

Superintendent's Office

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

Superintendent: Kevin Macina, PhD
Chief Financial Officer: Tamera 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

**2020-2021
Board of Education Meetings**
*District Services Building in the
Board of Education Room.*
*These regular meetings begin at
6:30 pm unless noted otherwise.*

August 24	January 11
September 14	February 8
October 12	March 8
November 9	April 12
December 7	May 10
June 28 (6:15 pm)	

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.*

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

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

Congratulations, BC Class of 2020!



This special edition of the BCConnection is dedicated to the Class of 2020. 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 or other 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. When someone asks you if you remember the pandemic of 2020, you will smile and say, "Oh yes, I will never forget!"

Although this year came to a non-traditional close, we did have the opportunity for a unique and special "Drive-In" graduation. As superintendent, I was delighted to see you parade through the graduation line with pride. It was a highlight of my year and a graduation ceremony I will always remember. 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 2020 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.

Valedictorian: 3-Way Tie!



Nick Fedewa

Nick is the son of Chuck and Lori Fedewa. Nick was a member of the National Honor Society and played on the baseball and basketball teams. Outside of school, Nick helped with various events and youth sports camps at the Byron Center Rec Center. He was involved in the Elves & More bike program in Grand Rapids. Next year, Nick will be attending Michigan State University as a member of the Honors College, where he will pursue a degree in engineering.



Austin Hilliker

Austin is the son of Brian and Janet Hilliker. Austin was a member of the National Honor Society and also the Marching and Concert Bands. He played soccer and was also involved in activities at his church. Austin will be attending Michigan Technological University where he will study electrical engineering. He plans to get his master's degree in electrical engineering.



Isaac Willemsen

Isaac is the son of Dennis and Heather Willemsen. Isaac was a member of the Marching Band and National Honor Society. He was a four-year varsity runner on both the cross country and track teams. Isaac will attend Hope College in the fall where he will pursue a degree in engineering.

2020 SENIOR CLASS MOTTO

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." –Ralph Waldo Emerson



Tamara Blair is the daughter of Eric and Isabel Blair. Tamara's hobbies include playing the piano, composing, writing, reading, and baking. Tamara

will be attending Eastern Michigan University, where she will study marketing. Tamara hopes to become a publisher and book marketer.



Emily Buijink is the daughter of Kinga Winiarska and Jon Luibrand. She was a member of the National Honor Society and Pride Pack. Emily played

on the soccer and golf teams, competed with Science Olympiad, and served on the Principal's Advisory Board. Emily will attend Michigan State University, where she will study chemical engineering and business management with a minor in Spanish. Emily is looking forward to traveling in the future.



Brogan Kaczkofsky is the son of Peter and Alysia Kaczkofsky. He was a member of the nationally recognized BCHS Jazz Orchestra and

was a class officer. Brogan will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall.



Brynn Kaczkofsky is the daughter of Peter and Alysia Kaczkofsky. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and the BCHS track

and cross country teams. Brynn volunteers at Focus on Ferals cat shelter. She will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall and will study pre-med. Her passion is in the healthcare field.



Ana Ha is the daughter of Thanh Tran and Hung Ha. She was a member of the National Honor Society where she was a Senior Project

Coordinator. She was the BCHS representative for Daughters of the American Revolution, and is a Teen Crew Member Volunteer. She has also volunteered at both Kent District Library and West Michigan Chalk Art Festival. Ana will be attending the University of Michigan to study cellular and molecular biomedical sciences and psychology on a pre-med track. She wants to work in the medical field and explore inequality in medical services and assistance.



Grace Clark is the daughter of Amy and Dave Clark. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the BCHS Chamber Orchestra, and

the Science Olympiad team. Grace played in the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. She enjoys doing embroidery in her spare time. Grace will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall where she will study microbiology. She plans to earn a doctorate degree and research cells as a scientific researcher.



Brooke Johnson is the daughter of Tim and Kris Johnson. Over the last four years, Brooke participated in soccer and cross country. She is a

small group leader of kindergarten girls at Ada Bible Church, where she has served in the children's ministry for eight years. Brooke enjoys spending time with friends, drawing, and reading. Brooke will study engineering at the Honors College at Purdue University. After college, she plans to pursue an engineering career with the goal of improving the lives of others.



