



BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



Robert L. Nickels Intermediate

Nickels Intermediate School
Friday Office Communication
October 31, 2025

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

Oct:

Oct. 31st - End of Quarter 1 - Grades will be finalized in powerschool on 11/5.

Nov:

Nov. 2nd - Daylight Savings Time

Nov. 3rd - Orchestra Concert in the Nickels Gym - 6:30 pm - Viola, Cello, Bass
7:30 pm - Violin

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

Nov. 4th - Band Concert in the High School Gym - 7:00 pm

Nov. 5th - Grades for Quarter 1 will be finalized in powerschool.

Nov. 6th - Forte Practice 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

Nov. 12th - Art Club 2:50 pm - 3:45 pm

Nov. 13th - Forte Practice 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Nov. 14th - 5th Grade Harvest Party 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Nickels is selling shirts for our LINKS program!

If you would like to see the shirts and participate, [please place your order online at this link](#) by October 31. Shirts will be distributed before LINKS Week beginning December 1. Everyone is included to order LINKS shirts - students who are LINKS, students who are not LINKS at this time, teachers, family members, and more! If you have questions or if the cost of ordering a shirt for your student is a concern, please reach out to abrinks@bcpsk12.net.

6th Grade Orchestra Concert - Nickels Gym - 11/3/25:

[Orchestra Concert Informational Flyer](#)

6th Grade Band Concert - High School Gym - 11/4/25:

[Band Concert Informational Flyer](#)

5th Grade Harvest Party

Our 5th graders are invited to stay after school on **Friday, November 14** from **3:00–4:30 PM** for an afternoon of fun with **inflatables, snacks, music, and games!**

 **Tickets are \$3** and can be purchased here: <https://givebutter.com/Nibsq4> or you can bring \$3 cash or check to the office. Scholarships are available by speaking with your child's teacher.

 **Pickup is promptly at 4:30 PM.**

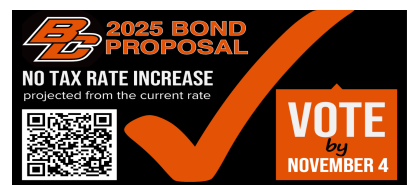
We'd love your help to make the event a success!

Volunteer or donate snacks and supplies here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DA5A82AA5FBC61-60077028-5thgrade>

 If you'd like to contribute toward the cost of **scholarships, pizza, and inflatables**, please consider donating here: <https://givebutter.com/FIT2025>

Byron Center Public Schools has a bond proposal on the ballot in the upcoming **November 4** election. The district's bond would enhance academic learning environments, fine arts spaces and athletic facilities, while also supporting districtwide technology upgrades and improvements to the transportation center. For more information about the bond proposal, please visit the district's website.



BCFAB Craft Show 11/8/25 - 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 \$5 per person. There is a free shuttle and parking available at Heritage Elementary: 8638 Byron Center Ave.

BCFAB has a wonderful opportunity for parents to help volunteer at the craft show. If you are interested please see attached link:

👉 For Adults and Parents: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BADAF29A13-59358766-2025>

BCSB Reverse Raffle 11/8/25:



Byron Center Sports Boosters

REVERSE RAFFLE PARTY

Union Pavilion- Railside Golf Club | **November 8, 2025**

The Byron Center Sports Boosters would like to invite you to our Reverse Raffle Party. Doors will open at 4:00 and the raffle kicks off at 7:00. There will be appetizers, beer and wine along with a cash bar. You can expect a fun time with friends as we celebrate our community and the athletes we are there to support. All proceeds will go towards our Byron Center Athletic Programs.

There will be 31 cash prize winners (see table below) and 100's of other prizes for other draws. We are also excited to announce that we will be hosting the BC basket silent auction this year. All of our teams are putting together amazing baskets and prizes that you can enter to win! There will be plenty of other fun happenings like chance ticket drawings, and other side games that will happen throughout the evening. Only 300 raffle tickets will be sold. Get your ticket for a chance to win...





\$15,000



Raffle Tickets \$150 each

With the purchase of a raffle ticket you will get one entry into the party. You can add a guest pass for \$50. Without the purchase of a raffle ticket, entry will cost \$75.

Purchase online @ www.byroncentersportsboosters.org/spirit-store

- You do not need to be present to win. The drawing will be updated live online.
- More information about the Event and more chances to win coming soon on the BC Boosters website

31 Winning Draws

Draw	Prize	Draw	Prize
1	\$200	150	\$500
10	\$100	160	\$100
20	\$100	170	\$500
30	\$100	180	\$100
40	\$100	190	\$100
50	\$600	200	\$500
60	\$100	210	\$100
70	\$100	220	\$500
80	\$100	230	\$100
90	\$100	240	\$500
100	\$100	250	\$600
110	\$200	260	\$500
120	\$200	270	\$500
130	\$100	280	\$600
140	\$200	290	\$1000
		300	\$15,000

**Cash prizes subject to 300 tickets being sold. If less than 300 tickets are sold cash prizes and number of draws will be adjusted. Must be 18 years or older to enter raffle.
***Must be 21 years or older to attend tailgate party License #R83067

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.

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](#).

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.

District Calendar 25/26:

[25/26 District Calendar](#)

District Calendar 26/27:

[26/27 District Calendar](#)

25/26 6th Grade Sports Information:

<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>

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

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 homeroom teacher and they can provide you with a specific access code to your child's account.

