this!”

Mrs. Takens

Marshall School Counselor

“Congratulations, Class of 2023! You are destined for great things. Go into the world and spread your kindness. Wishing you the best!”

Mrs. Corey

Brown 3rd Grade

“I'm very proud of the adults that you are becoming! It's been fun to see what you've already accomplished, and I'm hopeful for what's to come. Congratulations!”

Mr. Volkens

Countryside 4th Grade

“Way to go, Class of 2023! You were such a special group of 3rd graders, and I will never forget you. High five and hugs....You did it!”

Mrs. Clausen

Marshall 3rd Grade



“Congratulations, Class of 2023!! You were my first group to teach at Byron Center, and I can't believe we made it to your graduation already. I hope you thrive in this next stage of your life!”

Mrs. Klopfenstein (Kladder)

BCHS Math
SL&L

“Congratulations, Class of 2023!! Wishing you the very best for a bright and successful future. I am hopeful for all the greatness you will contribute to the world.”

Mrs. Caldwell

Marshall 3rd Grade

“Congratulations to you all! I have enjoyed making music with you for the past five years. Your leadership, wit, and sass will be missed. Best wishes in your future endeavors!”

Ms. Peters

NIS & HS Orchestra



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A Note from Mr. Joseph



*Dear Graduating Class of 2023,
 You have persevered, shown respect and integrity, furthered your path of discovery, and reached for excellence these past four years. Your dedication and heart for others are honorable, and you have acted together with class. As you head into your next journey, may you remember the lessons you have learned, thank the people that have helped you, and may you live with an attitude of gratitude as you make us all proud watching you continue to build your success story! Congratulations, Class of 2023!*

Scott Joseph
 BC High School
 Principal

