



# BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



**Robert L. Nickels Intermediate**

Nickels Intermediate School  
Friday Office Communication  
October 9, 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](mailto: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. 13th - NO Forte

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

Oct. 13th - Parent Teacher Conferences -  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Oct. 14th - NO Forte

Oct. 15th - Parent Teacher Conferences -  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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

Oct. 19th - Picture Retake Day

Oct. 19th - Key Card Sales Begin

Oct. 20th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 21st - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 22nd - Book Character Pumpkin  
Contest - Entries due today

Oct. 27th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 28th - NO Forte

Oct. 30th -  $\frac{1}{2}$  day of school - Dismissal  
11:05 am

Hello, Nickels Families!

We've got some exciting things happening at Nickels, and we wanted to share a few updates, reminders, and opportunities to get involved!

### **We're Almost Halfway to Our Fundraising Goal!**

Thanks to the generosity of our Nickels families and community, we've raised **\$7,085 toward our \$15,000 goal!**

We're making great progress, but we still have some ground to cover. We'd LOVE to reach our goal by **November 1** so we can confidently move forward with all the fun events, staff appreciation efforts, and student programming we have planned for this school year.

If your family hasn't had a chance to contribute yet, there's still time! Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. And if you've already donated, THANK YOU! Sharing our fundraiser with grandparents, friends, and family is another great way to help.

 [Support Our Nickels FIT Fundraiser](#)

### **Nickels Volleyball Night | Tuesday, October 13**

Don't forget to register for Nickels Volleyball Night! We're looking forward to a fun evening bringing our Nickels community together.

**Tickets are FREE**, but registration is required. There is also an option to make a donation, with all proceeds supporting our **LiNKS programming at Nickels**.

 [Register for Volleyball Night](#)

### **Help Us Feed Our Amazing Teachers!**

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up, and FIT is coordinating meals to help keep our wonderful Nickels staff fueled during those long days.

We're still looking for a few donations to help make these meals possible. If you're able to contribute, we'd really appreciate it!

 [Sign Up to Donate Conference Meal Items](#)

## ★ A Huge Thank You to Our Community Sponsors!

We are incredibly grateful to the local businesses that have stepped up to support Nickels FIT this school year. Their generosity helps us do more for our students, teachers, and school community!

### TOP DAWG SPONSOR

- Knapp Orthodontics

### PLATINUM SPONSORS

- Grandville Trailer
- Pro Auto Service
- Superior Pest Control

### GOLD SPONSOR

- Bouma Corporation

### SILVER SPONSORS

- Michigan Building & Mechanical
- Supreme Lending – The Mitten Group

Please consider supporting these businesses that so generously support our school!

## Thank You for Being Part of Nickels FIT!

Whether you're donating, volunteering, attending events, or simply helping spread the word, YOU are what makes our Nickels community so special.

We're looking forward to a fantastic school year together!

### The Nickels FIT Board

*Nickels Family Involvement Team*

### 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.

## **2026 BC Future Lady Dawgs**

3rd-6th Grade Clinics

Fall Basketball Skills Clinic

Dates: BC Lady Dawg Skill Clinics October 15, 22, 29, and November 5

Time: 3rd-6th graders from 6:00 - 7:30pm @ BCHS Main Gym & West Middle

Registration: \$50 Registration Fee

1. Register ONLINE at <https://byroncenterathletics.com/registrations> (click on "Registrations" and "Girls Basketball Camps")
2. The deadline to register is Monday Oct. 12th. All athletes will receive a jersey.
3. \$50 Registration Fee. Includes BC Jersey and 4 weeks of skill instruction.

Program: It is our goal to teach the components of teamwork and sportsmanship while building and developing the fundamental skills of basketball. This program is open to all girls in 3rd-6th grade. They will be treated to 4 weeks of fundamental breakdown drills and 3-on-3/4-on-4/5-on-5 competitions. We will work on footwork, dribbling, passing, and shooting all at a rate and speed appropriate for their personal development. It is our goal to start to develop the basic skills needed for basketball while also exposing them to the game (for those that have never played) and building a love and excitement for the sport!

Coaches and Instructors: The clinics will be run by the high school coaches along with some of the current high school players. During this experience your daughter(s) will have the opportunity to get to know several of the program players and coaches through personal instruction. We value the connections formed between the high school players and the younger players and look forward to building relationships with all the future Lady Dawgs!

If you have any questions regarding the clinics, feel free to email Coach Cam Burns at

[cburns@bcpsk12.net](mailto:cburns@bcpsk12.net).

## **MSU Side-by-Side Jazz Concert:**

Join us Thursday, October 8 for an evening featuring the BC Jazz Bands alongside MSU musicians.

Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 PM

Tickets: [vsfac.com/msu](https://vsfac.com/msu)

Promo Video: [LINK](#)

## Junie B. Jones Jr.:

Our Van Singel Youth Theatre students in grades 3-5 take the stage this weekend for *Junie B. Jones Jr.* The show follows Junie through a day of first-grade adventures, big emotions, and plenty of laughs.

Friday, October 9 at 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 10 at 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Tickets: [vsfac.com/jbj](https://vsfac.com/jbj)

Trailer: [LINK](#)

## Book Character Pumpkin Contest



Have you always wondered what your favorite book character would look like as a pumpkin? No?!?! Well, now's the time to let your imagination run wild. Decorate a pumpkin to look like your favorite book character and enter the contest. May the best gourd win!

