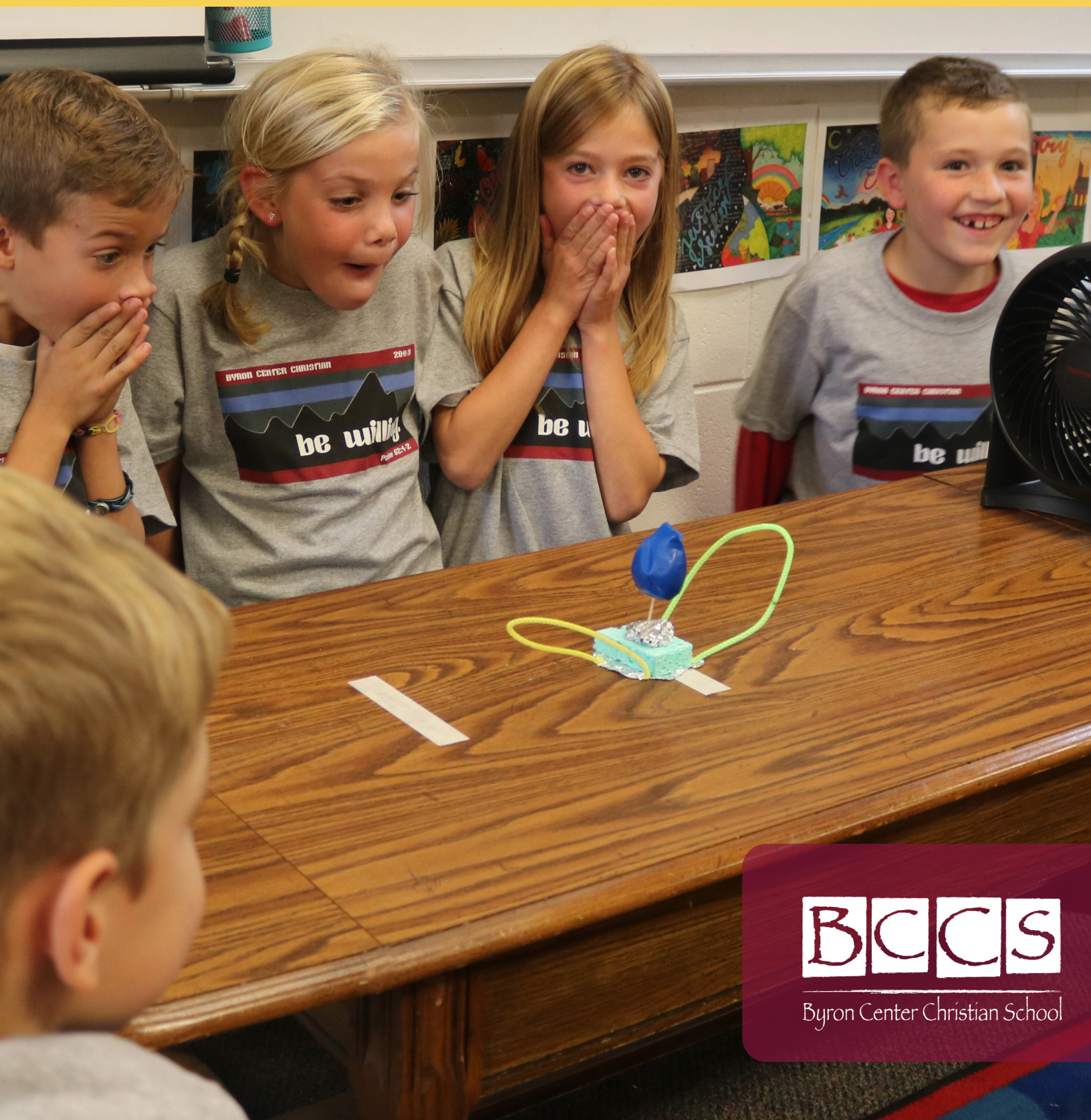


Perspective

Excellent. Rooted. Prepared. Fall 2019



BCCS

Byron Center Christian School

FROM THE

Principal's Desk

The students and staff of BCCS have had a great start to the 19-20 school year! The beginning of the school year has brought new students, teachers, and staff. Students returned to school a little taller, a little more mature, and with renewed energy and enthusiasm to experience new opportunities, classmates and teachers.

In my short time here, I have experienced the school theme of **Be Willing** lived out daily. Students have been willing to learn, serve, and love. Teachers have been willing to stretch themselves, grow, and show grace to the new principal as he learns about BCCS. It has been a blessing to see and be a part of a community willing to invest in Christian education and the role it plays in Kingdom building.



James with his wife Wendy and three boys.



Christian education is my calling and passion as a parent, educator and administrator. An education that is centered on Christ has the power to transform hearts and lives in students, families, communities and God's world. I have seen this happen in my experience as a student in the Kalamazoo Christian Schools, throughout my time at Calvin College, as a middle school teacher at West Side Christian and as a principal at Grand Haven Christian.



Byron Center Christian Teachers and Staff

I have already observed that BCCS is a blessing in helping students learn the plans God has for them and I am excited to partner with the families and staff in this task. I look forward to developing lasting relationships in the community and working to discern how to advance and strengthen Christian education here. I am excited to see the great things that happen daily at BCCS and the community's willingness to provide an excellent education, rooted in God's Word, preparing students for lifelong service in God's Kingdom.

Blessings,

James Onderlinde



Early Education AT BCCS

Preschool and kindergarten are such an important time in a child's life. At Byron Center Christian School, we offer a range of classes that include 3-year-old preschool, 4-year-old preschool, junior kindergarten, part-time kindergarten and full-time kindergarten. Some of the highlights of those programs include:

- BCCS is accredited by Christian Schools International and the preschool program has a 4 star rating from Great Start to Quality.
- BCCS preschool and kindergarten teaching staff have an average of 14 years experience and each are certified by the state of Michigan.
- All staff receives safety training and each preschool teacher is both CPR and first-aid certified.
- The curriculum is inquiry based so students learn by doing.
- Early education programming and instruction is designed to fit the needs of each individual child.
- BCCS programs utilize all types of learning environments, including various classroom settings, an active playroom, an imaginative playroom and two play-grounds.



However, more important than qualifications or ratings, is the view our teachers have of education. They want their students to grow academically, but also socially, emotionally, and especially spiritually. The whole child is always the focus when thinking about student success. Our teachers love God and work each day to show that love to each child in their class. They share their faith daily so that students might also grow in their own faith. In preschool and kindergarten, we work so that each student receives an excellent education that always includes their social, emotional and spiritual growth!

CLASSES

PRESCHOOL-3
PRESCHOOL-4
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN
PART-TIME KINDERGARTEN
FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN



ORCHESTRA PROGRAM INTRODUCED

This year, for the first time, BCCS is offering orchestra as an option in our music program. We currently have 21 brave 5th and 6th graders in our orchestra which includes 12 violins, 2 violas, 6 cellos and 1 bass. Director Ashley Kooistra stated that “It’s a blessing for BCCS to finally have an orchestra alongside band and choir.” The goals of the BCCS orchestra program are to ensure students grow as musicians and as children of God, and build community by sharing the joy of music with others.

Our orchestra will be performing in the 5th and 6th Grade Christmas Concert and for Grandparents’/Special Friends’ Day. They will also have the opportunity to perform side-by-side with the South Christian High School orchestra, an experience we hope will build community

between schools and allow students to witness what they will be capable of in a few short years.

Miss Kooistra also commented, “It touches my heart how excited and enthusiastic these kids are about orchestra, and I’m excited I get to share my love of orchestra with them. It’s evident that these students are going to set a strong foundation for the BCCS orchestra program. Some are already teaching their younger siblings how to play their instruments! I can’t wait to see what God has in store for our orchestra program, and how He will use it for His glory.”

We eagerly anticipate seeing how this new program will grow and impact our students and our school.

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EVERYTHING
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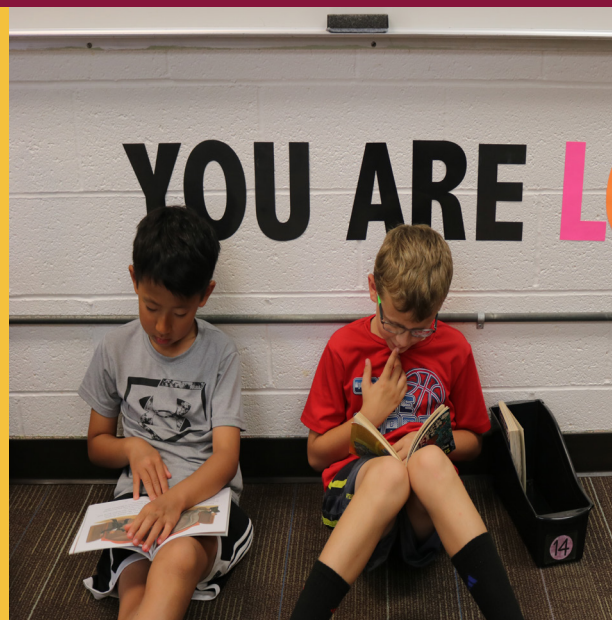
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BCCS

Learning UPDATES



Watching the lesson, it was awesome to see the students so focused in their group work and excited for one another's success in the testing stage.

SCIENCE UPDATES

BCCS uses Cereal City Science for its science instruction across all grade levels. This year, staff is introducing Next Generation updated curriculum. The goal is to incorporate even more hands-on learning and critical thinking in the subject area, especially in our elementary grade levels. Students are also able to use more engineering and math skills because the updates better incorporate those components in the lessons. For example, in the second grade Physical Science unit on Structures and Properties of Matter, students were given materials to build a “prototype” to accomplish a particular task. After direction from the teacher, students broke into work groups, created designs, and built their “prototypes.” To conclude their work, they presented their ideas, tested their products in front of the class and collaborated on what worked (or did not work) and why.

As the school year continues, we look forward to the continued improvements in our science-specific learning!

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING

Middle school social studies classes provide opportunities to learn about the past. However, Mr. DeBlecourt (7th and 8th grade) takes his instruction deeper by allowing our students to “step into” their learning. He accomplishes this through the use of simulations. For instance, when learning about the history of the colonies, students created a narrative about why they wanted to leave England, received a charter, and then worked with a group of classmates to create a town of their own (while overcoming some unforeseen challenges on the way). Later this year, they will be running the United States government in the 1800s.



We are excited about the new ways our teachers are bringing students learning to life!

FOR THE LORD GIVES
wisdom;
FROM HIS MOUTH COME
knowledge
AND UNDERSTANDING.

PROVERBS 2:6

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AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION, ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD,
preparing them FOR LIFELONG SERVICE in God's Kingdom.

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