



BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



Robert L. Nickels Intermediate

Nickels Intermediate School
Friday Office Communication
January 16, 2026

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

Jan:

Jan. 19th - NO School

Jan. 20th - NO Forte

Jan. 20th - Bulldog Growl 2:55 pm - 3:45 pm

Jan. 21st - Art Club 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Jan. 22nd - NO Forte

Jan. 23rd - Spelling Bee will be held during the school day

Jan. 23rd - Report cards will be mailed home for the semester

Jan. 27th - NO Forte

Jan. 29th - NO Forte

Jan. 29th - Round Ball Bash @ High School Gym - Doors open at 5:30 pm. The Nickels staff will be playing the West Middle staff in dodgeball starting at 6:50 pm. Please join us that evening, to help cheer on your Nickels staff!

Feb:

Feb. 3rd - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Round Ball Bash:



**2026 BYRON CENTER SPORTS BOOSTERS
ROUND BALL BASH**

Thursday January 29th, 2026

Byron Center High School Main Gym
Doors open @ 5:30 pm
\$3 Cash or Card Admission
Sorry No Athletic Passes

50/50 Raffle
Concessions Open
Pizza, Hotdogs, and More

DODGEBALL
6:00 - Brown vs Marshall
6:25 - Countryside vs Heritage
6:50 - Nickels vs West

BASKETBALL
7:15 - Free Throw and 3 Point Competition
\$1 per Shot
7:30 - High School Staff vs Students

Wear your School Colors
Elementary - Class Shirts
Nickels - Gray
West - Black
High School - Orange



Bulldog Growl:

December Edition

Forte Choir - Spring 2026:

Love to sing? Want to perform and grow your voice?

Forte! Is a fun, engaging after-school choir for students who are excited about music and being part of a team!

Rehearsals beginning February 3, 2026. Please see attached flyer for more details if you are interested in joining

Forte! [Forte Informational Flyer](#)

Cooler Weather Gear:

As the weather is colder please have your child dress warmly for recess (sweatshirt, pants, winter coat, gloves, hat, boots and snow pants). Students do go outside unless the temperature/wind chill is below Zero.

Thank you for your help in this!



BC Brawlers
Youth Lacrosse

SPRING '26 *Season*

Boys Lacrosse

- Fast-paced fun, nonstop action
- All skill levels welcome
- Grades 1st - 8th
- Learn - Compete - Love the game!

What's New

- Winter Training Sessions
- Tournament Team Opportunities
- Extended Season
- 1st & 2nd Grade Team

JOIN NOW

Register Here



Visit Website



25/26 6th Grade Sports Information:

<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>

[25/26 Middle School Sports Informational Flyer](#)

District Calendar 25/26:

[25/26 District Calendar](#)

District Calendar 26/27:

[26/27 District Calendar](#)

School News Network Reader Survey:

School News Network (SNN) is a local publication dedicated to sharing the stories of teaching and learning, students and educators and the education issues shaping our schools. SNN is currently seeking feedback from its readers.

Please take a moment to fill our School News Network's [2026 audience survey](#) by February 27. Your comments will help the SNN team plan for the future and reach more people with articles, podcasts and videos about Byron Center Public Schools. The survey is completely anonymous and confidential. Thank you for your input!

Newsies Guest Audience Workshop!

