

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: Bruce Dennett
Trustees: Yvonne Boucher,
Chuck Fedewa, Jason Pierson

Newly elected Board members
Amber Swift and Thalia Tilma step
into their positions in 2023.

2023

Board of Education Meetings

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

January 10

February 7

March 7

April 11

May 9

June 27 (6:15 pm)

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.



Thank You Byron Center Community



It's hard to believe we are halfway through the school year, but what a great year it has been so far! There is much to celebrate in BCPS, from numerous academic achievements to fine arts accomplishments and many athletic successes! Byron Center has outstanding students, teachers, and staff, and I am grateful to call myself a Bulldog.

I want to thank the BC community for opening their hearts and giving back during the holidays. Each Byron Center school held a community drive, whether it was clothing, food, or toys, to help those in need.

Districtwide, BCPS participated in Toys for Tots. Each year, the toy drive helps distribute millions of toys to children. We are thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization that helps families right here in Byron Center. Lastly, thank you to our community partner, The Big Give, for providing presents to BC families during the holiday season. The non-profit sponsors more than 1,150 West Michigan kids to make sure every child has a Happy Holiday!

Various construction projects continue around the district. Our newly upgraded training facility, located just south of the current administration building, is scheduled to open this winter. The new Nickels Intermediate building will open in the fall of 2023. We are excited to welcome students to this new school!

Thank you to the BC community for your continued support of Byron Center Public Schools. The partnership with parents, staff, and the community is truly what makes BC great.

Sincerely,

Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Superintendent of
Schools



Blue Ribbon Celebrations

Brown and Marshall Elementary celebrate being named National Blue Ribbon Schools. They were the ONLY two schools in the state of Michigan to receive the honor in 2022, so they deserve to celebrate all of their success.

“The reason why we’re a National Blue Ribbon School is because of the staff, the students, and the community,” Brown Elementary Principal Gina Middaugh said. “They all work so hard to make everything work. I’m so appreciative of everything. Thank you, Brown Elementary, and congratulations.”

Both schools had their own celebration at the Van Singel Fine Arts Center. Past principals and state leaders joined the festivities to honor the hard work of the students and staff. Let’s keep the celebration going all year long!

“Marshall is a Blue Ribbon School because of the kids in the building and all of the things they have done,” Marshall Elementary Principal Kris Vydareny said. “I’m super proud to be your principal and lucky to be here every day. Thanks so much, Marshall. You’re doing a fantastic job; keep it up!”



“I like all the kids, and I like all of the teachers. They are really nice and help you when you need it,” Marshall 3rd grader Jayce Willis said.



“I’ve been to Marshall ever since Kindergarten, and it’s been really fun,” Marshall 4th grader Conlan Moore said. “The teachers work really hard to help you learn.”

“I think Brown is a nice school, it has a cool playground, nice teachers, and I like that we have buddies, too,” Brown 4th grader Hayley Bacinski said.

“When I came to Brown, I made so many new friends, learned a lot, and now I can’t believe I’m a 4th grader,” Brown 4th grader Bereket Forner said. “I’ll be sad to leave, but I’m never going to forget this place.”



What is a Blue Ribbon School?

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program awards public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their academic excellence and progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year, the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great schools that demonstrate that all students can achieve high levels of success. In 2022, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognized 297 schools across 45 states.

BC in DC

BCPS Superintendent Kevin Macina, Brown Elementary Principal Gina Middaugh, Brown 4th grade teacher Tina Mysliwicz, Marshall Elementary Principal Kris Vydareny, and Marshall Kindergarten teacher Jessica Lemon traveled to Washington D.C. for the 2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Ceremony to accept the awards on behalf of Brown and Marshall.

“We could not have achieved this level of success without our students, staff, parents, Board of Education, and the community working together,” Superintendent Macina said. “The hard work, success, and dedication of Brown and Marshall represent the achievement and success for all of BCPS.”