SENIOR Scholarships & Awards

Andrew Agius

AP Scholar, Indiana University, University of Georgia, University of Alabama, Loyola University, and Hope College Scholarships

Michael Allan

BCEA Education Scholarship

Elizabeth Allison

AP Scholar

Yareli Alvarez Herrera

BCHS ESL Award, Hope College Heritage Award

Yomara Alvarez Herrera

BCHS ESL Award

Sunie Babson

Cornerstone University Scholarship, GRCC Scholarships

Brady Back

Azusa Pacific University Provost and Honors College Scholarships, Biola and Central Michigan Universities Scholarships, MI Blood Donor for Life

Colten Baker

Hope College Distinguished Scholar Award

Emily Bartrum

Western Michigan University Academic Scholarship

Paige Baum

AP Scholar with Honor

Caiden Bazuin

Atlas EPS Scholarship

Thomas Birdall

MI Blood Donor for Life

Tamara Blair

Eastern Michigan University Presidential Scholarship, Oakland and Butler Universities, Kalamazoo College, and Lake Forest College Scholarships, Top 10, AP Scholar with Distinction

Francesca Bontomasì

Siena Heights Scholarships, AP Scholar

Kyle Boogaart

AP Scholar, Buist Foundation Scholarship, UA NOW Scholarship, Akron Advance Award and Guarantee Scholarship, BCHS Math Award

Faith Brandt

AP Scholar

Emily Buijink

Michigan State University Academic Scholarship, Western Michigan and Michigan Tech University Scholarships, Bethel and Siena Heights College Golf and Academic Scholarships, BCHS Math Award, Top 10, AP Scholar with Distinction

Ellise Bush

Grand Valley State University Award of Excellence, Alumni Heritage and Trotter Tri-County Scholarships, AP Scholar

Adam Carey

University of Michigan Grants, AP Scholar with Distinction

Lee Carter

Cornerstone University Dean's Choice, Bowling and Multicultural Scholarships, RMU Justice Scholarship, University of Dayton and University of Idaho Scholarships

Grace Clark

University of Michigan Regents Scholarship, College Board Opportunity Scholarship, BCHS Science Award, Top 10, AP Scholar with Distinction

Tyler Cook

Van Singel Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship

Lorynn Cotts

KCEA Scholarship, Hope College, GVSU, WMU, and NMU Academic Scholarships, AP Scholar

Ethan Cowbeck

New American University President's Scholarship, BCHS Science Award, AP Scholar

Madelyn Crandell

Cristi Curtis Memorial Athletic Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Hope College Presidential Scholarship, KCEA Dependent Scholarship, BCHS Physical Education Award, BCHS English Best Essay Award, AP Scholar, Nickels Scholarship, Booster Scholarship

Sarah Creguer

Oakland University Presidential Platinum Scholarship, GVSU, Kalamazoo College, Central Michigan, and Eastern Michigan Universities Scholarships, AP Scholar with Distinction

Nolan Czaja

Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Butler University and Kalamazoo College Lux Esto Scholarships, GVSU Award for Excellence, AP Scholar

Carly Davis

AP Scholar

Thomas Delamater

MI Blood Donor for Life

Cassandra Denhof

Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence, Trotter Tri-County, Alumni Heritage, Lake Go Abroad, and Gerald M Crane Memorial Music Scholarship, BCHS Principal's Award

Kaila DeVries

Beating the Odds Award

Seth DeVries

Calvin University Trustee's Scholarship and Legacy Award, Friends of Music Ensemble Award, AP Scholar

Enrique Domeier

Western Michigan Medallion Scholarship, Haworth College of Business Scholarship, AP Scholar

Nathan Ewing

Two State Film Festival Gold Medals

Leah Fan

AP Scholar with Distinction

Andria Farias

United Bank Community Dedication Scholarship, Stavoe-Horiszny Family Spartan Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Nicholas Fedewa

National Merit Finalist, Michigan State University Special Merit, National Merit MSU Scholarship, Lester M and Mary L Smith Legacy Endowed Scholarship, West Michigan Spartans Outstanding Junior Award, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, MHSAA Academic All-State, U of M and Purdue Scholarships, Co-Valedictorian, AP Scholar with Distinction

Ethan Fikse

George Mason University and George Washington University Scholarships, AP Scholar, MI Blood Donor for Life

