

## 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: Tamera Powers

## Board of Education

President: Jason Pierson  
Vice President: Nathan Jeruzal  
Treasurer: Brenda Hondorp  
Trustees: Amber Swift, Thalia Tilma  
and Brad Wiechertjes

## 2025

### Board of Education Meetings

- Jan 7, 6:30pm (Organizational & Regular Meeting)
- Jan 27, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)
- Feb 10, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting)
- Feb 24, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)
- March 10, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting)
- March 24, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)
- April 14, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting)
- April 28, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)
- May 12, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting)
- May 19, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)
- June 9, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)
- June 23, 6:30pm (Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting)

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

*Work Sessions will be scheduled as needed.*

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

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

*Official minutes are available and stored at the administration office.*

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

# Season of Giving



Dear Byron Center Community,

Thank you Byron Center for your continued support of our schools and our community. This truly is a special place to be and I am reminded of that time and time again. Our students, staff and the community make me proud to be a bulldog!

Byron Center Public Schools was named the top school district in Michigan, thanks to our hard working staff and students. Keep up the great work! Our fine arts department continues to shine whether that be through visual art, theatre, choir or band. I got the chance to check out the K-12 Art Show at the Van Singel and I am always in awe at just how talented our students are. BC athletics is competing at a high level, with five of our fall sports making it to the state finals and many competing in postseason play. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaching staff on an impressive run. Go Bulldogs!

I want to thank the Byron Center community for their generosity this holiday season. Districtwide, BCPS hosted its annual Toys for Tots drive, collecting more than 800 toys for West Michigan children in need. West Middle School hosted its annual Thanksgiving food drive, a collection put on by the National Junior Honor Society to gather up food items for local families. Countryside Elementary collected essential items to create care packages for soldiers deployed overseas.

BCPS staff rallied together to raise money for Hand2Hand, a local non-profit that works with local churches to provide meals for West Michigan students facing hunger on the weekends and over extended school breaks. BCPS also partnered with Bell House Training Co. for The Big Give, which sponsors West Michigan children to make sure they have presents this holiday season.

As we start a new year, let's continue to work together and show kindness. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a happy new year!

Sincerely,

Kevin Macina, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools





## Academic Success

Byron Center Public Schools was named the top school district in Michigan for overall test score proficiency. The Michigan Department of Education released M-STEP test scores, showing performance levels in English language arts, math, social studies and science, with Byron Center coming out on top in the number one spot.

In addition, U.S. News and World Report published their list of the top schools in Michigan, recognizing BCPS as a leader in education. All of our elementary schools, the middle school and the high school are ranked in the top 25 in the state.

**Well done BC!**



Simon Kramer



Abigail Van Loozenoord



Emma Wiechertjes

## National Merit Scholars

Congratulations to Byron Center High School seniors Simon Kramer, Abigail Van Loozenoord and Emma Wiechertjes on being named National Merit Scholars. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors scholastically talented high school students and encourages them to develop their abilities. Students have the chance to win a scholarship for their academic success.

The students will find out in February if they qualified to be finalists.

## Veterans Day

Byron Center Public Schools honored veterans with celebrations throughout the school district. Veterans were invited to a breakfast reception, school assemblies, honor walk and more. Students got the chance to invite a veteran that was special to them; whether a family member or a friend. It was great to see so many veterans in our school buildings on Veterans Day.

BCPS is truly grateful for all veterans for their service and sacrifice for our country.





# Thanksgiving Food Drive

National Junior Honor Society students hosted a Thanksgiving food drive at West Middle School. Students were encouraged to bring in food items that were directly donated to families in our Byron Center community.

Together, West Middle School collected more than 2000 individual food items, plus 2,400 pounds of potatoes and onions.



## Welcoming new students

Brown Elementary student ambassadors created swag bags to welcome new students to their school! The bags included t-shirts, water bottles, stickers and other trinkets. The students were proud to be able to raise \$1,000 through a penny drive to buy items for the bags.

The swag bags are for students who arrive mid-year to the district. It is meant to make them feel welcomed.

**Way to go ambassadors!**

## In the classroom

Byron Center Public Schools celebrated STEM day to encourage students to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Across the district, students got creative throughout the week in STEM class, working on various projects, conducting experiments and problem solving.





## Byron Center Marching Band

The Byron Center Marching Band had an exceptionally successful performance at the MCBA State Championship this year at Ford Field. The band finished in second place as the state runner-up in their flight, scoring the highest they have all season.

This marks the tenth year in a row the Byron Center Marching Band has finished as a medalist, finishing either first, second or third in the state.



## Byron Center Theatre

Byron Center High School Theatre presented *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. The play was based on the classic holiday movie with a clever twist thrown in: the story was staged as a live radio broadcast.

The show was made up of 24 cast members, three foley crew members (live sound effects), 22 crew members and a live pianist! The cast and crew welcomed more than 1,000 audience members across their three performances.

