BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



Nickels Intermediate School

Friday Office Communication

October 30, 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. 30th - End of Quarter 1 - Grades for the quarter will be finalized in powerschool on Nov. 4th

Nov:

Nov. 1st - Daylight Savings - Clocks move back an hour

Nov. 2nd - Orchestra Concert - 6:30 pm (Viola, Cello, Bass) 7:30 pm (Violin) in the Nickels Gym

Nov. 2nd - 6th Grade Choir Concert - 7:00 pm at the VSFAC

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

Nov. 4th - Fall Fundraiser pick up in the Nickels Cafe - 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Nov. 4th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Nov. 4th - Art Club 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Nov. 10th - Bulldog Growl 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Nov. 10th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Nov. 10th - 6th Grade Band Concert - Nickels Gym @ 7:00 pm

Nov. 11th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

Fall Fundraiser Pickup 11/4/26 - Nickels Cafeteria 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm:

On Nov. 4th, Fundraiser orders will be available for pick up from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Pick up will take place in the Nickels Cafeteria. Unfortunately, we do not have the freezer space for the cold items to be stored overnight. Please make arrangements to have those items picked up on the 4th, if you are unable to do so yourself. Thank you! If you have any questions please call the office at 616-878-6400. There

Key Card Sale:

Our Annual Key Card sales have begun. 50% of the Sale Proceeds goes to our Nickels Students. For the 5th grade students, the sale proceeds go towards the 5th grade class end of the year Field trip and Holiday party. For the 6th grade students, the sale proceeds go towards their Holiday party and individual student accounts to help with their end of the year Field trip. Your student will bring home a sample for you to review and to show to family and friends. If you're not interested in the key card book, please send the book bag back to school. Thank you for Supporting Nickels! Sale Ends December 4th.

Key Card Flyer

Orchestra Concert 11/2/26 in the Nickels Gym - 6:30 pm (Violas, Cellos, Basses) & 7:30 pm (Violins):

Please see the attached letter for detailed information about our upcoming Informance Concert! Throughout the year, we will have three brief concerts where students can share with family and friends what they've been learning in orchestra.

At this first concert, students will demonstrate the fundamentals of playing their instruments, including proper posture and bow hold, as well as perform the songs they have learned so far. There will also be a dress rehearsal at Nickels the morning of the concert, where the different classes will have an opportunity to rehearse together.

Orchestra Concert Informational Flyer

6th Grade Choir Concert 11/2/26 at the VSFAC:

Students will be performing for the first time on the Van Singel stage on this night. We desperately need time to rehearse with everyone at the same time so we are asking everyone to come in a little early so we can practice our song together one last time before we perform these beautiful numbers for all of you!

Rehearsal Start Time: 6:00 PM
Concert Start Time: 7:00 PM

Where Do I Send My Child When We Get There?
All students will go to the Van Singel auditorium and sit in their assigned seat.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! I am so looking forward to meeting many of you! After the concert, I will head to the lobby as quickly as I can get there! Please find me and say hello!

OH! And, the kids Community Concert Day will be **Wednesday, February 17**! I'm so excited for this event. They will be traveling during the school day to spread some positivity and love to seniors and veterans in honor of Valentine's Day throughout the area! There will be more information coming about that but keep this date open! They don't want to miss this event! Neither do you! More details to come very soon!

Gratefully,
Mrs. Ryskamp

6th Grade Band Concert 11/10/26 in the Nickels Gym:

- Our concert is on **Tuesday, November 10**.
- It will take place in our **NICKELS INTERMEDIATE GYM!**
- Call Time for students is: 6:30 p.m. in the NICKELS CAFETERIA.
- Concert Start Time will be 7:00 p.m.
- All students should be dropped off at the normal Nickels Main entrance.
- Uniform: Our NEW BC MUSIC POLOS have arrived! There is NO cost for these...as we will be lending these out for students to wear to our 3 band concerts. We will be collecting them at the end of the year. Students should plan on wearing nice jeans (no holes/distressing)/khakis/black dress pants with sneakers or casual, closed-toed shoes. More information about the polos, including washing instructions, will be sent out soon!

Band Concert Informational Flyer

Interested in the Ski Club?

Sign-ups open November 2! Check out the flyer for all the details: LINK"

5th Grade Harvest Party – Friday, Nov. 13!

Dear 5th Grade Families,

Nickels FIT is excited to host the **5th Grade Harvest Party**! Students are invited to stay after school for an hour of games, food, and fall fun with their classmates.