Zacheriah Frasher

Alberta Trousdale Eagleton Scholarship, LMC, KVCC, and Kalamazoo College Scholarships, MI Blood Donor for Life

Elijah Gaipa

Ball State University Academic and Music Scholarships

Alecia Goeman

University of Michigan HAIL Scholarship, Loyola University of Chicago Presidential Scholarship, AP Scholar

Kalei Gushiken

Cristi Curtis Memorial Academic Scholarship

Ana Ha

2020 DAR Good Citizen's Award, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, University of Michigan Club of Grand Rapids, 2020 Joanne P & Robert C Porter, Jr Scholarship, Presidential Platinum Scholar Award for MITech, BCHS Math Award, Top 10, AP Scholar with Distinction

Alexander Harston

MI Blood Donor for Life

Owen Hill

Central Michigan University Maroon and Gold Merit, Dean Scholar Award, Woodbridge N Ferris Founders Scholarship

Austin Hilliker

Michigan Tech Merit Scholarship, Cedarville University and Grove City College Scholarships, BCHS Principal's Award, Co-Valedictorian, AP Scholar with Distinction

Kaden Holverstott

Atlas EPS Scholarship

Kathleen Hummer

Michigan State Honors College Scholarship, MEA Scholarship, Al Kranz Endowed Scholarship, Albion College Presidential Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Logan Humphrey

Calvin University Trustee's Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Vanessa Huseby

Bethel University Academic Merit Award, MI Blood Donor for Life

Samantha Irish

Grand Valley State University Trotter Tri-County Scholarship, Thompson Working Family Scholarship, AP Scholar

Seth Jager

Arbor Financial CU Scholarship, Kalamazoo College, GVSU, and Central Michigan University Scholarships, Brink Wood Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Brooke Johnson

Buist Foundation Scholarship, Discover Manufacturing Scholarship, Top 10, AP Scholar with Honor, Nickels Scholarship

Brogan Kaczkofsky

BCHS Math Award, Top 10, AP Scholar with Distinction

Brynn Kaczkofsky

BCHS Math Award, Top 10, AP Scholar with Distinction

Avarie Kaiser

Cornerstone University Pastor's and Academic Scholarships, MI Blood Donor for Life

Kiran Kaur

Grand Valley State University Academic Scholarship, AP Scholar

Gracie Keiser

MAEA Top 18 Governor's Show, Scholastic Art Awards, Grand Valley State University Academic Scholarship

Madison Kelley

Central Michigan University Maroon & Gold Recognition Scholarship

Sarah Koenes

Scholastic Art & Writing Silver Key, MAEA Award

Meghan Koetje

Van Singel Fine Arts Council Scholarship, Spring Arbor University, Wayne State University, and Northern Michigan University Scholarships, AP Scholar, MI Blood Donor for Life

Madison Kosiara

Bite Cancer Scholarship

Clara Koster

Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Aquinas Merit Scholarship, Central Michigan University Scholarships, GRBS Perseverance Award, AP Scholar

Ohla Kozak

Scholastic Arts Gold and Silver Keys, Two Michigan Film Festival State Championships, Best Animation in the State

Hannah Kragt

AP Scholar with Honor

Gabriel Kucinich

Michigan Tech Merit Scholarship, MI Blood Donor for Life

Denver Lahay

Scholastic Arts Gold Key and Two Silver Keys

Blake Lee

Perrigo Scholarship

Kasey Lee

Perrigo Charitable Foundation Scholarship, Cornerstone University Presidential, Pastoral, and Basketball Scholarships, AP Scholar with Honor

Trent Lee

MI Blood Donor for Life

Noah Lein

Hope College Presidential Scholarship, AP Scholar with Distinction

Sydney Lijewski

Brink Wood Scholarship, Davenport University Excellence Scholarship, GVSU and NMU Scholarships, AP Scholar

Alexander Locke

Indiana Tech Academic and Athletic Scholarships, AP Scholar

Ta'Niya Lomax

Loyola University, St. Norbert, and GVSU Scholarships

Mindy Markus

Davenport University Achievement and Senior Success Scholarships, FSU Merit Scholarship

Gabrielle Martinez

AP Scholar with Honor

Samantha Masselink

Baker College Academic Scholarship

Chloe Meengs

Hope College Presidential Scholarship, United Bank Community Dedication Scholarship, Brink Wood Scholarship, Bite Cancer Scholarship, BCEA Education Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Josiah Metcalf

