



BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



Robert L. Nickels Intermediate

Nickels Intermediate School
Friday Office Communication
October 2, 2026

Important Information:

Attendance Line:

To notify the school of your student's absence, late arrival, or planned early dismissal, please call the office at 616-878-6400 or email nickelsattendance@bcpsk12.net. If you reach our voicemail, kindly leave a detailed message on our attendance line, that includes your name, your student's full name, the reason for their absence, and their expected arrival or departure time. Thank you for your assistance! [Nickels website](#)

School Hours:

Full Day: 7:55 am - 2:45 pm

Half Day: 7:55 am - 11:05 am

Office hours:

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

Phone number: 616-878-6400

Upcoming Dates

Oct:

Oct. 6th - Bulldog Growl - 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Oct. 6th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 7th - Count Day

Oct. 7th - Art Club - 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Oct. 7th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 13th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 13th - FIT Volleyball Family Nights - Details below

Oct. 13th - Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Teachers will be sending out sign up information in Oct.

Oct. 14th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 15th - Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Teachers will be sending out sign up information in Oct.

Oct. 16th - Fall MAP and M-Step reports will be coming home with your students

October is going to be a busy month at Nickels, and we have two big things coming up! Here's what Nickels families need to know:



NICKELS VOLLEYBALL NIGHT — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13!

Join us for **Nickels Volleyball Night + our Fall Family Tailgate** as we cheer on the Byron Center girls' volleyball team against Caledonia!



Freshman & JV: 5:00 PM



Varsity: 6:00 PM

Come for one match or stay for both — we'd love to pack the stands with Nickels families and a TON of Bulldog spirit!

All registered Nickels families get in FREE, and Nickels students will receive a special spirit item from FIT.



[REGISTER YOUR FAMILY FOR FREE](#)

There is no cost to attend, but families will have the option to make a donation when registering. **All donations from Volleyball Night will go directly toward supporting the LiNKS program at Nickels Intermediate School.**

We can't wait to see you there!  



FALL CONFERENCE MEALS

Fall Conferences are also right around the corner, which means FIT is getting ready to feed our amazing Nickels teachers and staff during two very long conference days.

Providing meals during conferences is one of the ways FIT loves to show our staff how much we appreciate everything they do for our students.

There are two ways you can help:



Donate food or supplies

Our SignUpGenius is live with all of the food, drinks and supplies we need for conference week.



[SIGN UP TO DONATE FOOD OR SUPPLIES](#)



Help cover the cost of meals

Even with the generous food donations we receive from families, it costs FIT **nearly \$1,000 to feed our teachers and staff during conference week**. If grabbing an item from the signup isn't convenient, a financial contribution of any amount helps us cover those costs.



[DONATE TO NICKELS FIT](#)

Whether you're joining us in the stands, sending in food for conferences, making a donation — or doing all three! — **thank you for continuing to show up for Nickels.**

We appreciate our families and everything you do to help FIT support our students and staff!

Nickels FIT

Family Involvement Team

October 16th from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm:



THE 2ND ANNUAL

FIRE UP THE FLAVOR: COPS, TRUCKS, AND CHILI

Join members of the Kent County Sheriff's Office and Byron Center Recreation for a night of "touch a truck" (police cruisers, fire trucks, ambulances, and more), plus games, crafts and chili!

EVENT DETAILS
Date: Friday, October 16th, 2026
Time: 5:00-7:00p.m.
Location: Byron Center Recreation
2120 76th St., Byron Center

Free event for all ages. Chili cook-off entry and sampling fees apply.

\$20 entry fee for each team
\$5 to sample chili (day of event)

To register for the chili cook-off call 616-878-1998 or stop in to the community center.

CHILI COOK-OFF
Think you have the best chili? Here's your chance to prove it!

Rules

- Each entry may be submitted by an individual or team
- Each entry will be provided half of a 8-foot table for serving and display
- Each entry must be fully cooked, hot and delivered in a crockpot (suggest 2 crockpots so we won't run out)
- Participants are encouraged to decorate their area
- Participants are encouraged to name your chili
- Judging will be done by attendees for the People's Choice and law enforcement will be judging the other categories

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- People's Choice (Best Overall Chili)
- Where's The Beef? (Vegetarian or Non-Beef Chili)
- Not Your Mother's Chili (Most Unique or Unusual)
- All in the Name of Chili (Best Name)

Interested in the Ski Club?

Sign-ups open November 2! Check out the flyer for all the details: [LINK](#)

Parent Teacher Conferences 10/13 & 10/15 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm:

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on the 13th and 15th of October. Please look for further communication from your students' homeroom teacher.

There is still time to order photos or a yearbook online. Picture retakes will be Oct. 19th:

We anticipate student picture packages arriving at the school within the coming week. As soon as they arrive, we will distribute them to students to take home.

If you would like a yearbook only, you can order with code: 0698NB - Direct link:

<https://inter-state.com/yearbookentry/0698NB>

District Calendar 26/27:

[26/27 District Calendar](#)

Byron Center Sports Passes Available For Purchase:

Passes will be available for purchase in the Athletic Office (8500 Burlingame Ave.). Normal office hours will be from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm 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 616-878-6643

26/27 6th Grade Sports Information:

<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>

[26/27 Middle School Sports Informational Flyer](#)

Breakfast and Lunch are FREE for K-12 BCPS students during the 2026-2027 school year!

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

To support both your family and your school, please complete the free and reduced meal application if you believe you qualify! Students who qualify receive discounts on sports fees, testing fees, and may also become eligible for EBT cards. Online applications for the 2026-2027 school year are currently accessible and can be [found on the district's website](#). For adding funds for student meals or creating a new account, please use the [Meal Magic Family Portal](#).

