

Perspective

Excellent. Rooted. Prepared. FALL 2020



BYRON CENTER
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

BCCS IN 2020

This school year has been a year like we have never had before. To share with our community about what this fall has been like at Byron Center Christian School, we asked some fourth, fifth and sixth grade BCCS students about school.

To start, Liam proclaimed his excitement because of “being in school rather than being online like last spring.” Kenlee echoed that thought, stating “the best part of school is everybody . . . all my friends and teachers.”

Carlee said she loves fourth grade because “my teacher is funny and even has a pet giraffe named Geoffry for our classroom.” Nolan explained that in their class, students can “share what is going on in our lives. We also get to listen to music at lunch!” In our elementary classrooms, students have started to form classroom communities and build relationships with one another and with their teachers.

Fifth grade students talked about the excitement that comes with switching teachers. Joe explains that “it really switches things up during the day. I also like doing band and orchestra now!” Masynn shared that her teacher “tells not funny, but funny jokes that are cheesy. He even has his own book.”

There have been changes for students due to COVID-19. Carlee shared that “specials now come to our classrooms” and Nolan noted “sometimes we have to wait in line now.” Joe shared “that we have to use a water bottle and not the drinking fountain” and Masynn explained that in art “students bring their own supplies.” When asked about masks, Lily shared “I do not care for them, but at least we are in school!” Joe declared “that even if we have to wear them sometimes, school is still fun!” One difference he noticed was “we do more class outside.” Kenlee also talked about how she loves “going outside for more learning of lessons and for PE.” This year, routines are different for students, but their school experience continues to be excellent!

Finally, one student shared that “one of my classmates was not here and we always pray for them.” Masynn told about how her class is “getting better and we are learning to encourage each other and in the mornings we help each other.” Just as important as their academics is that students can learn how to support one another this year.

COVID-19 will continue to change things as our school year continues, but it will not stop us from providing an excellent Christian education for our students that is rooted in God’s Word and prepares them for service to others!



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."



The school theme for the 2020-2021 year is God's Got This and our school verse from Proverbs 3:5-6 reads "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."

This theme was chosen due to its applicability both today and for the future. Here and now, our school and students face the challenges of COVID-19, the turmoil surrounding an election, and a country working through racial division. Students are also looking to the future, to the next grade level, to high school, and they're starting to explore their career/calling.

An essential part of our mission is to ensure our students are rooted in God's Word and prepared for lifelong service. This means we want our students to wrestle with the problems our community faces, but also rely on Christ and His guidance at all times. We want our students to be active members of

their communities and find solutions to unrest, political division, and racial brokenness, but to do so with their faith as the foundation of their actions and while pointing others to Christ with their actions.

This is accomplished both in the daily interactions and relationships teachers build with students and by providing them real world learning opportunities. Teaching becomes impactful only if they are able to take what they learn and address problems in their own lives and the lives of others. On our own, we make mistakes and fall short, but thankfully our theme reminds us that God's Got This.

Our challenge to our students this year is to remember that God's Got This. God has a plan for each individual student here. He has a plan for their family. He knows the best path for our school. In an ever-changing, uncertain, divided world, we can both rest and act on the knowledge that God's Got This.





Never Give Up

Each year, the graduating class leaves our school with a parting gift. In 2019, the eighth grade class gifted funds for a mural in our sensory room. The gift was in honor of their classmate, Sydney Potjer, who passed away during their kindergarten year.

Sydney was an energetic student, determined to live fully in spite of the effects Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) had on her body. She had many friends in the classroom at BCCS and was an inspiration to those around her. The way Sydney lived her life was a reminder that God has created each of us uniquely and that we should (as Sydney often reminded us) “never, ever, ever give up” in striving to be all that God has created us to be.

All teachers at BCCS team with our educational support services department and work to ensure each individual student has equal opportunity to succeed in the classroom in our Christ-centered environment. This includes academics, but also must include helping our children grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually. We want to help our students learn to never give up and to never stop becoming the person God created them to be!

Sydney's life is honored by the BCCS Never Give Up Fund, which provides equipment, technology, and other supplies that are needed to enrich the lives of all BCCS students by enabling children with all types of abilities to participate in the classroom. To support the Never Give Up Fund, please mail your gift marked “Never Give Up Fund” to BCCS, 8840 Byron Center Avenue, Byron Center, MI 49315.



PICTURED (LEFT): THE POTJER FAMILY

“NEVER, EVER, EVER GIVE UP” - SYDNEY POTJER



Excellent EARLY EDUCATION

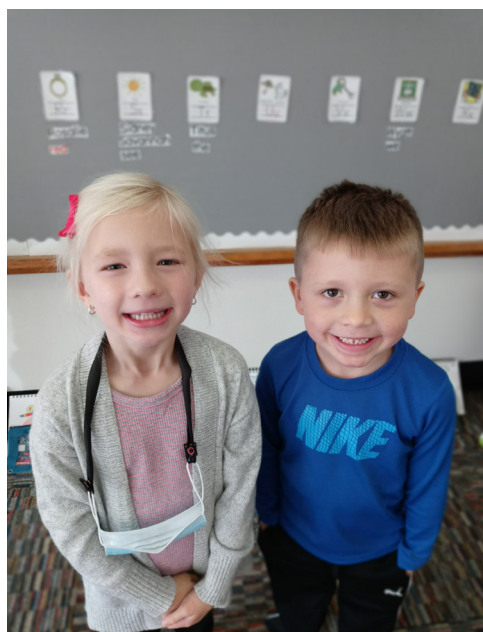
We have seen exciting growth in our preschool program in the last two years. This is due to our excellent, highly qualified staff who invest in the individual success of students. Especially in early education, each child develops differently than their peers and at their own pace. As we look ahead to kindergarten, teachers focus on the unique path each preschool student is on. Academics are a component of that path, but whole child development is also fostered through large and small group learning, inquiry-based lessons, small and large group activities, praise and worship, devotions, and prayer.

