



BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helping Students Build Success Stories



Robert L. Nickels Intermediate

Nickels Intermediate School
Friday Office Communication
September 25, 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

Sept:

Sept. 29th - Forte Begins - 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sept. 30th - Forte 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Oct:

Oct. 2nd - 5th Grade Vision Screening

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

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

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 - More details to come

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

LINKS is launching for Nickels!

You can use this form to sign up your student to be a **LINK**. LINKS is a peer-to-peer program focused on bringing students with and without disabilities together for shared activities where all students learn together. Our LINKS contribute to Nickels' inclusive environment, learn about individual differences and disabilities, and expand their relationships with peers. We recently talked to students about what LINKS might do -- say "hi" to friends in the hallway, walk with a friend to the bus, play with a friend at recess, or look for other ways to make sure everybody is included. If you have questions about your student being a LINK, you can reach out to the LINKS coordinators Cindy Feenstra cfeenstra@bcpsk12.net or Carrie VanDeRoer cvanderoer@bcpsk12.net.

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.

[Returning Students Registration 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:

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

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

5th Grade Vision Screening Oct. 2nd:

[Vision Screening Informational Letter](#)

Title 1 Informational Meeting:

The annual Title 1 meeting will take place on September 28, 2025 at 5:00pm. This meeting will go over the purpose of Title 1 programming and explain what this programming looks like at Nickels. [Zoom Link](#)

Interested in the Ski Club?

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

Forte Singers!

2026/2027



Forte! is a fun, engaging choir experience for 5th- and 6th-grade students who love to sing, perform, and want to learn more about their voices. Students who join this ensemble are expected to demonstrate a passion for singing, a commitment to excellence, and a desire to be part of a team.

Forte! is an after-school choir that meets on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in the Nickels Intermediate School Choir Room from 3:00-4:00 P.M. Our first rehearsal will be September 29. **Transportation is not included.** Please be at school at 4:00 to pick up your kids!

Each student fee is \$10.

If you have questions or would like to help with concerts (costume, decor, stage management), please email me at kryskamp@bcpsk12.net. To sign up for Forte, click on this [link](#)

District Calendar 26/27:

[26/27 District Calendar](#)

September kicks off the annual SAN Apple Pie Sale - Now - through Oct. 8th:



The poster features a cartoon bulldog logo with a pie on its head, surrounded by autumn leaves. The main title 'Apple Pie Sale' is in a large, cursive font. Below it, 'APPLE PIE Fundraiser' is in a banner, and 'BCSAN2027 fundraiser' is in a bold, sans-serif font. The phrase 'Delicious homemade apple pies' is written in a script font. A price list is shown on a parchment-like background: '1 for \$15', '2 for \$28', '3 for \$40', and '4 or more for \$12 ea'. A photo of a lattice-top apple pie is on the right. Text at the bottom explains the purpose: 'Please help the 2027 Byron Center senior all night committee raise money to provide a safe and fun celebration for our seniors.' It also states, 'You can buy apple pies for yourself, family, friends, or donate one to Buist food pantry.' and 'All pies are handmade with Michigan apples, fresh and ready to bake the day of pick up or freeze and bake for later.' A QR code and a URL are provided for purchasing.

Apple Pie Sale

APPLE PIE Fundraiser

BCSAN2027 fundraiser

Delicious homemade apple pies

1 for \$15
2 for \$28
3 for \$40
4 or more for \$12 ea

Please help the 2027 Byron Center senior all night committee raise money to provide a safe and fun celebration for our seniors.

You can buy apple pies for yourself, family, friends, or donate one to Buist food pantry.

All pies are handmade with Michigan apples, fresh and ready to bake the day of pick up or freeze and bake for later.

Scan here TO PURCHASE

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/san2027-apple-pie-fundraiser>

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: [September 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.

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!

