



BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



Nickels Intermediate School
Friday Office Communication
August 30, 2024

Important Information:

Attendance Line:

Please call the attendance line at 616-878-6400 or email nickelsattendance@bcpsk12.net, if your student will be absent, running late, or needs to be picked up for an appointment during the school day. If we are unable to answer, please leave us a detailed message with your name, the name of your student, the reason for the absence, or the time your student will be arriving or need to be picked up for an appointment. Thank you for your help in this.

[Nickels website](#)

School Hours:

Full Day: 7:55 am - 2:50 pm

Half Day: 7:55 am - 11:10 am

Office hours:

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Phone number: 616-878-6400

Upcoming Dates

August:

Aug. 30th - Sept. 2nd - No School - Labor Day

September:

Sept. 4th - School Picture Day

Sept. 5th - Student Fall Fundraiser Begins

Sept. 10th - Code Red Starts 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Sept. 12th - BC Soccer Community Youth Night @ 6:45 pm

Sept. 16th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sept. 19th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sept. 23rd - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sept. 26th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sept. 26th - Nickels FIT - Volleyball Night - More details to come

Sept. 27th - Homecoming Parade 5:00 pm

Sept. 27th - Homecoming Game 7:00 pm

Sept. 30th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SAN Shoe Drive:

[Shoe Drive Informational Flyer](#)

Code Red Robotics:

Code Red Robotics is gearing up for its fall season, and invites students in grades 4-6 to be part of our fall session of Next Robotics Generation (NRG). NRG is a robotics program where students attend with a parent. Each student builds their own robot from a kit, and then modifies that robot to play a game. At the end of the five week session, we will hold a tournament where students compete with their robots. **We are starting on Tuesday, September 10** and will meet for the next five Tuesdays in the Code Red build space at the high school. The tournament will be on Saturday, October 12. More information can be found in this [NRG Informational Flyer](#). If you are interested in registering, you can fill out this [NRG Registration Form](#). If you would like more information, please contact linda.baas@coderedrobotics.com

Important Update from BCPS Transportation:

Dear Byron Center Public Schools' Families,

We hope everyone is enjoying a fantastic start to the school year. As we work together to make the end of the school day as smooth as possible, we'd like to remind everyone to please pick up your students from their respective schools. Our team has noticed some families picking up students from the bus transfer at Heritage Elementary, which can impact the efficiency of the transition, safety of our students and the timely departure of buses.

To ensure the safety and timeliness for all, starting Tuesday, September 3, students will need to be picked up directly from their school rather than from the bus transfer at Heritage. This change will help us manage the area better and ensure that all students are picked up safely and buses can begin afternoon routes promptly.

We truly appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to keep the bus transfer process smooth and safe for everyone.

Thank you for your support!
Byron Center Transportation Department

Forte:

If you would like to enroll your child in Forte, please fill out the attached flyer and return it by Friday, September 13. The first day of Forte! will be Monday, September 16. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at hvitarelli@bcpsk12.net.

[Forte Informational Flyer](#)

Returning Student Registration:

- Returning Students Registration letter: Please use the snap code on this letter to complete your students registration by the first day of school. This letter replaces the paper demographic form you may have completed in previous years. Please log in and review the information and update emails, phone numbers or other information as necessary. If you have multiple households, only one household is required to complete the online information. [Returning Students Registration Link](#)

Counselor's Corner:

Counselor Introduction:

It has been an exciting couple of weeks welcoming all the students back for another awesome school year! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to our new families in the building. I am Shelley Pero, the School Counselor here at Nickels! I will be visiting 5th grade classrooms in the coming weeks to introduce myself and explain the process of how they can connect with me and what opportunities we have to offer. Student referrals come to me through teachers, parents, and student self-referrals. If you have any questions about what I can do to support your student or if you would like for me to schedule a check-in now or in the future, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to continuing to work with familiar faces from last year as well as continuing to meet many more new ones! 🌻

Counseling Groups:

It is almost time to start counseling groups here at Nickels! Counseling groups (often called lunch or small groups) are offered once a week during lunch and recess and meet for 8-10 sessions. If your student is interested in any of the topics offered (see list and sign-up [HERE](#)), please be sure to fill out the digital form or contact the school for a hard copy. Topics will be offered based on demand, and if the topic your student is interested in isn't offered in the fall, there is still a good chance it will be offered later in the year! If you would like more information about any of these small groups or have any questions please feel free to contact me at 878-6418 or spero@bcpsk12.net.



Thank You!
Shelley Pero
School Counselor

BYRON CENTER BOYS SOCCER COMMUNITY YOUTH NIGHT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2024



GAMETIME 6:45 WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

WEAR YOUR JERSEY

FIRST 50 KIDS CAN WALK OUT WITH THE PLAYERS



Bring a food item to donate to
Hand to Hand

Ziplock Bags, Granola Bars, Fruit Snacks,
Rice Crispy Treats, Microwave Popcorn

Hand2Hand:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to offer your student the opportunity to participate in a program at Nickels Intermediate called "Hand2Hand". This program helps provide a student with food/snacks for the weekends!