Van Singel Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship, Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence, Trotter Tri-County Scholarship and GVSU Department of Music, Theater and Dance Scholarship, Campbellsville University Scholarships

Caitlin Metzger

AP Scholar

Haley Middleton

BCHS Math Award, Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence, Trotter Tri-County Scholarship and Distinguished Scholar Award, Haworth Scholarship, Geographic Region Award, AP Scholar with Honor, MI Blood Donor for Life

Lindsey Miller

National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Honor, Western Michigan University President's Excellence and Bronco Merit Awards, American Legion Scholarship, University of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, Nebraska, Florida, Arizona, and Alabama Scholarships

Isabella Moreno

Alma College, Davenport, Marymount Manhattan, and St. Mary's College Scholarships

Preston Morris

BCHS Science Award, Michigan State University Alumni Distinguished Scholar Scholarship, Economics Club Essay Contest Winner, AP Scholar with Distinction

Jordyn Myatt

University of Nebraska Ruth Leverton Scholarship, Brown and Gold Scholarship

Matthew Myers

Cornerstone University Presidential and Pastor's Scholarship, Aquinas Academic Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Gabrielle Nelson

Michigan State University Honors Commended Scholarship, Joseph T and Dorothy P Permoda Journalism Scholarship, AP Scholar

Steven Ngo

MI Blood Donor for Life

Nichole Osgood

Western Michigan University Honors Scholarship, AP Scholar

Ryan Oyama

Davenport University Academic and Bowling Scholarships

Grace Pham

AP Scholar

Phat Phan

AP Scholar with Distinction, MI Blood Donor for Life

Ethan Pipe

Norma Gray Scholarship for the Visual Arts, Kendall College Academics and Arts Scholarships, Ferris State, Brighton IAD and Milwaukee IAD Scholarships, Scholastic Art Gold and Silver Key Awards, National Silver Medal Scholastic Art Award, AP Scholar with Honor

Nicholas Polega

AP Scholar

Emily Poll

Asbury University Academic, Out of State, Multi-Family, and Swimming Scholarships, Milligan Swimming and Academic Scholarships, BCHS Overall Excellence in English Award

Maria Poll

Asbury University Academic, Out of State, Multi-Family, and Swimming Scholarships, Milligan Swimming and Academic Scholarships

Camron Rabideau

Western Michigan University Scholarship, Brink Wood Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Kurtis Rainsberger

AP Scholar

Nathan Rellinger

Michigan Tech University Academic Scholarship, MI Blood Donor for Life

Ellie Richards

MI Blood Donor for Life

Jewel Richardson

AP Scholar with Honor, MI Blood Donor for Life

Adriauna Ruby

ROTC Minuteman Scholarship at Michigan State University

Alaina Rusticus

Hope College RCA Award, MI Blood Donor for Life

Cameron Schuelke

Florida Gulf Coast University Blue and Green Scholars Award, BCHS Physical Education Award, Booster Scholarship

Lindsey Selter

Eastern Michigan Emerald Scholarship and Live and Learn on Campus Award, GVSU Award for Excellence, AP Scholar, MI Blood Donor for Life

Ethan Sharp

MI Blood Donor for Life

Keeley Sheerin

Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence, AP Scholar

Elliot Silvernail

Calvin University President's Scholarship

Daniel Simon

University of Louisiana Lafayette Magnolia Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Zhaawan Sprague

AP Scholar

Maureen Tessmer

Saint Mary's College Dean's Scholarship, Odyssey of the Mind Scholarship, Aquinas and Alma Colleges Scholarships, AP Scholar

Kate Townley

Van Singel Fine Arts Council Scholarship, Michigan State University Scholarship, AP Scholar with Honor

Ashleigh VanSweden

Grand Valley State University Presidential and Award for Excellence Scholarships, Fred and Lena Meijer Scholarship, AP Scholar

Sarah Veldhouse

Southwestern Michigan College Scholarship, GRCC Scholarship

Elisabeth Veldman

Cornerstone University Academic, Pastor's, Music, and Athletic Scholarships

Anja Whitehouse

Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence, GVSU Tri-County Scholarship, AP Scholar

Isaac Willemssen

Hope College Legacy Award and Presidential Scholarship, MSU Engineering and Honors College Scholarships, Co-Valedictorian, AP Scholar with Distinction

Arec Winright

Scholastic Art & Writing Silver Key Award, MI Blood Donor for Life

Alexa Wollney

AP Scholar

INSPIRING Senior Athletes

“It’s so tough to look back and see things that have been “taken away” due to EEE and the coronavirus: Homecoming, the end of the winter athletic season, all the spring seasons, music festivals, prom, graduation... However, you (the driver) need to keep your eye on the windshield and not on the rearview mirror. The goal and “greater” things lie ahead. No matter what happens, continue to MAKE the greatest trip you possibly can. You’re the one driving the car! Congratulations and best wishes to all.”