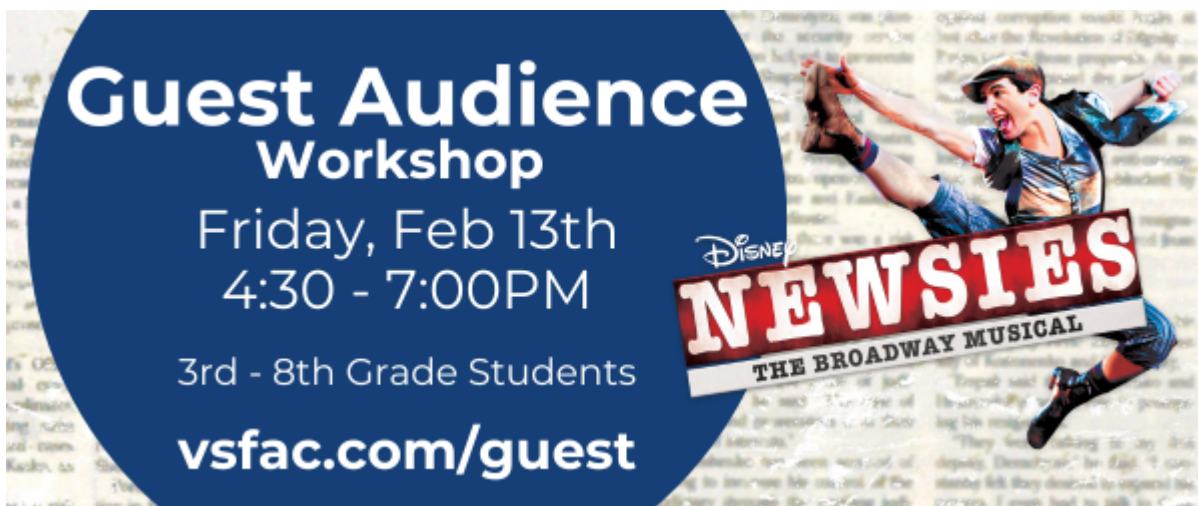
Join us **FRIDAY, February 13th from 4:30–7:00 PM** at the **VSFAC**

Open to all 3rd–8th grade students

Get a behind-the-scenes look at a Newsies rehearsal, play theatre games, and chat with the cast during a Q&A session!

Register: vsfac.com/guest

 Come be part of the energy and excitement of *Newsies*!



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!

BCHS Career Speakers:

Byron Center High School is looking for individuals from the community, who would be willing to come in and talk about their careers with a group of our Senior English Students as they look towards their next step after graduation. We set aside 25 minutes from 1:25 PM - 1:50 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays for career presentations. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please contact Pam Gillespie at pgillespie@bcpsk12.net or 616-878-6635 for more information.

Schoology:

<https://app.schoology.com/home> Please encourage your child to check schoology daily. If you click on the orange Byron Center symbol in the top left hand corner you will see the "feed". It will show postings by the teacher of what the homework is. Parents, if you connect to your child's account AND get the schoology app you can get notifications of homework sent to your phone. If you are new to schoology and need to register an account for your child, please use this link:

<https://app.schoology.com/register.php?type=parent> Please email your students

Breakfast and Lunch are FREE for K-12 BCPS students during the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 are open online here. Applications can be [found on the district's website](#). If you need to set up an account or add funds for student meals, you can do so through the [Meal Magic Family Portal](#).

School Closing Menu Procedure:

What is on the lunch menu when students come back to school after an unscheduled school closing, for example a snow day? The lunch planned for the "Snow Day" menu is served the next day school resumes. The kitchen staff prepare a day in advance therefore the food for the "Snow Day" menu is already prepped and ready to cook. For example: school is canceled on Tuesday and resumes on Wednesday, Tuesday's lunch is served on Wednesday when the students return. Wednesday's lunch will be SKIPPED entirely. On Thursday, we will be back on schedule with Thursday's menu.

SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR MULTIPLE DAYS:

- In the event the school closes for consecutive days in a row, no hot lunch will be served during that time.
- When school opens up the following procedure will be followed: The lunch that was to be served on the first snow day will be served and then the current menu will be followed for the following school day.

For example: If the school closes on Monday and resumes on a Wednesday the lunch will be what was on Monday. Then the calendar menu will pick back up for the following day (what the lunch choice would be on Thursday).

Lunch Menu: [January Lunch Menu](#)

Fresh Baked Cookies will be available every Friday for purchase ~ If your student would like to purchase one they are \$1.00 each.

Nurses Corner:

Medication Consent Form 25/26

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

When to keep your student home from school

Hand 2 Hand:

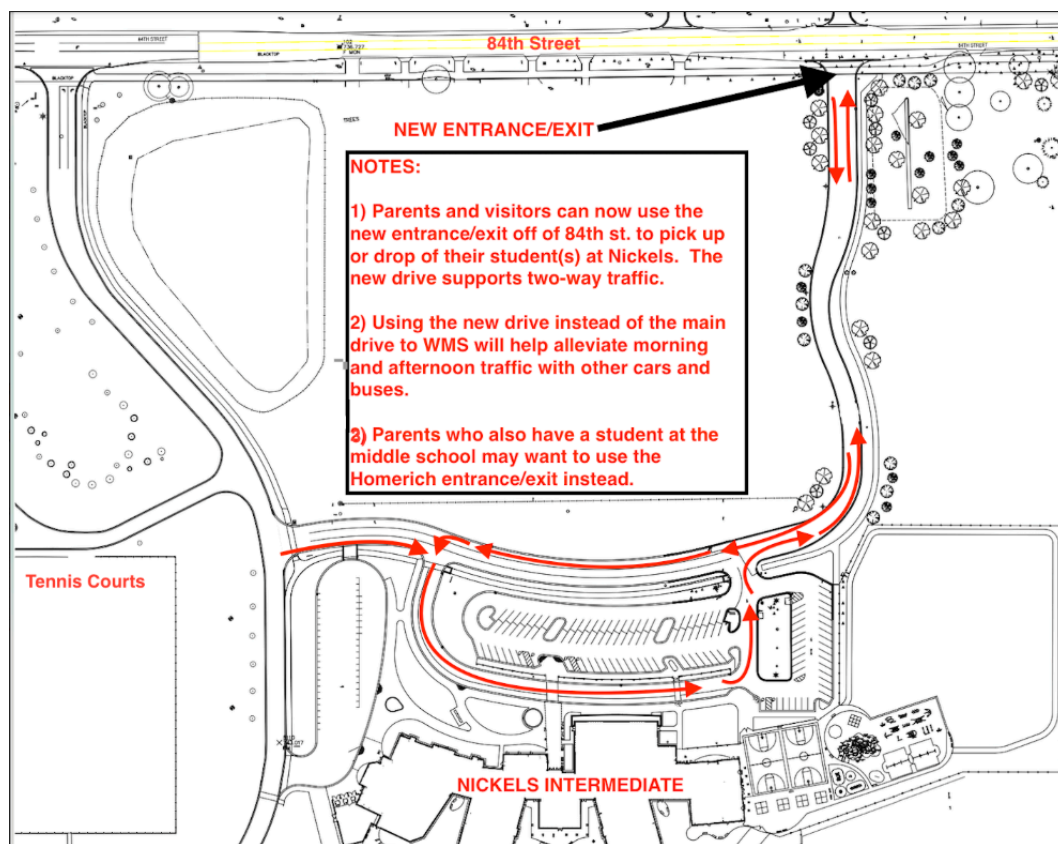
Dear Parent/Guardian:

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. Fill out form [HERE](#).

Student Pick up and Drop off (New Driveway Entrance for Nickels) :



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 Nickels Intermediate. 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. **Do not use the middle lane for entering Nickels' driveway.** 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), the main drive between West and Nickels.**

After school dismissal, students at Nickels will get on a transfer bus and ride it over to the bus rodeo (located at Heritage Elementary), students will transfer to their home bus at this location. In the past, some parents came to the bus transfer area (bus rodeo) to pick up their kids. We are asking that you avoid picking up your students from the bus transfer area. 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.

[Informational Video of the Drive to Nickels](#)

Family Tech Tip #5:

Create a family tech plan with your kids.

Want your tech rules to stick? Include your kids in creating them! When children and teens help design the family's technology guidelines, they're more likely to follow them. Plus, having a shared plan helps parents model responsible device use too.

Create your family tech plan by answering these four key questions together:

- WHERE will screens be used? (And where won't they?)
- WHEN are good times for devices? (And when are they off-limits?)
- WHAT will we use screens for? (Identifying purposeful vs. mindless use)
- HOW LONG is reasonable for different activities?

Grab a whiteboard or paper and brainstorm boundaries together that will protect your:

- Family relationships and connection time
- Healthy sleep habits
- Physical activity and outdoor time
- Mental well-being

Remember: Your family tech plan can evolve as your children grow and technology changes. The goal is creating clear expectations that everyone commits to following. Display your plan somewhere visible – it'll come in handy during those "just five more minutes!" negotiations!

Need more help? Use the [Quick Guide to Creating a Family Tech Plan here](#).

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:

By downloading these resources, you agree to include a link to Better Screen Time (betterscreentime.com) whenever you share these tips with families. This partnership helps us continue creating valuable, research-backed resources for schools and districts worldwide.

"If you're interested in meeting up with other parents and kids screen-free here and there, feel free to reach out to Katie Kimball (parent of a 5th grader) at mrskatiekimball@gmail.com to get connected."