## Upcoming Productions



**Byron Center High School Theatre**  
Feb 20 - March 1, 2025



**Van Singel Junior Theatre**  
May 9 - May 10, 2025



**Van Singel Youth Theatre**  
June 13 - June 14, 2025



**Van Singel Community Theatre**  
Aug. 14 - Aug. 16, 2025





## K-12 Visual Art Showcase

Byron Center Public Schools' annual visual arts showcase features students K-12 works of art on display in the Gainey Gallery at the Van Singel Fine Arts Center. A variety of artwork is presented including; drawings, paintings, pottery, photography and more!



## Elementary Choir Performs National Anthem

Byron Center Public Schools 4th grade choir students from all four elementary schools got the honor of performing the National Anthem at the Grand Rapids Griffins game.



The students were led by their music teachers; Mikayla Larson from Brown Elementary, Meghan Furney from Marshall Elementary, Mia VanErp from Countryside Elementary and Katherine Hayduk from Heritage Elementary.

## Regional Honors Choir

West Middle School choir students competed in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Regional Honors Choirs. The students submitted auditions for the state level Honors Choirs and got the opportunity to work with choral directors from across Michigan.





# ATHLETICS

## Boys Soccer

Division 1 State Runner-Up

Regional Champions

District Champions

OK Green Conference  
Champions

MIHSSCA State Soccer  
Coach of the Year  
Chad Bays

School Record:  
14 career shutouts  
Luke Philo

All-Conference  
Connor Jenks, Brody  
Leyendecker, Luke Philo,  
Kaleb Smith and  
Brendan Walker  
Honorable Mention:  
Braylen Legge and  
Blake Wilson



## Boys Tennis

4th in Division 2 State Finals

Regional Champions

OK Green Conference  
Champions

Regional Tennis Coach  
of the Year  
Andy Ely

All-Conference  
Nolan Booth, Terrence He,  
TJ Lawrence, Ryan  
McKendry, Brady Pettit,  
Casey Schans and  
Rylan Vandenberg



## Cross Country

56th in State Finals

Mitchell Jeruzal

All-Conference  
Emmarie Formsma, Mitchell  
Jeruzal, Kailey Mann and  
Celia Pollock  
Honorable Mention:  
Donna Haaksma,  
Brady Newman and  
Blake Rhoton



## Equestrian

4th in Division





# Girls Swim/ Dive

**9th in State Finals (Swim)**

**5th in State Finals 200 yard Freestyle Relay**

Taylor Blomeling, Chayse Campbell, Adrianna Drake and Lila Ritsema,

**7th in State Finals**  
Kenzie Schichtel

**7th in State Finals 200 yard Medley Relay**

Tara Darter, Adrianna Drake, Lila Ritsema and Izzie VanDuyn

**8th in State Finals 100 yard Breaststroke**

Adrianna Drake

**School Record: 200 Medley Relay, 1:47:27**

Tara Darter, Adrianna Drake, Lila Ritsema and Izzie VanDuyn

**Qualified for State Finals**

Taylor Blomeling, Chayse Campbell, Tara Darter, Adrianna Drake, Lucy Haney, Kloey Hullah, Lila Ritsema, Kenzie Schichtel, Braylee Vandusen, Izzie VanDuyn and Emma Wiechertjes

**All-Conference**

Adrianna Drake, Lila Ritsema and Izzie VanDuyn

# Football

**Division 2 State Runner-Up**

**Regional Champions**

**District Champions**

**All-Conference**

Jackson Bovia, Luke Laska, Isaac Lee, Kellen Payne, Landon Tungate and Nolan Stubblefield

Honorable Mention:  
Chris Brown, Landen Conrad and Kaden Krause

# Girls Golf

**4th in Regional Finals**

**All-Conference**

Holly Lawrence and Izzy Tawoda  
Honorable Mention:  
Autumn Kartes and Natalie Grit

# Volleyball

**District champions**

**1000 digs**

Mallory Johnson

**All-Conference**

Mallory Johnson and Reese Lowe







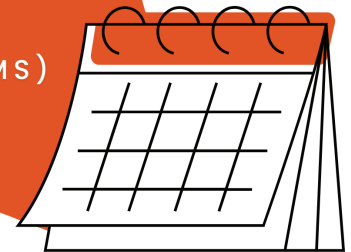
**BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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Byron Center, Michigan 49315  
www.bcpsk12.net

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## 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR IMPORTANT DATES

- JAN 15-17: K-12 HALF DAY (EXAMS)
- JAN 20: NO SCHOOL
- FEB 14: K-12 HALF DAY
- FEB 17: MID-WINTER BREAK
- APRIL 4-11: SPRING BREAK
- MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY
- MAY 28-30: K-12 HALF DAY (EXAMS)
- MAY 30: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



## BYRON CENTER'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 2025 INFORMATION:



- PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: FEBRUARY 4, 2025
- ENROLLMENT OPENS FEBRUARY 10, 2025 AT NOON