Family Tech Tip #2:

Use devices in shared spaces, not in bedrooms or bathrooms.

Why? We need to protect our kids' time, sleep, and values. Screens used in isolation, without purpose, can lead to:

- Curiosity clicks: The internet isn't always the best first teacher.
- Unhealthy escapes: Boredom can brew digital black holes when kids escape to a screen.
- Counterfeit connections: Loneliness leads to looking. Looking for approval, acceptance, and friendship—often in the wrong places online.

My kids or teens won't go for this. How can I teach them the "why" behind tech-free zones?

Have conversations about the research and best practices:

- [The American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine \(AASM\)](#) recommend no screen-based devices in children's and teen's bedrooms and turning them off [one hour before bedtime](#).
- Many organizations and studies have found that parental screen limitations and [the absence of screens in bedrooms have been found to significantly reduce screen usage](#).
- [Recent research](#) shows a clear link between kids using screens and their sleep habits. When looking at many studies on this topic, almost all of them (90%) found the same thing: kids who use screens tend to go to bed later and get less sleep overall. This includes devices like phones, tablets, and TVs.

As parents, we can create boundaries that help to keep our kids safe and healthy. Keeping devices in open areas saves our relationships, sleep, mental health, posture, productivity, and our values.

The best part is when you commit as a family to use screen-approved zones in your home, everyone benefits. The reality is, boundaries keep ALL of us safe—kids *and* adults.

"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."

Key Card Sale:

Our Annual Key Card sale has 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 5th.

Key Card Flyer

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!

Returning Student Registration:

Returning Students Registration letter can be found in your students welcome packet: Please use the snap code on this letter to complete your students registration. 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

Ski and Snowboard Club:

A club for 5th through 12th grade students who enjoy hitting the slopes together. This pre-paid club transports students to and from BCHS and Bittersweet Ski Resort six Tuesdays in January and February.

Sign up and Payment information will come late October. Space will be limited.

An option to meet at Bittersweet (no bus transportation) will be available for those who prefer to meet us there.

See the [information document](#) for details.

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](#).

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.

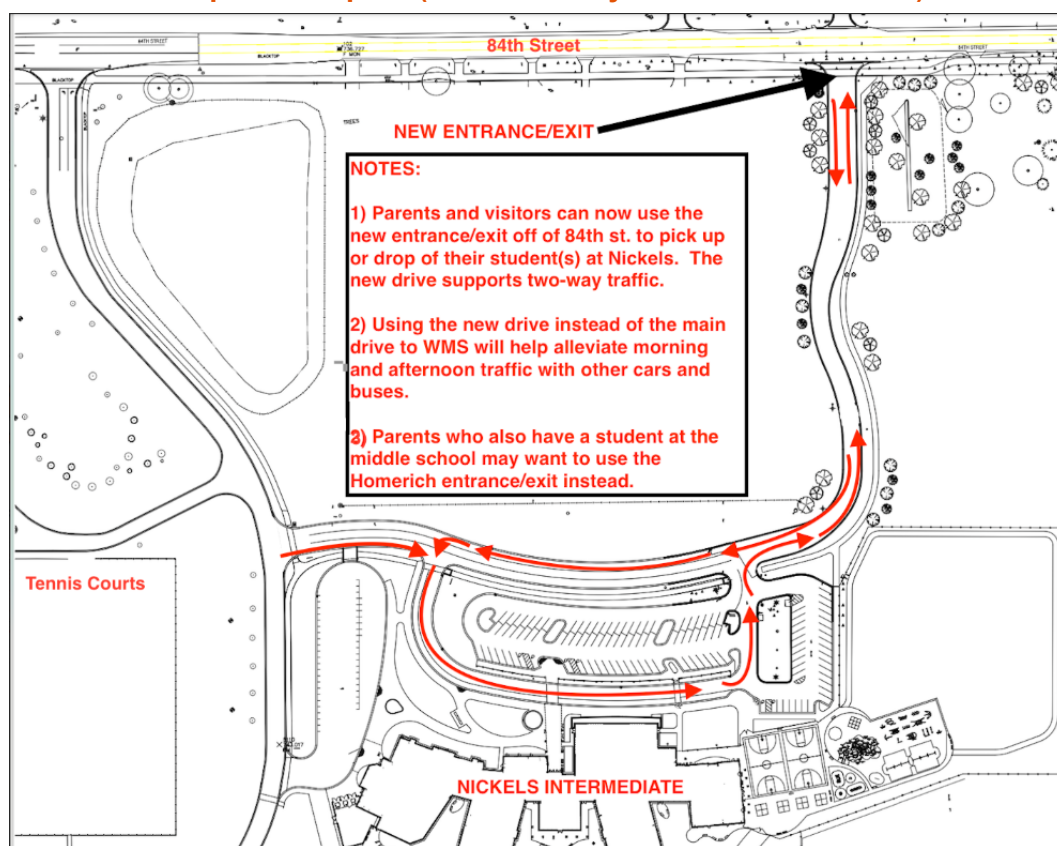
Prescription meds require BOTH a parent/guardian AND a physician signature. Over the counter (OTC) meds require a parent/guardian signature only. No student will be administered medication without the proper consent forms.

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

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](#)