Here's how Hand2Hand will work: At the end of the week students who are signed up will receive a minimum of 10 food items in a black school logo drawstring bag that will be provided at the first week of participation (subsequent weeks will be a plastic bag). These food items will be a combination of breakfast, snacks, lunch and/or dinner items. While the food items are meant for the student, they can be shared among the family as well. (Please note: if your student or another family member has food allergies it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to check the contents of the backpack each week to ensure the food doesn't contain ingredients which could cause an allergic reaction).

There is no cost to participate! If you sign your student up to receive Hand2Hand, they will continue to receive the weekly bags each week. This opportunity is being provided by Corinth Reformed Church in Byron Center. To learn more about Hand2Hand, please visit their website: h2hkids.org.

Please fill out the form below by September 9th! Fill out form [HERE](#).

Nurses Corner:

Medication Consent Form 24/25

Medication Policy Reminders:

1. If your student needs to take medication while at school they **MUST** have a medication consent form completed.

Prescription meds require **BOTH** a parent/guardian **AND** a physician signature. Over the counter (OTC) meds require a parent/guardian signature only. No student will be administered medication without the proper consent forms.

2. Please remember that students are **NOT** allowed to self carry **ANY** medications (prescription or OTC) per our district policy **UNLESS** it's an emergency medication and we have the appropriate forms completed and signed.

3. All medications must be stored in the office and brought to school by a parent/guardian. They must be in the original container with the appropriate label (and not expired). We will not accept any medications in baggies, envelopes, ect.

Amy Voiles RN-BSN Direct Phone: 616-878-6414 Fax Number: 616-345-1924

Girls in Aviation Day:



We're bringing the 10th Annual Girls in Aviation Day to Grand Rapids, MI!

Join the Women in Aviation Great Lakes Chapter for an exciting day filled with aerospace fun for all ages and genders! While this event is intended for girls around the ages of 7-18, it would be perfect for any attendee with a passion for the sky. Let's empower the next generation, encourage their exploration of aviation, and introduce them to the various industry career opportunities available. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to soar to new heights!

Highlights Include:

- Static Displays: aircraft, fire truck, airfield operations cruiser, snow equipment, fuel truck, tug
- Air Traffic Control Simulator
- Aviation-Themed Bracelets & Crafts
- VFR Sectional Scavenger Hunts
- Aircraft Marshaling Lesson
- Avionics Adventures
- Phonetic Alphabet Fun
- Design Your Own Airport

Avflight Grand Rapids (4211 Cassard Ln)
Saturday, September 21st
11am - 3pm

Tickets:

On sale now - scan the QR to get started!!

\$15 per student (guardian included for attendees under 16)

Registration fee includes lunch + GIAD Swag Bag



Thank you to our sponsors!



Job Opportunities at BCPS:

[Current Openings at Byron Center Public Schools](#)

District School Calendar 24/25:

[24/25 District Calendar](#)

24/25 6th Grade Sports Information:

<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>

[24/25 Middle School Sports Informational Flyer](#)

Byron Center Sports Passes Available For Purchase:

Passes will be available for purchase in the Athletic Office (8500 Burlingame Ave.) again this year. Normal office hours will be from 8:00am - 2:00PM for purchase. (Lunch from 12:00-12:30). These passes can be used at all regular season MS and HS home events.

Adults \$50

Students \$25.00

Family Max payment of \$150.00

Cash or Checks payable to BCPS. If you have any additional questions please feel free to reach out at 616-878-6642.

Cell Phone Expectations and Consequences:

Our policy states that all cell phones must be off and stored in a student's locker (or homeroom teacher's classroom) from 7:30-2:50 each day. This policy is a three strike system. Please review the consequences below with your student to ensure understanding of cell phone use at school.

Cell Phone Policy (Electronic Device Policy)

1st Offense – Device is taken away for the remainder of the day.

2nd Offense – Device is taken away, parents are called, and parents must come pick up device from school.

3rd Offense – Parent is called and device is banned permanently from the school for the remainder of the year

Our goal with this policy is to help all students focus on learning throughout the school day. Thank you for partnering with us.

Nickels FIT Kickoff: Join the Fun and Get Involved!

We are excited to kick off another great year with the Nickels Family Involvement Team (FIT)! Here's a glimpse of what we have planned and how you can participate:

Upcoming Events:

- **5th & 6th Grade Harvest Parties:** Celebrate the season with fun-filled harvest parties.
- **Monthly Classroom Leadership Lunches:** Encouraging leadership and community in our classrooms.
- **Fall & Winter Family Tailgates:** Join us for family fun at our seasonal tailgates.
- **Reading Month Celebrations:** Engaging activities to foster a love of reading.
- **And Much More!** Stay tuned for more events listed on our Facebook page and in weekly office communications.

Support Our Amazing Staff: FIT organizes appreciation events and surprises for our incredible staff throughout the school year. Our staff is the best, and we love to let them know it!

How to Get Involved:

- **Donate:** We accept cash, checks, or online donations. Visit our [fundraising page](#) to contribute and help us reach our goal.
- **Become a Sponsor:** Own a business and want to support our students and teachers? Consider sponsoring Nickels FIT. Various sponsorship levels are available. Click here to fill out our [Sponsor Interest Form](#) or email admin@nickelsfit.org to get started.
- **Volunteer:** We love volunteers! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for signups or email admin@nickelsfit.org to let us know you're willing to help. Whether you join a committee or volunteer for an event, there's a spot for you!

Meet the 2024-25 FIT Board:

Kristi Maines- President

Lauren Brock- Vice President

Amy Bale- Treasurer

We are looking for a few ambitious parents to shadow our board members this year to take over FIT for the 2025-26 school year. Please email admin@nickelsfit.org if this is something that interests you!

Stay Connected: Like us on [FACEBOOK](#) for the latest updates and event information. Let's make this year the best one yet!



SCHOOL EVENTS

WE ORGANIZE A VARIETY OF EVENTS SUCH AS THE 5TH & 6TH GRADE HARVEST PARTIES, MONTHLY CLASSROOM LEADERSHIP LUNCHEAS, FALL & WINTER FAMILY TAILGATES, READING MONTH CELEBRATIONS & SO MUCH MORE! UPCOMING EVENTS WILL BE ALWAYS BE LISTED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND IN THE WEEKLY OFFICE COMMUNICATION.

TEACHER SUPPORT

MOST IMPORTANTLY, FIT ORGANIZES APPRECIATION EVENTS & SURPRISES FOR THE INCREDIBLE STAFF AT NICKELS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.
OUR STAFF IS THE BEST & WE LOVE TO LET THEM KNOW IT!

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

26TH- NICKELS VOLLEYBALL NIGHT!

JOIN US AS WE CHEER ON OUR LADY BULLDOGS!
FREE ENTRY FOR NICKELS STUDENTS & FAMILIES,
AND ALL NICKELS STUDENTS GET SOME SPECIAL BULLDOG SWAG!

OCTOBER

8TH & 10TH- PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

KEEP AN EYE ON OUR COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND SIGN UP TO DONATE ITEMS FOR STAFF MEALS!

NOVEMBER

1ST- 5TH GRADE HARVEST PARTY

8TH- 6TH GRADE HARVEST PARTY

NEW THIS YEAR! STUDENTS WILL STAY AFTER SCHOOL FOR A FALL CELEBRATION!

How to Support

NICKELS FIT

DONATE DIRECTLY!

WE ACCEPT CASH, CHECK, OR YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE! JUST VISIT OUR FUNDRAISING PAGE, SELECT YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM, AND DONATE! SHARE OUR PAGE WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL! PLEASE VISIT WWW.GIVEBUTTER.COM/7172024 OR SCAN THE QR CODE



BECOME A SPONSOR!

DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS AND LOVE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS & TEACHERS? PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING NICKELS FIT! THERE ARE MANY SPONSORSHIP LEVELS TO CHOOSE FROM. SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL ADMIN@NICKELSFIT.ORG TO GET STARTED!



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS AND COULD NOT MAKE THESE EVENTS HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU! KEEP AN EYE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR SIGNUPS OR EMAIL ADMIN@NICKELSFIT.ORG TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE WILLING TO HELP!
WE'VE GOT A SPOT FOR YOU!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!  @NICKELSFIT

Breakfast and Lunch are FREE for K-12 BCPS students during the 2024-2025 school year!

Second meals and a la carte items are not included, and must be purchased separately.

Please fill out an application if you think you may qualify because it will benefit you and your school! Free/reduced students receive reduced fees for sport fees, testing fees, and possible EBT cards. Applications for the 2024-2025 are open online [here](#).

Lunch Menu: [Sept. Lunch Menu](#)

[HOW TO CREATE A FAMILY PORTAL ACCOUNT ACCOUNT](#)

[HOW TO MAKE A DEPOSIT TO FAMILY PORTAL](#)

Student Pick up and Drop off:

Dear Parents and Guests-

The following diagram shows the directional flow of how pickup, drop-off, and parking will occur before, during and after school at the new Nickels Intermediate building. Please note that the pickup/drop-off lanes directly in front of the building are one way and counter-clockwise. Students should exit to the sidewalk on the passenger side of your vehicle. Please be sure to pull forward if space allows along the curb. Once your student is safely dropped off, it is ok to pull out into the exit lanes.

Please also note that there are two exit lanes heading back out to the main drive where you will turn right to exit to 84th St. Please continue to use the designated drop off/pick up loop when dropping off or picking up your student at school. Please do not use the bus loop (west of the school) or the parking lot to pick up or drop off your student.



For the 2024-2025 school year, our bus transfer (bus rodeo) location is at Heritage Elementary. Students at Nickels will get on a bus and ride over to the bus transfer, then get on their home bus before traveling home. In the past, some parents came to the bus transfer area (bus rodeo) to pick up their kids. We are asking that you avoid trying to pick up students from the bus transfer area due to construction traffic at the old Nickels building. Our bus riders will load and unload buses on the far west side of the building in a separate and protected lot designated for this purpose. When picking up your student at the end of the school day please exit towards 84th street.



HAPPY
LABOR DAY TO
ALL OF YOU