Our full-day preschool program has created a solution both for working parents and for students who need more time in school. Students have thrived in a learning environment full of play, hands-on activities, social interaction and more.

Kindergarten is now the largest grade level in the school with schedule options to fit each type of learner. Whether a child needs the gift of time to spend a year in junior kindergarten, whether they only need to be in school part of the time, if they need to progressively add days to their week, or if they require being in school full time, we have the program!

In kindergarten, core content is provided on days when all students are in our classrooms and reinforcement and enrichment is given on days when students in progressive or part-time kindergarten are not present. This schedule creates flexibility for parents, consistency for teachers and, most importantly, strong classroom communities for students.

We are excited about the continued growth and success of our early education programs. Contact us today at 878-3347 or reidsma@bccs.org to learn more!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BCCS!

BLACK MONUMENT
 Cemetery Memorials • Signs • Plaques

2223 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
 Grand Rapids MI 49507
 (616) 452-7802
 www.BLACKMONUMENT.COM

KLUNDER
 HILMAN BEATRICE

Family Owned and Operated

Boulder Plumbing

Rob Raak
 Owner/Master Plumber
 licensed and insured

1950 72nd St. SW
 Byron Center, MI 49315

Phone 616.437.1856
 robraak@yahoo.com

BOUMA BROTHERS EXCAVATING, INC

Buiter Tool & Die, Inc.

Call us at 616.455.7410

CasterDepot

CHICAGO
 DETROIT
 GRAND RAPIDS
 INDIANAPOLIS
 JACKSONVILLE
 RICHMOND

888.722.7837
 casterdepot.com

YOUR TRUSTED COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Steve Marcusse SIOR, CCIM
 Principal | Industrial

WEST MICHIGAN

Colliers International

DIRECT 616 988 5850
 MOBILE 616 450 1669
 steve.marcusse@colliers.com

333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 1200 | Grand Rapids, MI 49504 | www.colliers.com/westmichigan

DAN VOS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Building for Life.

Michigan Contractor of the Year
 2010 | 2013/2014 | 2015/2016 | 2017/2018

616.676.9169 | 6160 E. Fulton | Ada, MI | DANVOSCONSTRUCTION.COM

DCi

Construction Management
 General Contracting
 Design Build

DYKHOUSE CONSTRUCTION INC

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Justin Gritter, CFP®
 Financial Advisor
 616-656-3242

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Sheri Postema

Retirement: Ready or Not. Ready is Better.
 Schedule your complimentary review today.

2577 84th Street, Byron Center, MI 49315
 616.878.3755 sheripostema@edwardjones.com

ENVIRONMENTAL DOOR INC

exxel engineering, inc.
 planners • engineers • surveyors

Donald De Groot, P.E.
 Engineering Department Manager

5252 Clyde Park Ave., S.W.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49509-9788
 (616) 531-3660
 Fax (616) 531-2121
 www.exxelengineering.com

PROUDLY SERVING WEST MICHIGAN SINCE 1955

Godwin
 GODWIN'S GOT IT

616.243.3131
 GODWINPLUMBING.COM

PLUMBING | HARDWARE | WATER TREATMENT | HEATING & COOLING | DESIGN CENTER

616.299.7469

HAVERDINK ROOFING, LLC

Hilltop auto service

Ken Elzinga
 Owner / Lead Technician

hilltopautoservice.net
 email: ken@hilltopauto.net
 phone: (616) 583-1274
 fax: (616) 878-1271

Quality Car & Light Truck Repair

PARTS 4 PLUS ASE

Judd's BODY SHOP, INC.

Complete Repair & Refinishing Center
 "Bring It to Judd's"

KESSEL & BOUWENS ORTHODONTICS

You can have the smile you've always dreamed of.

www.KBortho.com

Grandville • Hudsonville • Allendale • Zeeland

The McDonald Plumbing Difference
 "The way Plumbing should be."

McDonald PLUMBING

Scott McDonald

7791 Eastern Avenue S.E. • Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 Office: (616) 698-6771 • Fax: (616) 698-0234
 scott@McDonaldPlumbing.com • www.McDonaldPlumbing.com

Welcome NEW Staff



Lily Splawn
4th Grade



Nora DeMots
Paraprofessional



Chelsea Mulder
Paraprofessional



Heather Moes
Secretary



Laurie Guikema
Physical Education



Stephanie Woudwyk
Kindergarten Aide



Susan Cnossen
Preschool Aide



Katie Miedema
Preschool Aide



Katelyn Peterson
Afterschool Care



Emily Steenwyk
Kindergarten Aide



BCCS FOUNDATION

If you would like to partner with BCCS to help ensure future generations of BCCS students receive an excellent Christian education, please consider a donation to our Foundation. Call the office at 878-3347 for giving instructions. Thank you in advance for partnering with us to impact the world for Christ!



NON-PROFIT
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Byron Center MI
Permit No. 6

BYRON CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
8840 BYRON CENTER AVENUE, SW
BYRON CENTER, MI 49315

BOX HOLDER
BYRON CENTER, MI 49315

The mission of Byron Center Christian School is to provide for children of the Christian community AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION, ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD, preparing them FOR LIFELONG SERVICE in God's Kingdom.



BYRON CENTER
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL