

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: Brenda Hondorp
Vice President: Amber Swift
Treasurer: Thalia Tilma
Secretary: Brad Wiechertjes
Trustees: Rob Hughes, Tom McCoy
and Tim Oberst

2025

Board of Education Meetings

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, 6:15pm (Budget
Hearing/Regular Meeting)

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.*

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

Today's Readers are Tomorrow's Leaders



Another school year is winding down and I want to take this opportunity to highlight Byron Center Public Schools' successes in academics, fine arts and athletics and look ahead to the future of BC.

Byron Center is celebrating another successful reading month. I enjoy seeing students get excited about reading and challenge themselves to accomplish new reading goals. I am impressed with our schools taking on the goal to read more than 150,000 minutes!

It's great to see this key component of education celebrated.

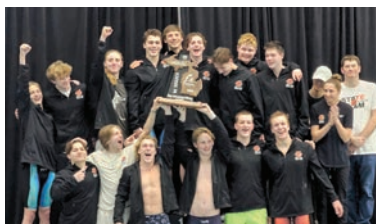
BCPS' fine arts programs continue to shine. Byron Center High School's Jazz Orchestra is performing at a high level. Students got the opportunity to be the opening act for world-renowned trumpeter Wynton Marsalis at his concert in Ann Arbor. In addition, the JO is traveling to New York City to compete yet again in the Essentially Ellington Jazz Band Competition. Our talented student artists are also getting the recognition they deserve. The Michigan Art Education Association selected 53 students' artwork to be featured at the Region 9 art show.

Byron Center athletics had great accomplishments this winter season. The boys swim/dive team finished second in the state finals. Multiple student-athletes qualified for state competition in bowling, wrestling and swim/dive. The boys basketball team had a historic run, winning the regional championship for the first time since 1986. In addition, BCHS Athletic Director Brady Lake earned the honor of MIAAA Regional Athletic Director of the Year and Director of Strength and Conditioning Joe Chiamonte was named Regional Strength Coach of the Year.

As we look towards the future, we continue to monitor the growth throughout Byron Center. To keep up with that growth, the district has been discussing a November 2025 bond proposal to enhance our schools and facilities. I believe it is important to partner with the Byron Center community throughout this process. Our collaborative spirit is the strength and foundation that directly impacts the success of all students. There is so much to be proud of here in BC and the future is bright.

Sincerely,

Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Superintendent



ACADEMICS



Robotics Impact Award

Code Red Robotics was honored with the 2025 Impact Award. The Impact Award is the highest award given at a FIRST Robotics event. It celebrates the team's positive impact on the community, commitment to spreading the values of FIRST Robotics and their dedication to inspiring the next generation of innovators.



To submit for this award, the students have to write an essay and executive summary, create a video that highlights the team's efforts and give a seven minute presentation followed by a five minute question and answer session with a panel of judges.

National Merit Scholarship

Byron Center High School seniors Simon Kramer, Abigail Van Loozenoord and Emma Wiechertjes have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists. Students enter the National Merit Scholarship program when they take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of their junior year. Semifinalists are the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represent less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

Finalists have to have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed by a high school official and complete a detailed scholarship application, providing information about extracurricular activities and leadership positions. There are around 7,000 finalists across the globe each year.



Congratulations Simon, Emma and Abigail!



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Nickels Intermediate 2025 Spelling Bee Champion Elliot Becker! Ava Backing was the runner-up in the annual competition.

READING Month



Author Abel

Heritage Elementary Third Grade Teacher Erica Abel shared her book series Minna and the Canine Club with students during reading month. She talked with students about what it takes to write a book and how she came up with the idea for her book series.

Miss Abel said her goal is to empower kids through her books, learning and fun because every child is a hero.



Battle of the Books

Nickels Intermediate fifth grade students took on the sixth graders in battle of the books during reading month. Battle of the books is a jeopardy style competition in which students compete against each other testing their knowledge on a selection of books.

The fifth graders came out on top, scoring 40,000 points and breaking the school record of 21,000 points.



ARTS

Jazz Orchestra to Essentially Ellington

The Byron Center High School Jazz Orchestra has been selected for the Essentially Ellington 30th Anniversary High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival in New York City. Essentially Ellington is a program for high school jazz bands that aims to elevate musicianship, broaden perspectives and inspire performance. This is the eighth time in school history the Jazz Orchestra has been invited to the event.

To prepare for the competition, the Jazz at Lincoln Center sent American clarinetist Walter Blanding to mentor the students.

In addition, the Jazz Orchestra got the honor to be the opening act for highly respected trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis at his concert in Ann Arbor.



Solo & Ensemble Festival

Byron Center High School band and orchestra students performed at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival in 45 different events. Of the 45 events, 30 groups received first division ratings and 15 received second division ratings.

“Performing at this state level event is a tremendous honor and our students met with a tremendous amount of success,” Fine Arts Director Marc Townley said.

In addition, the BCHS Clarinet Choir received a first division rating at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival and was named one of the top Chamber Ensembles in the state of Michigan.



Middle School Choral Festival



West Middle School Choirs earned Division 1 - Excellent ratings at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Choral Festival. The students finished the competition with some of the highest scores given throughout the festival.

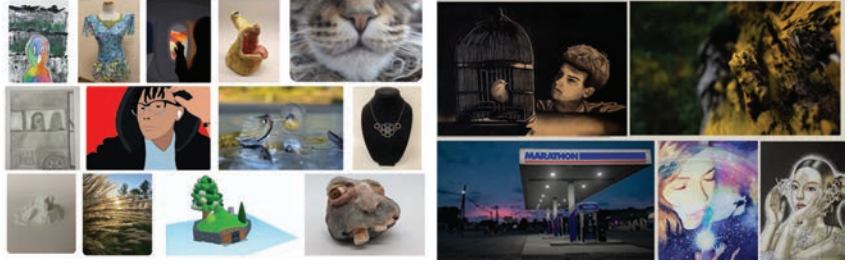
Nickels Sixth Grade Girls Choir



The Nickels Intermediate sixth grade girls choir sang at the District Choral Festival for the first time in over a decade, earning high scores from every judge that added up to a “1” ranking.

Scholastic Art Awards

Byron Center Public Schools students were awarded 28 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running program that recognizes creative teens in 28 different art and writing categories.



West Middle School students earned 20 awards; including one gold key, five silver keys and 14 honorable mentions. Byron Center High School students won eight awards; including two gold keys, two silver keys and four honorable mentions.



Michigan Art Education Association Art Show

Byron Center Public Schools had 53 students' artwork selected to be represented at the Michigan Art Education Association Region 9 art show. This artwork came from students K-12, showing a variety of talent and creativity.

"The artwork demonstrates some of the best examples of creativity and craft our students have exhibited this school year," West Middle School Visual Arts Teacher Janine Campbell said. "We are so inspired by the work our students create and appreciate the opportunity for them to share their vision and shine."

Some of the student artwork was selected for the MAEA state show earning top 100, top 18 and MDE awards.

BCHS Theatre presents High School Musical On Stage!

Byron Center High School Theatre presented *High School Musical On Stage!* The production was made up of 58 cast members, including a freshman and sophomore lead character and 31 crew members. Students had the chance to perform shows over two weekends.

"We are so proud of every single person who has poured their hearts and souls into this show," Van Singel Fine Arts Center Managing Director Michelle Wagner said. "Thank you to all the students in the cast and crew, production team members, parents, volunteers and community members that continue to support us."



Upcoming Van Singel Fine Arts Center Productions



Van Singel Junior Theatre
May 2025



Van Singel Youth Theatre
June 2025



Van Singel Community Theatre
August 2025



ATHLETICS

Swim/Dive

2025 MHSAA Division 2 State Runner-Up

State Runner-Up in Diving
Jack Olivier

State Runner-Up in 100 Yard Breaststroke
Ryder Nichols

3rd in State Finals 500 Yard Freestyle
Brady Beauch

3rd in State Finals 200 Medley Relay
Caleb Meginley, Ryder Nichols, Colton Standorf, Graeden Standorf

3rd in State Finals 200 Yard Freestyle Relay
Brady Beauch, Lucas Ritsema, Colton Standorf, Graeden Standorf