Marc Cisco, HS Physics & Football Coach



Kyle Boogaart & Son Nguyen



Keeley Sheerin



Betsy Veldman



Owen Van Wyk



Isaac Willemsen



Kat Hummer



Carson Vincent



Jack Bryan



Jewel Richardson



Austin VanderMarkt



6 Enrique Domeier



Ally Nelson



Yareli Alvarez



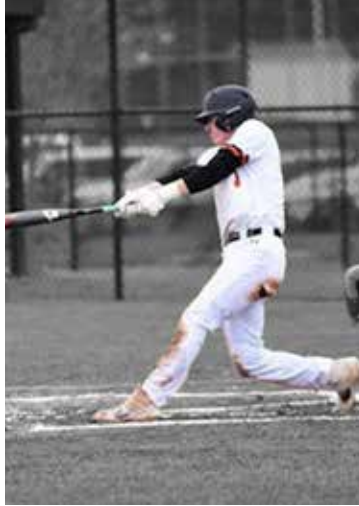
Mason Muilenberg

“Each of you should know how proud we are of you during this unprecedented time. Such an accomplishment to graduate high school and move on to the next chapters in your life. There are great things ahead for all of you! Blessed to have been a small part of your lives as students, athletes, and all-around great young people. #WeAreBC”

Joe Chiaramonte, Bulldog Power, Athletic Trainer



Madelyn Crandell



Nick Fedewa



Matt Richards



Andrea Farias



Lexi Brummel and Emily Buijink

Athletes of the Year



Madelyn Crandell



Cam Schuelke



Austin VanderMarkt

Sports Boosters Scholarship

Cam Schuelke Madelyn Crandell

Robert L. Nickels Scholarship

Brooke Johnson Madelyn Crandell

Cristi Curtis Memorial Scholarship

Madelyn Crandell

Triple Threat Award

**Lorynn Cotts Madelyn Crandell Alex Locke
Maureen Tessmer Aiden Martell**

2019-2020 Championship Teams

Volleyball: Conference & District Champs
Coach Katie Vandermeer

Soccer: District Champs
Coach Brian Merrill

Equestrian: District Champs
Coach Darcy Fransens

Football: Conference Champs
Coach Marc Cisco

Girls Cross Country: Conference Champs
Coach Tom Trout

Girls Golf: Conference Champs
Coach Jon Van Ryn

Boys Tennis: Conference Champs
Coach Randall Domeier

Wrestling: Conference and District Champs
Coach Tom Barker

Girls Basketball: Conference Champs
Coach Jen Slot

Boys Bowling: Conference & Regional Champs
Coach Walt Dyer

Hockey: Regional Champs
Coach Taylor Keyworth

CELEBRATING Fine Arts

To all our visual artists, dancers, singers, and musicians: Well done! We hope that you continue to develop and use 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 wishes all our graduating seniors the very best!



“This class holds a very special place in my heart as my son is graduating amongst you. I had many of you as itty bitties through your elementary years and then have had the privilege to grow alongside a select group of you as we all transitioned to Nickels and then the High School. Some of you I’ve had for ten years! You have taught me how to be a better person and a better teacher; I have been blessed to know and love you. In the words of Elphaba and Galinda “Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.” Now go and be a light in this world and do GREAT things!”

Jennifer Metcalf
BCHS Choir Director



“It has been my honor to work with such a talented group of visual artists. When issues in the world were beyond your control, watching you express yourselves through your art was inspiring. It was a privilege to be part of your journey. I will miss all of you.”

Julie VanderLaan
Visual Art Instructor
& BCTV Manager

“You are such a special group of people, Class of 2020! You have persevered through some of the most challenging times ever, all while keeping your heads up and moving forward in a positive, inspiring way. It has been such an honor working with you through the years! Your legacy is strong, and you will not be forgotten. Thank you for teaching me through the years. I wish you all the very best in all that you do!”