When: Friday, November 13th
Time: 3:00–4:00 PM (right after school)
Admission: $5 per student

Tickets are only sold online. We won't be collecting cash or checks at school.
Purchase tickets here: https://givebutter.com/5th-Harvest

How to keep your ticket at $5: At checkout, Givebutter automatically adds a processing fee and a small tip. Both are optional. To skip them:

1. **Remove the processing fee:** Click **"Change"** next to the processing fee, uncheck **"I want to cover fees,"** and click **"Done."** The fee will appear crossed out.
2. **Remove the Givebutter tip:** In the tip box, click the **arrow next to the tip amount** until it shows **"Other,"** then enter **$0**.

Your total should now show **$5.00**.

Pickup: Please plan to pick up your student promptly at 4:00 PM at the front entrance of Nickels.

We want every 5th grader to join the fun! If the cost is a hardship for your family, FIT will cover your child's admission. Just let your child's teacher know. There's no paperwork and no questions asked, and it will be kept confidential.

Want to help make the day special? We're looking for volunteers and donated items for the party. Sign up to lend a hand or bring something here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DA5A82AA5FBC61-67157440-5thgrade

Thank you for supporting our students and Nickels FIT. We can't wait to celebrate the season together!

Please email kristi@nickelsfit.org with any questions or concerns. Thanks!

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



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: **November 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.

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!

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.

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.

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

BCFAB Craft Show 11/14/26 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm @ BCHS:

Byron Center Fine Arts Boosters is hosting a craft show at the High School on 11/8/25 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Admission is $3 per person. There is a free shuttle and parking available at Heritage Elementary: 8638 Byron Center Ave.

Parent/Adult Volunteers - Signup

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BADAF29A13-66331546-2026

West Middle & Nickels Student Volunteers - Signup

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BADAF29A13-66332577-2026





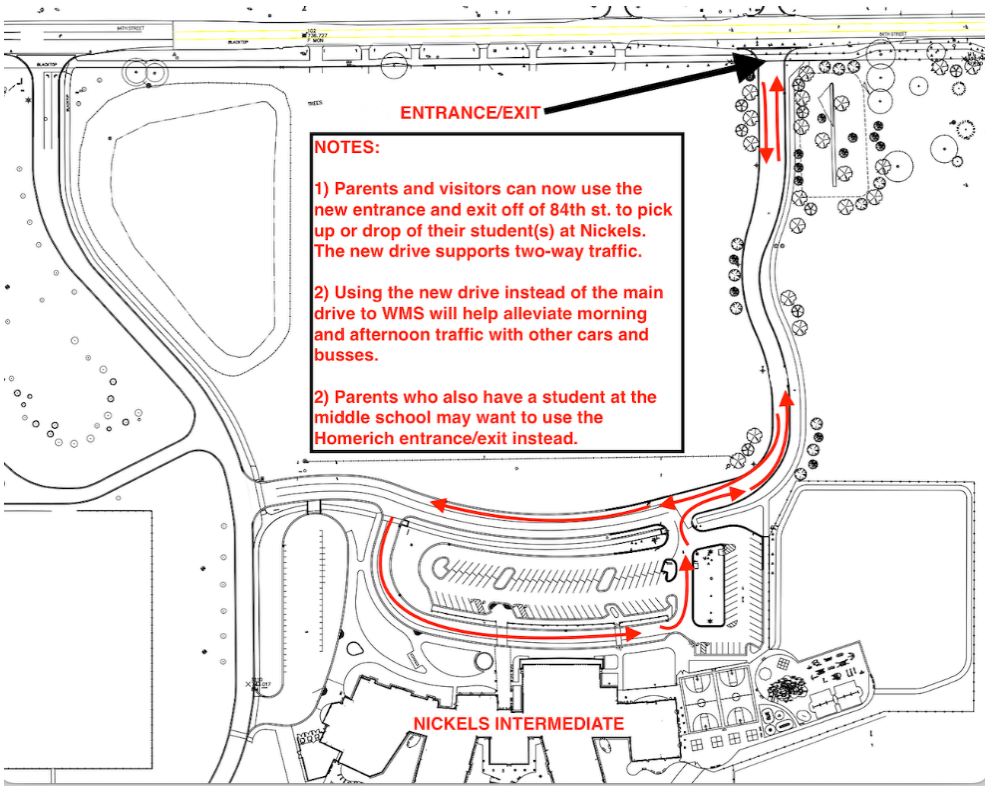






*Girl Scout memberships must be renewed annually. The membership year is October 1–September 30.

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**

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

District Calendar 26/27:

26/27 District Calendar


Don't forget to
Fall Back