3rd in State Finals 400 Freestyle Relay
Brady Beauch, Caleb Meginley, Carter Nelson, Lucas Ritsema

Qualified for State Finals
Brady Beauch, Kellen Cutler, Ike DeVries, Ian McLellan, Caleb Meginley, Fabian Muench, Carter Nelson, Ryder Nichols, Jack Olivier, Arnaud Palamara, Grant Pierce, Lucas Ritsema, Jackson Schmuker, Colton Standorf, Graeden Standorf, Owen Vansolkema

Regional Diving Champion
Jack Olivier

MISCA Regional Coach of the Year
Dive Coach Jonathan Wallace

Team Conference Champions

All-Conference
Brady Beauch, Kellen Cutler, Caleb Meginley, Carter Nelson, Ryder Nichols, Jack Olivier, Lucas Ritsema, Jackson Schmuker, Colton Standorf, Graeden Standorf

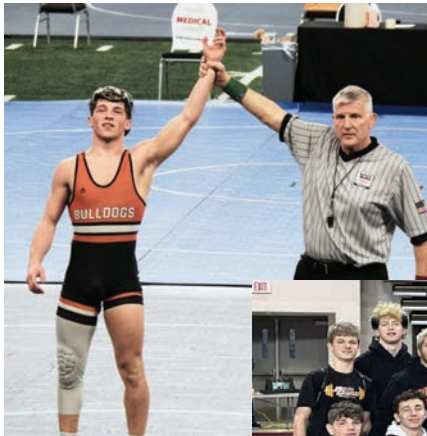
Wrestling

7th Place in State Finals
Hunter Pulawski

Qualified for State Finals
Jackson Bovia, Austin Coleman, Hunter Pulawski

100 Career Wins
Austin Coleman, Hunter Pulawski

OK Green All-Conference
Austin Coleman, Caden Meyering, Hunter Pulawski, Zavier Radle



Bowling

Qualified for State Finals
Ashley Cramer

OK Green All-Conference
Nolan Martin
Honorable Mention:
Adrey Bilot



Boys Basketball

Regional Champions

District Champions

1000 career points

Camden Karel

OK Green All-Conference

Cassius Bont, Keane Hinkle, Camden Karel

Honorable Mention:
Isaac Lee



Girls Basketball

OK Green All-Conference

Madisyn Meissner



Hockey

All-State First Team

Luke Laska, Braxton McKee, Luke Philo

Honorable Mention:
Jaxson O'Keefe

All-Time Leader, 108 Games Played

Luke Laska

All-Conference

Luke Goheen, Luke Laska, Braxton McKee, Jaxson O'Keefe, Luke Philo

Honorable Mention:
Kasey Brehm, Reid Glupker, Quinn Sall



Cometitive Cheer

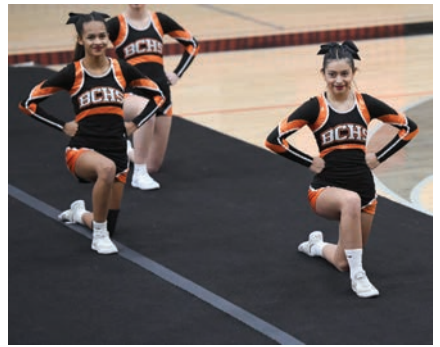
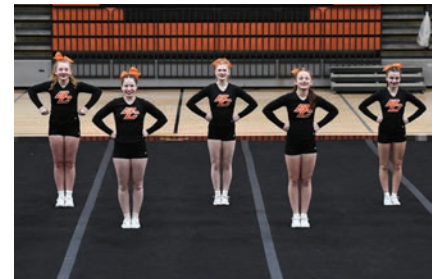
OK Green All-Conference

Diana Esparza-Salvador, Alexis Kleczynski, Sophia McCotter, Hanna Pulawski

Honorable Mention:
Brooke Imperi, Audrey Nobach

LMCCOA Scholarship

Alexis Kleczynski, Sophia McCotter





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

Non-Profit Org.
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Byron Center Public School's 2025 Bond Proposal:

- add classrooms to the ECC
- renovate existing facilities
- expand fine arts spaces
- build athletic complex
- upgrade technology



For more information, scan
the QR code to BC's website!