Megan Soukup
Band Director & Student Life
& Leadership Teacher



Ethan Pipe (below) is the first BCPS student to win a National Medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing awards in middle school and again in high school. This is truly extraordinary, as very few students in the nation receive this honor. He will continue his studies in the fall at Kendall School of Art and Design.



“Words cannot express what our time together has meant to me. That is why we have music, and the melodies we shared will always bring back fond memories of the last four years. Best of luck as you begin the next chapter!”

Marc Townley
BCHS Band Director



“What an extraordinary group you have become! Please carry your passion and drive as you move forward on your journey, for these will keep you strong and aware. It’s time to start moving mountains, and I have faith that you will make this world a better place! Congratulations!”

Nicole Langford
Orchestra (Grades 6-8)



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 Cassie Denhof and Austin Hilliker.



Cassie was a trombone player who helped lead the marching band to be one of the top marching bands in the state. She was a member of the jazz orchestra that has been hailed as one of the best in the country and would have played in Savannah and New York City this past spring. As an athlete, Cassie earned five varsity letters running cross country and track. And as an

academic, she graduated Summa Cum Laude. Cassie played in the pit for school musicals and volunteered at the Van Singel Fine Arts Center. She will be attending Grand Valley State University for Spanish or music education.



Austin was a member of the marching band and was a section leader for the front ensemble. He played on the district champion varsity soccer team last fall. Both marching band and soccer are fall sports, so Austin was extremely busy. Austin completed 12 AP classes, which earned him the title of AP Scholar with Distinction. He is the co-valedictorian of the class of

2020. Austin will be heading off to Michigan Tech in the fall to study electrical engineering.



THANK YOU!

We wish to honor the following 2020 graduates who have enlisted into the Armed Services. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve!



Faith Brandt
Air Force ROTC



Carson DeKam
Navy



Adriauna Ruby
*Army Reserves
ROTC at MSU*



Cari Steensma
National Guard



Sarah Tomlinson
National Guard



Amber Wheeler
Navy

BC PRIDE Awards

The recipients of this new award were chosen by the staff. These students exemplify the Five Pillars of Character that BC Pride represents. Congratulations to these seniors!

P



Kalei Gushikin
Perseverance

R



Bella Bayes
Respect

I



Katie Townley
Integrity

D



Andrew Aguis
Discovery

E



Lindsey Miller
Excellence

Beating the Odds Award



Each year, the counselors and administrators select one student in the current senior class who has overcome significant adversity to receive the Beating the Odds Scholarship. There is no application for this award, as it is based solely

on what the counselors and administrators have seen throughout the student's time at BCHS.

This year's recipient is Kaila DeVries. Kaila has Juvenile Arthritis and Autonomic Dysfunction. She underwent multiple medical procedures every year, and despite all this, she completed honors and AP courses and will attend college in the fall. This past year she was the president of GSA. Kaila is an incredibly positive student and is always ready and willing to help others, even when she struggles. She continuously has a smile on her face.

Lumbermen's, Inc. sponsors this \$500 scholarship.

MESSAGES to Our Graduates



“I have such fond memories of my former fourth graders that are now graduating. I wish them all the best and know that they have great opportunities ahead of them.”

Allison Abbott

4th Grade, Countryside

“Congratulations, class of 2020. I cannot believe you are already graduating. It seems like only yesterday you were in 6th grade. I am sure that many of you have forgotten us sixth grade teachers by now, but know that I am so proud of all of you. I am excited to see where your lives take you on this crazy trip. Please take a moment to stop in sometime and say hello. You will forever hold a special place in my heart.”

Brian Blok

6th Grade, NIS

“It is hard to believe that most of you were at Nickels just six years ago as 6th-grade students. How quickly time flies! You are now ready to spread your wings and begin the next chapter in your lives. I am so lucky to have had the chance to be your principal and your coach (for some of you). We will miss you, but know that you will go on to bigger and better things. Congratulations, class of 2020!”

Tom Trout

NIS Principal,
BCHS Cross-Country Coach

“We are so proud of all your accomplishments and wish you the very best in all of your endeavors. Congratulations to the class of 2020!”

Kate Oom

Speech & Language, Marshall & Nickels

“Congratulations, class of 2020! You are amazing and are on your way to do great things! Best of luck always and remember to enjoy the little things in life, because one day you will look back and realize they were the big things! Stop and look around—this life is pretty amazing!”

Michelle Montgomery

Kindergarten, Countryside



“Congratulations, class of 2020! I have great memories of you all in my 1st-grade class! I wish you all the best, and I am proud of you!”

Jodi Keller

1st Grade, Countryside

“Congratulations to all of our bilingual and trilingual graduates! Keep learning languages and traveling! Keep being YOU!”

Christy Tripp

ESL Teacher (Grades 6-8),
AUA Diversity Club & GSA Club Advisor

MESSAGES to Our Graduates



“I will always remember this amazing group of 3rd graders! I am so proud of them and can't wait to see what their future holds!”

Kylee Clausen
3rd Grade, Marshall

“You guys were freshmen my very first year here at BC, so we started here at the high school together! I've had the privilege of having many of you more than once in class. I miss seeing your faces and laughing with you in the halls. I wish you the absolute best as you take on the world. I'm proud of you already and can't wait to hear about your adventures!”

Kellie Merritt
BCHS Math Teacher

“Oh, how I miss all of my senior English students. I look back on this year and fondly remember all the smiles and laughs, the great conversations about every topic under the sun, the occasional serious conversations to work through an issue, and, oh yeah, the opportunity I had to show you how to be better readers and writers, hopefully helping you like reading and writing a little more. I am so proud of all of you and your accomplishments this past year. I am excited for you and what plans you have been making for what comes next for you. I am hopeful that at some point, I can give all of you a handshake or a high five in person to celebrate this important milestone. You are a resilient group, and I know that will serve you well as you move on.

Congratulations to all of you!”

Linda Baas
BCHS English Teacher

“Since this is my son's class, I have watched many of you grow, develop, and mature for 12+ years. I am looking forward to seeing where life takes you. Best wishes, class of 2020!”

Ann Schuelke
BCHS Health

MR. ZINK'S 2ND GRADE CLASS



“I have such great memories of this class, and I wish you all the best!”

Michael Zink
4th Grade, Brown (was 2nd)

“I am so proud of your resilience! You are a special class because you HAVE class! Thank you for being the leaders of our school and having a positive attitude through all of the world's unknowns. I was privileged to teach many of you back in 7th grade and have watched you grow up. Don't let fear hold you back—work hard at your goals and live your best life. Be sure to travel the world and put yourself outside of your comfort zone. ¡Felicidades!”

Kat Sibalwa
BCHS & WMS Spanish



“Class of 2020, your time is now! I can't believe you are graduating! You each bring something wonderful to this world, and I can't wait to see you SHINE! Congratulations!”

Jessie Funk
2nd Grade, Brown

“Congratulations, class of 2020! I read through the letters that you wrote as 2nd and 3rd graders and they brought many smiles to my face. I hope you enjoyed reading them too. I'm proud of you for staying strong throughout your school career and the changes this spring. Prayers for a bright future!”

Dan Volkens
4th Grade, Countryside

“It has been my privilege to watch you all as you have developed into the amazing young men and women that you have become. You have represented BC with class and have so much to offer the world - I cannot wait to see what you will do out there! Thanks for all of the great memories!”

Jared Crandell
BCHS Social Studies Teacher
& Tennis Coach

“Best Wishes you to all! This isn't the way you wanted the year to end, but you will all go on to do amazing things. Proud of you all and how amazing you all are! Congrats!”

Lisa VanderVeen
DK, Countryside (formerly 2nd Grade)

“¡Felicidades! It has been a joy to watch you develop into amazing young adults. Now you're ready to spread your wings and fly! I look forward to seeing the wonderful things that you will do to improve and inspire the world around you.”

Laura Showers
BCHS Spanish

“I am already missing so many of you - my Friday School group of rascals (you know who you are!), the Hand2Hand kids I got to know well over the years, and several of you who've become good friends. I enjoyed having conversations with so many of you. I wish you'd been able to have a proper send-off. Here's hoping all your dreams come true - now go do it!”

Joni Merritt
Learning Commons, HS



Marshall Preschool
Mrs. Rienstra & Mrs. Slentz PM Class

“This may not be the ending you wanted, but I hope you will still cherish the memories. Be proud of all that you have done and accomplished. Know that even though this is the last part of your journey in high school, it's time to start making new firsts! Best of luck for your future! Congratulations, class of 2020!”