At Brown Elementary, the entire staff works together to ensure that all students have the best experience possible and that each student is met where they need to be for success. Brown was one of the first schools in Michigan to be awarded the National Blue Ribbon back in 2001 and then again in 2015.

Marshall Elementary is focused on the continued success and student achievement. Staff, in partnership with parents, work to educate and prepare students to be enthusiastic, self-directed, and life-long learners. This is the second time Marshall has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, previously in 2016.

Countryside was selected in 2017, which means that all BCPS elementaries are current National Blue Ribbon Schools.

“The honor embodies our mission of helping students build success stories throughout the entire district,” Macina said. “I personally am thankful for the partnership of the entire community that allows us to celebrate the success of BCPS. This recognition is an honor and a reminder of our commitment to all our students.”



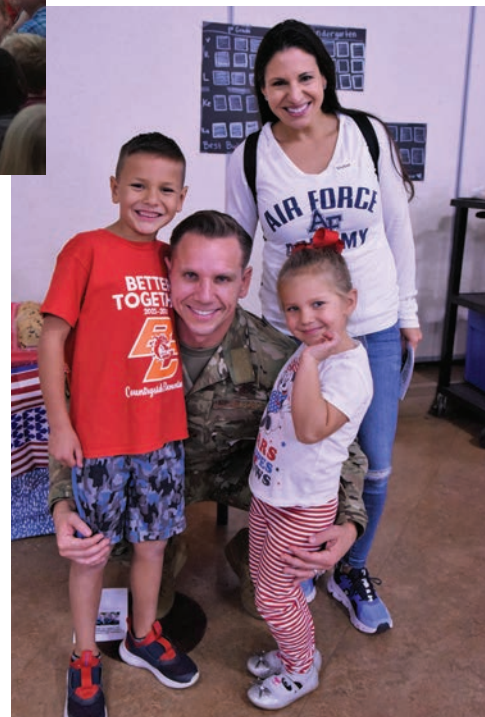
BROWN, COUNTRYSIDE & MARSHALL Elementary

Honoring Our Veterans

Marshall and Countryside Elementary welcomed local veterans to a school assembly to pay tribute to their sacrifice and service. Marshall's student council organized its event with veteran speakers and a slideshow honoring those who have served or are serving.

Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Elaina Aguilar-Broome invited two special guests to Countryside's assembly. James Aguilar, a retired 1st Sgt. of the Michigan Army National Guard, and Maria Bell, Major Logistics Support, currently serving in the Michigan Army National Guard. These veterans are Mrs. Aguilar-Broome's father and sister.

THANK YOU to all veterans for your service and sacrifice.





Outdoor Learning

Countryside Elementary received its long-awaited outdoor learning pavilion this fall. The 32-foot by 24-foot pavilion was funded, in part, by the PAC group and a grant from a local real estate developer. Fourth grade teacher, Dan Volkers, was a major advocate for the structure. He and Doug Gallup, the District Buildings and Grounds Coordinator, came up with the plan and saw it through to fruition.

Hope Gardens and the Countryside Elementary family have teamed up for more outdoor learning experiences through gardening. Students and staff enjoy the spring work and the fall produce, while volunteers take charge during the summer. Students are learning how to plant and take care of their gardens!

Students and staff enjoy all the outdoor learning opportunities as they breathe in the fresh air and enjoy the beautiful nature around them.