26/27 6th Grade Sports Information:

<http://bcwestmsathletics.com/>

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

Counselor's Corner:

Counselor Introduction:

It has been an exciting couple of days welcoming all the students back for another school year! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to our new families in the building. I am Shelley Pero, the School Counselor here at Nickels! I will be visiting 5th grade classrooms in the coming weeks to introduce myself and explain the process of how they can connect with me and what opportunities we have to offer. Student referrals come to me through teachers, parents, and student self-referrals. If you have any questions about what I can do to support your student or if you would like for me to schedule a check-in now or in the future, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to continuing to work with familiar faces from last year as well as continuing to meet many more new ones! 🌻

Counseling Groups:

It is almost time to start counseling groups here at Nickels! Counseling groups (often called lunch or small groups) are offered once a week during lunch and recess and meet for 8-10 sessions. If your student is interested in any of the topics offered (see list and sign-up [HERE](#)), please be sure to fill out the digital form or contact the school for a hard copy. Topics will be offered based on demand, and if the topic your student is interested in isn't offered in the fall, there is still a good chance it will be offered later in the year! If you would like more information about any of these small groups or have any questions please feel free to contact me at 878-6418 or spero@bcpsk12.net. 🙌 **Thank You!** *Shelley Pero School Counselor*

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.

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

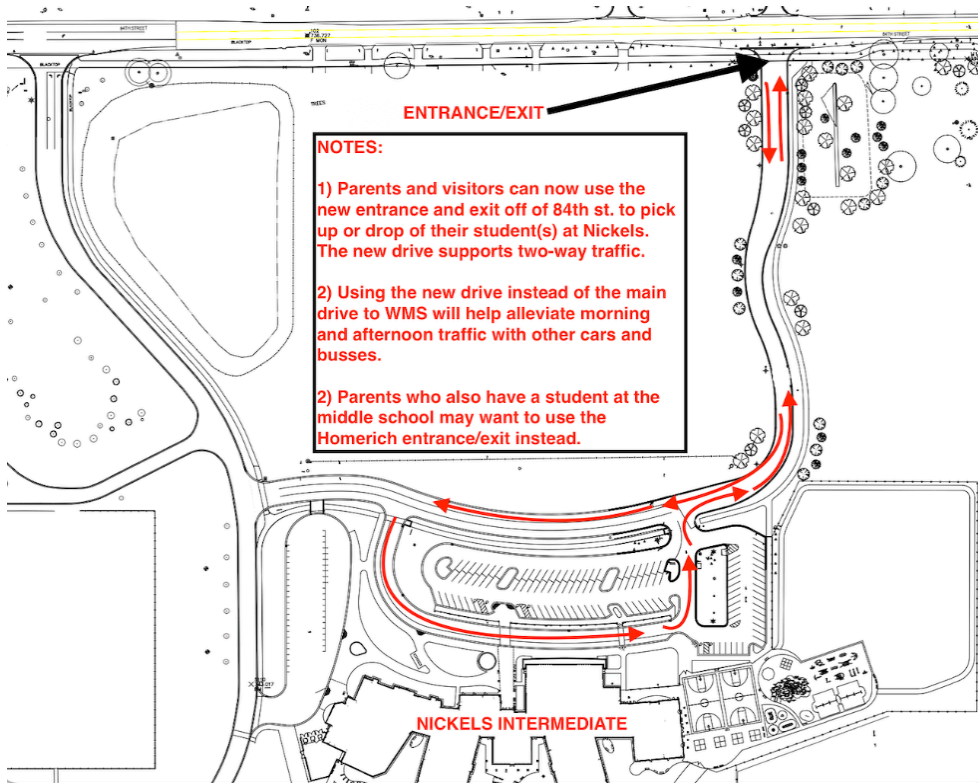
Directions on how to log in to Schoology and PowerSchool can be found in the folder you picked up at the open house. Along with this, below are links that may be helpful.

[Parent Registration on Computer](#)

[Parent Registration on Phone](#)

[Student Login at Home](#)

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](#)

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