Sandy Slentz
STEM, Marshall Elementary

MESSAGES to Our Graduates



“I wanted to thank you for all the hard work you have put in these last four years. Even though you did not get to showcase your talents one last time, I know you will go on to do many more great things! I will always remember your group, as you have taught me to be a better coach, mentor, and friend. Thanks for the laughs, the tears, but most of all, the memories! Best of luck class of 2020!”

Katie Parrish
Science Olympiad Coach



“The joy and blessings you brought to my life will never be forgotten. Keep sharing that same joy with others! Every one of you has special gifts that will make a difference in the lives of many people. Congratulations, wonderful class of 2020!”

Carla Kauffman
Former Countryside Principal

“I will miss this class and I cannot wait to see where life takes you in the future! Thank you for the great memories that you have provided us all and for the privilege of having each of you in our classes! You will be missed! Never forget, WE ARE, BC!”

Matthew Amo
Physical Education, NIS

“Congrats class of 2020! Seeing you grow these last four years has been a joy. So many of you have still stopped by my classroom since 9th grade just to talk about life, which I will miss! Also, so many of you in Student Life and Leadership were there all four years! You were committed to making BC a better place, and you 100% succeeded. I worked with several of you in theater, as your careers were just beginning to bloom. As anyone who saw Bye Bye Birdie can tell you, your talent is undeniable! You’ve left a legacy that will be hard to top.”



There was also a special group I got to coach for my first time coaching at BC! What a fun team to coach! A special member of that team is looking down on you all right now as you move on to your next steps. Rest In Peace Sydney Carfine.

Good luck to you all! You probably won't need it, but you all still have my best wishes!”

Ted Lang
BCHS Math Teacher & Coach



“What a special group you are! I have enjoyed working with all of you through the years starting as a Dad with the Watch D.O.G.S. Program. Thanks for all the memories. Continue to travel and remember the importance of learning about other cultures. Respect others and keep a positive attitude when life throws challenges your way. ¡Muchas Gracias por Los Recuerdos! ¡Buena Suerte en el Futuro!”

Randall Domeier

BCHS Spanish Teacher, Drivers' Education Instructor, Cafeteria Monitor, & Tennis Coach

“Class of 2020: What an incredible group you are. Your collective response to this unusual year has been an example of grace, perseverance, and selflessness that we admire. We will always speak highly of you and the lasting handprint you've left in our hearts and community here in BC. And for my SL&L Seniors... getting to know you has been such a privilege. Saying farewell to your class, in particular, is not easy—you will be missed so very much! However, what brilliant stories you will write in your next chapters... we cannot wait to see what you do next! Best of luck always. 'Carpe diem—seize the day. Go out and make your lives extraordinary!’”

Sara Bower

Student Life & Leadership Advisor

“Congratulations to the class of 2020! Wow, what a year it has been for you. I had some of you in preschool, and now to see that you will be graduates seems a little surreal to me. How did that time go by so fast! I'm proud of all of you and am honored to know that for some of you I was a part of your earliest school experience. “Oh, the Places You'll Go!””

Angela Gallagher

Preschool Teacher



“Hats off to these former 5th graders, now graduates! I'm sad for all of the unexpected twists and turns in your journey, but also hoping you'll make the best of it. Congratulations and best wishes as you start fresh once again with a new road map!”

Michelle Kuiper

5th Grade, NIS

“Congratulations, class of 2020. May the days ahead be filled with amazing journeys and the fulfillment of dreams.”

Dan Burns

5th Grade, NIS



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

A Note from Mr. Joseph



Dear Seniors,

What a year! You have led well, conducted yourselves with BC PRIDE, and have shown tremendous character through the most challenging school year I have ever experienced. Thank you for leading and for your extraordinary

understanding of what was out of your control!

You came into this world during the U.S. response to the 9/11/2001 attack, and your senior year demonstrates the resiliency you have built. From EEE, construction, and now COVID-19, you don't let things keep you down!

You are our future leaders, and your ability to focus on what you can control will pay dividends through the years! Thank you for all you have done at BCHS! I will miss you! Here's to the class of 2020, a class with exceptional CLASS!

Scott Joseph
 BC High School Principal