Helpful hints:

- Use pumpkins or gourds as the main portion of your character then add details using other materials.
- Spray paint degrades pumpkins quickly so best to use other types of paint.
- Faux pumpkins and gourds from craft stores work well. Feel free to use real pumpkins, but do not carve them as they will rot fast.
- You must be able to carry the pumpkin yourself.
- I'll have cards to fill out with all the important info so please do not write your name on your pumpkin.

Timeline:

Submit your pumpkin by October 22.

Voting will take place October 26-29 in the media center.

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](#)"

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

Students planning to retake their photos on October 19th, should bring the picture packet they recently received with them for picture retakes. If your student has not yet had a photo taken this school year, picture forms can be picked up in the main office. For any questions, feel free to contact the office at 616-878-6400.

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

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

### **Halloween:**

Students are welcome to wear Halloween costumes to school Friday, October 30, which is a half day of school. Costumes should adhere to the school dress code, be nonviolent in nature, and should not have weapons as accessories. Please have your child arrive at school in their costume.

### **District Calendar 26/27:**

#### **[26/27 District Calendar](#)**

### **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.

### **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](#)**

### **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



Saturday, **November 14**, 9:00 - 3:00 Byron  
Center High School

**Admission: \$3**

100% of proceeds goes towards the students in the  
Fine Art programs at Byron Center Public Schools.

Free parking and shuttle at Heritage Elementary

Thank you for your support!

**SAVE THE DATE**

BYRON CENTER  
**BULLDOGS**  
ATHLETICS

**REVERSE  
RAFFLE**

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

RAFFLES  
CASH  
PRIZES  
SILENT AUCTION

SCAN FOR TICKETS

BYRON CENTER  
BULLDOGS

**WAIT A MINUTE...**  
**\$200 IS OUT OF MY BUDGET!**

Want in? Don't worry — we got you!

**OPTION 1: GO IN AS A GROUP**  
Split a \$200 High Roller ticket with a group of 4–8 people and share the **\$15,000** if you WIN!  
• Just **\$25–\$50** per person  
• Your ticket's odds of winning stay the same  
• Your share of the jackpot: **\$1,875–\$3,750!**

**OPTION 2: THE \$10 CHEAPSTAKES DRAWING**  
Buy a **\$10** raffle ticket for a chance at **20** prizes drawn leading up to the Reverse Raffle!

**PRIZE LINEUP**  
**12** prizes valued at \$50 each  
**4** prizes valued at \$100 each  
**4** High Roller tickets — each giving you a shot at \$15,000!

**WIN... AND YOU'RE STILL IN!**  
Even if your ticket is drawn, it goes **BACK** into the Cheapstakes Drawing. Your \$10 ticket could win up to **20** prizes!

**YOU SPOKE. WE LISTENED.**  
We heard you loud & clear last year! We want to make this **FUN & AFFORDABLE** for everyone while keeping the Reverse Raffle tradition alive & well.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**  
You do **NOT** have to be a high school parent or the parent of an athlete to buy a ticket or attend. Parents of all age groups are welcome!

### **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](#)

### **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](#)

### **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.

### **Nurses Corner:**

#### **[Medication Consent Form 26/27 Medication Policy](#)**

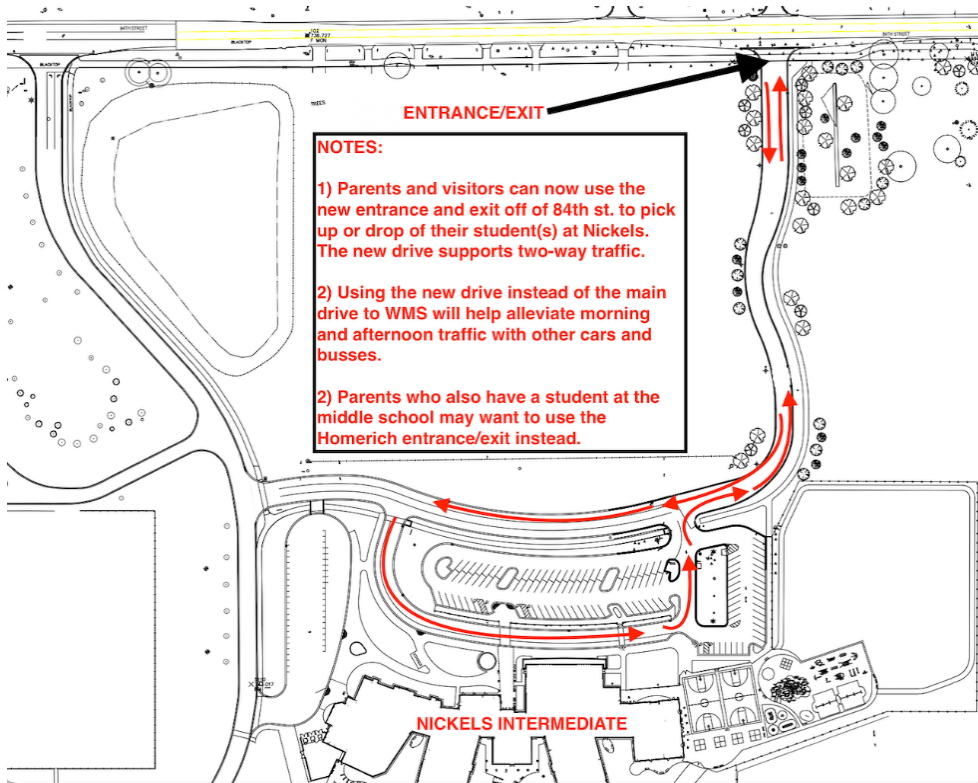
Reminders:

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

### 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](#)

### **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](http://h2hkids.org).

Fill out form [HERE](#).

### **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!