Lunch Menu: [October 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.

PowerSchool and Schoology:

These two platforms are PowerSchool and Schoology. We logged in to these at school this week and started exploring how we will use them in class. Below is the difference between the two.

PowerSchool - this is where grades are posted. If you are wondering what your child received on a formative, summative, or any other assignment, this is the site you should use. Missing assignments can also be found here.

Schoology - this is where the learning happens. If your child needs to find materials we use at school (study guides, homework, links to review games), this is the site you should use.

When you first log into Schoology, there will be an "Updates" page. I use this as an "online planner." If you need to know what homework, formative, or summative are coming up, this is the site to use.

Logging into Schoology

Directions on how to log in to Schoology and PowerSchool can be found in the folder you picked up at the open house. Along with this, below are links that may be helpful.

[Parent Registration on Computer](#)

[Parent Registration on Phone](#)

[Student Login at Home](#)

26/27 6th Grade Sports Information:

<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>

[26/27 Middle School Sports Informational Flyer](#)

Returning Student Registration:

Returning Students Registration letter: Please use the snap code on this letter to complete your students returning to school registration. 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.

[ReturningStudents Registration Link](#)

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).

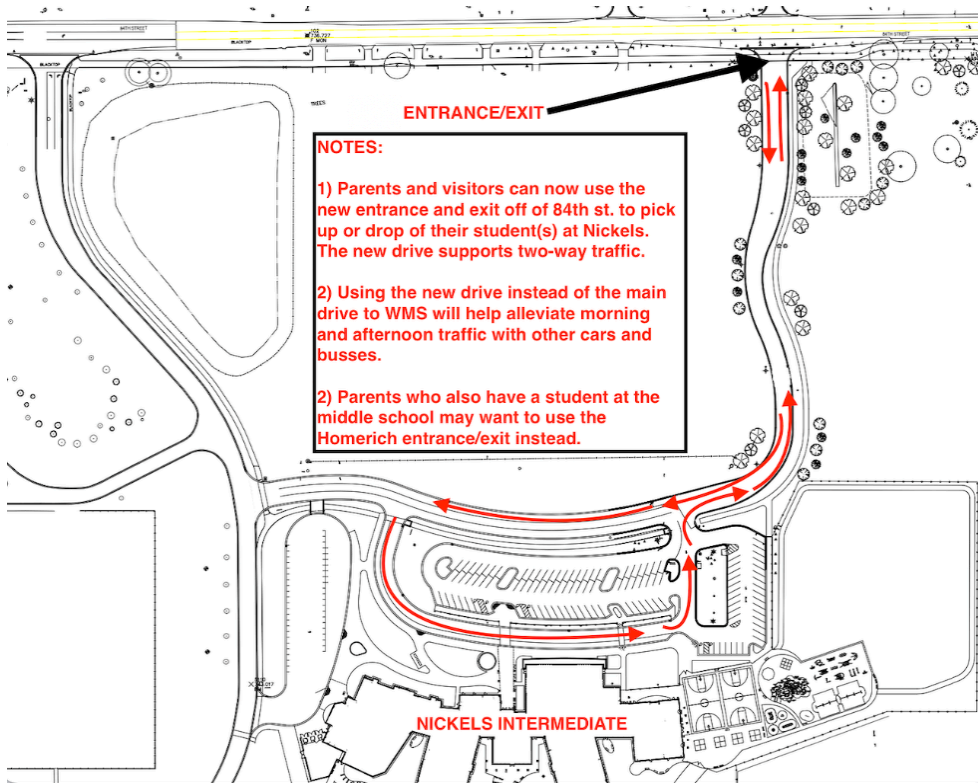
There is no cost to participate! If you sign your student up to receive Hand2Hand, they will continue to receive the weekly bags each week. This opportunity is being provided by Corinth Reformed Church in Byron Center. To learn more about Hand2Hand, please visit their website: h2hkids.org.

Fill out form [HERE](#).

Classroom Beverage Policy:

We know that parenting can be both joyful and exhausting, and we appreciate all that you do to support your child each day. As partners in your child's well-being, we want to share a reminder about beverages brought to school. Health experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, advise that caffeine can have negative effects on children. They recommend that children under age 12 avoid caffeinated drinks entirely, and that adolescents (ages 12–18) limit caffeine intake to less than 100 mg per day. Many popular drinks, especially energy drinks, exceed this amount and can pose concerns for students' health, focus, and overall well-being. To support a healthy and focused learning environment, **only non-caffeinated, clear liquids will be allowed during the school day**. This means that items such as coffee, pop, and energy drinks should not be brought to school. Thank you for your partnership in helping us create a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Student Pick up and Drop off for Nickels Intermediate:



Dear Parents and Guardians-

This is just a reminder to be very mindful of students and pedestrians during pick up and drop off time at Nickels. When we have snow and slick roads, along with less daylight it can make it even more challenging to ensure the safety of pedestrians, so we respectfully ask that everyone follow a few simple rules to help with this: Please be patient, do not speed, and drop your student off in the drop off lane closest to the curb and sidewalk.

- Please do not drop students off anywhere that requires them to cross any vehicle traffic flow.
- Please pull forward if space allows, but students can be dropped at any point along the curb before or after the main doors provided they exit on the curb for safety. Utilize the entire length of the sidewalk, rather than dropping students off directly in front of the main door.
- Please be careful when pulling out or merging to exit, as other cars may already be present and/or attempting to exit.

Thank you for your assistance! [Informational Video of the Drive to Nickels](#)

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 7:30-2:45 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!

Nurses Corner:

[Medication Consent Form 26/27 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.

Direct Phone: 616-878-6414 Fax Number: 616-345-1924.

 Final - When to Keep Your Child Home From School.pdf