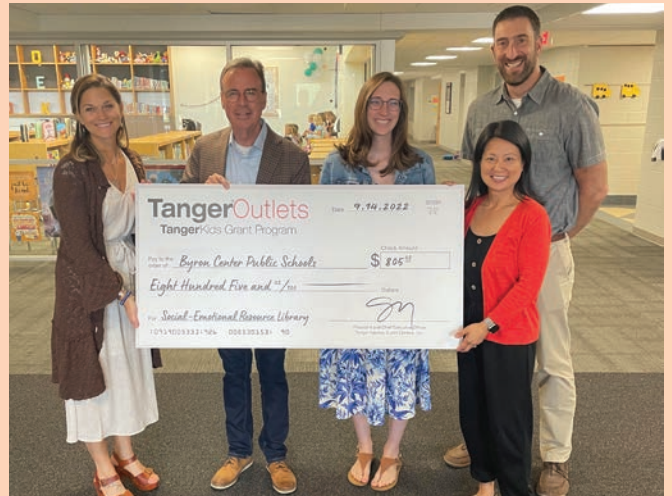
Reading Parade

WE LOVE BOOKS! Brown Elementary kindergarteners celebrate being storybook readers. The students paraded down the halls with their favorite storybooks in hand, shouting, "we love books," letting everyone know they are accomplished readers! It's a Byron Center tradition to get all students excited about reading.



Tanger Grant

Tanger Outlets presented BCPS with a grant to start a Social-Emotional Resource Library for teachers at our K-4 buildings! This will be a great tool to help students build success stories at Byron Center.



NICKELS Intermediate School



Author Visit

New York Times best-selling author of *The Unwanted Series*, Lisa McMann, visits Nickels Intermediate, speaking to students about her new series, *The Forgotten Five*, and giving advice to aspiring writers.

Nickels 6th grader, David Cummings, attended one of McMann's author signings over the summer and asked her to come to Byron Center. McMann already had a trip planned to West Michigan because she grew up in the area. So David contacted the school, and the rest is history!

Some students, who say they want to be writers, asked McMann for advice about writing a novel and writer's block. Who knows, Nickels might have some famous authors someday.



Give Back

Nickels Intermediate formed a Student Leadership team that organized a community clothing drive. Students collected more than 1800 items, such as coats, hats, gloves, and more, and then donated them to Degage Ministries.

Stem Mini Golf Projects

Nickels Intermediate 6th grade students were tasked with making mini golf courses in STEM class. STEM teacher Jessica Johnson said the project teaches students about lines, angles, using their imagination, and never giving up!

Once the projects were complete, students could play on their classmates' courses!



Mock Elections

In honor of Election Day, Nickels' 5th grade students participated in their own mock election. Students learned about the importance of voting and what it means to have your voice heard.

Fifth grade teacher Shannon Blood is teaching her students about voting, citizen responsibilities, and political parties. Putting ideas into action is a great way to learn!

WEST Middle School

Students of the Month

As part of the Leader in Me program, students are recognized each month for demonstrating leadership skills in and out of the classroom.



At WMS, students focus on the RISE principles, which stands for Reach, Impact, Stand, and Empower. Students who demonstrate one of the habits get recognized for their achievements.

Keep up the great work, and keep being leaders!

Pizza with the Principals

Principal Abby Kanitz and Assistant Principal Troy Reedy invite students for a pizza lunch. It's a chance for students to share feedback on what's going well and what's not to improve the overall learning environment at WMS!

More than 122 students have signed up for Pizza with the Principals to share their feedback. Mrs. Kanitz said she wants to make sure West Middle is a welcoming school and a great place to learn!



Community Food Drive

National Junior Honor Society members hosted a community food drive for Thanksgiving. Students and staff donated canned goods, vegetables, and even turkeys to give to Byron Center families in need. They collected and donated more than 2,000 food items.



BYRON CENTER High School

Academic Achievements

Congratulations to these Byron Center High School seniors who are 2022 College Board National Recognition Program awardees:

- Jackson Bossenbroek (NRSTA)
- Dinara Domeier (NHRA & NRSTA)
- Olivia Pitsch (NRSTA)
- Jacob Russell (NHRA)
- Ryan Wall (NRSTA)

NHRA= National Hispanic Recognition Award
NRSTA= National Rural and Small Town Award

This national recognition grants underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them to stand out in the application process.

