

Perspective

Excellent. Rooted. Prepared. SUMMER 2021



BYRON CENTER
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

God's Got This! That was our school theme for this past year and something we trust our 8th grade graduates know as they leave BCCS. Over the last 18 months, this group of students have experienced a global pandemic that impacted the entire world, but also changed their learning and their lives. Proverbs 3: 5-6 was the verse they chose for the year and served as an important reminder to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding during a time of great uncertainty. In a year like no student has experienced before, our students continued to lean on the Lord to guide their paths.

*"Trust in
the LORD with
all your heart and
lean not on your own
understanding; in all
your ways submit to
him, and he will
make your paths
straight."*

On the evening of June 3, we celebrated this group of students and the work God is doing in their lives. Parents, grandparents, and friends enjoyed an outdoor graduation with student performances, student speakers and teachers sharing about each individual graduate. We are so grateful for the time each student has had at BCCS.

We praise God for a successful school year. We pray that our students will continue to find their place in God's story and use their gifts to serve Him!



YEARS OF SERVICE:

5 YEARS:

Abby Helder
Katie Klomp
Jason Netz
Melissa Postma

10 YEARS

Michelle Helder
Michele Vieu

20 YEARS

Joe Faber
Lisa Kooyer
Julie Musch

30 YEARS

Colleen Campbell

35 YEARS

Kathy Fleet
Mindy Grimm

FAREWELL:

Sheryl Fredricks
Katie Klomp
Gary Wybenga

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UNIQUE ABILITIES

Every classroom teacher at BCCS formulates a deep hope for their students, designed to convey what they most desire for their students.

A few examples include: "My deep hope is that each child would know God's lavish love for them in Jesus, and would spread that love to others using the unique gifts God has given them." Another reads, "My deep hope for my students is that they would marvel at our Creator, serve Him joyfully, and use their God given gifts to be shining lights in this world." Yet another teacher shares, "My deep hope for my students is that they will begin to understand God's deep love for them and be inspired to learn about God's world and their place in His story."

In a 2nd grade classroom, one hope reads, "Our deep hope is that our students discover their role in God's wonderful rescue story and use their unique abilities to be joyful workers in His world."

A key element of that hope mentions unique abilities, which refers to talents and skills God has given each of us. In order for students to gain an understanding of their own abilities, teachers designed a project where they created a visual showing segments of the brain. Students filled in the sections with their unique abilities. It helped show students that while we are all part of one community, God has created us all in a unique way in order to grow His kingdom.



After the projects, teachers challenged students. "Now that you've identified your unique abilities, how do you use them to impact our world for God?" If God has given us these gifts, He has also asked us to use them. Kids brainstormed a wide range of ideas. Some students were writers, so they wrote Get Well cards for a neighbor. Other students were good friends, so they watched for others on the playground that may be lonely. Still others used their math minds to explain difficult concepts to struggling learners.

Every child at BCCS is unique, and they all have many abilities. Our job is to help them discover those gifts and also provide opportunities to use them!



ENGAGED LEARNING

How cool is it when you receive a letter from a United States senator or Michigan state representative?

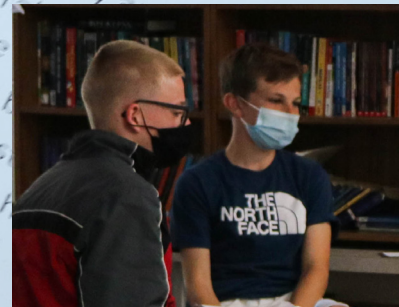
Mr. DeBlecourt's 7th grade social studies classes studied the history of our government, its branches, and the Constitution. The work included a variety of learning activities, including simulations where students themselves play the roles of various government officials. As a Christian school, along with historical knowledge, we also want students to seek the truth in all situations and show God's love. In order to take their understanding deeper and challenge his learners, Mr. DeBlecourt had them write letters of encouragement to various school, community, state, and national leaders.

The goal of the project was for students to engage in the current political environment in a positive and encouraging way. However, with so many struggles in our world, students were also challenged to ask our leaders to provide truth to their constituents in order to be effective in their respective roles.

Along with local and school contacts, letters were written to officials from multiple political parties and across various levels of government. The class was excited to receive responses from Senator Debbie Stabenow, Kent County Prosecutor Chris Becker, Township Trustee Scott Tubergen, and Representative Tommy Brann, as it showed their work had an impact.

Learning about the history and government of our country is important, but more importantly, we want our students to use what they learn to be active citizens who seek truth, respect others, and are always willing to serve as Christ did.

We look forward to hearing from other area leaders!



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82 Ionia Ave N.W.
Suite 450
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Telephone: (616) 632-6710
Fax: (616) 632-6714

May 20, 2021

Sylvie
7th Grade Student
Byron Center Christian School
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Byron Center, MI 49315
Dear Sylvie:

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The Byron Center Christian School Foundation is grateful for the dedicated, determined, invested parents, grandparents, and many others who throughout decades are faithful to invest in Byron Center Christian School and its mission to provide an excellent education, rooted in God's Word, preparing them for lifelong service in God's Kingdom.

The BCCS Foundation builds a permanent endowment to provide quality, Christ-centered education in the greater Byron Center area for future generations, while sharing an annual gift to help with current expenses. Now totaling more than \$2.5 million, the Foundation grows through both ongoing and estate gifts. Every school year the BCCS Foundation contributes funds to help with Byron Center Christian School's operating expenses, which amounts to a cost savings of at least \$150 per student.

Please consider investing in the BCCS Foundation through giving a gift at this time or designating the Foundation in your will or estate. Gifts may be sent to the BCCS Foundation at 8840 Byron Center Avenue SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.

Future generations and the greater Byron Center Community will be blessed as a result of your generosity!




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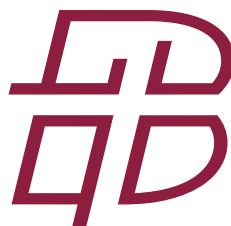
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God's Kingdom.



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