Let's also congratulate Byron Center High School's 2022-2023 National Honor Society members' success. Thirty-one new members were inducted this school year. NHS recognizes outstanding high school students for their academics, leadership, service, and character. Students with a 3.5 GPA can apply for membership when they are sophomores.



National Honor Society recognized 31 new members inducted for the 2022-2023 school year



Olivia Pitsch, Dinara Domeier, Ryan Wall, and Jackson Bossenbroek



Grandville and Byron Center Bulldog students and administrators unite for a good cause

Bulldog Challenge

The Bulldogs of Byron Center and Grandville High Schools teamed up to support feeding the community through Hand2Hand. The non-profit organization works to provide food for kids facing weekend hunger in West Michigan. Students emptied their cars, checked under couches, and turned in their stashes of coins and cash to donate to the cause. The goal was to raise \$5,000, but the Bulldogs crushed that and raised \$11,656!

“With this donation, 9,100 students will be fed each weekend in West Michigan right in the Byron Center and Grandville school districts,” Hand2Hand Program Director Jodi Joseph said. “That’s what it means to work Hand in Hand!”

A big thanks to both communities; great things can come from working together!

ATHLETIC Success

Byron Center Athletics

The Byron Center Athletic Department is committed to providing student-athletes an opportunity to fully develop their academic and athletic potential. Through practice, training, and competition, the department strives to instill in each student-athlete our core values: Effort, Attitude, Excellence, and Respect.

Through these, our goal is to generate pride and enthusiasm for the student body and the whole community.

**EFFORT, ATTITUDE,
EXCELLENCE, AND
RESPECT.**





K-12 Art Showcase

BCPS shows off its talented artists at the annual K-12 art showcase at the Van Singel Fine Arts Center. At least one artist from each class is represented in the showcase. The students' works of art include drawings, paintings, self-portraits, digital, design, photography, pottery, and more!

K-8 visual art students also got the chance to have their masterpieces on display at the Kent Intermediate School District's main location.

The students selected to have their artwork displayed worked very hard, demonstrating a high level of quality, creativity, and craftsmanship.



Addysen Sandera - 2nd Grade
Ms. Clark - Teacher



Rishika Ale - 3rd Grade
Ms. Clark - Teacher



Natalie Ruttgers - 8th Grade
Mrs. Campbell - Teacher

Scholastic Awards

Students in middle and high school entered their work into the 2023 Scholastic Art Awards. This competition can open doors for recognition, scholarships, and much more. Nearly every year since 2008, WMS has held the honor of being the most recognized middle school in the art competition.

This year, WMS Visual Arts Teacher Janine Campbell set a goal to have 100 student entries submitted, encouraging students to be proud of their work and show it off! They beat the goal with 118 entries from 47 students.

The high school submitted 63 art entries, six writing entries, six art portfolios, and one writing portfolio. Our students are talented!



Kaylynn Deppe - BCHS
Mr. Reinstein - Teacher
Mrs. VanderLaan - Teacher



Ace Bryant - 8th Grade
Mrs. Campbell - Teacher

A Christmas Carol

Byron Center Theatre students presented their fall play, *A Christmas Carol*. This Dickens' Christmas classic production follows Scrooge's journey to find the heart of Christmas. From acting to production to stage management to costumes and makeup, these students can do it all! What's next for Byron Center Theatre? The spring musical, *Cinderella*!



Marching Band Competition

The Byron Center High School Marching Band competed in the MCBA State Championship at Ford Field, taking third place at the state finals with their show, *Live from Lincoln Center*. Their talent and energy kept our spirits high at Friday night football games and we congratulate them for wrapping up a great season!





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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Permit No. 564

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 17, 2023
6:00- 7:00PM

- Tour the building
- Meet the staff
- Learn about summer & fall programming

Questions call:
616.878.6130



WMS Choir Performs for ECC Students

The West Middle School choir stopped by the BCPS Early Childhood Center to spread holiday cheer! The students sang and danced to a variety of popular Christmas songs, with some of the little ones even joining in.