

Perspective

Excellent. Rooted. Prepared. SPRING 2021



BYRON CENTER
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Every morning the BCCS middle school hall is filled with music as students participate in devotions and worship to begin their day. This is really no different than any other year in the way the school day starts—in God's Word, in worship and in prayer. Every Thursday morning our elementary classrooms and hallways are filled with praise as music flows through the corridors for worship time together. Exalting our God and finding His handiwork in all that we learn and teach has never stopped.

Although our 103rd and 104th year of service to the Byron Center community have been filled with the unexpected, we continue to see God's faithfulness. We have been able to fulfill our mission of providing academic excellence, rooted in God's Word, all to prepare our children for lifelong service.

When school, church, work, and so many other things were taken away (in the traditional sense) at the outset of the pandemic, we had the opportunity to simply stop and look to God. All the programs and plans we worked to put in place were no longer available. It was certainly a time, if you chose to do so, to put your trust in God to a greater degree. It was a time where the best intentions and goals we may have had were put on hold. It was a time where many found hope and trust where it always should be found . . . in Him.

However, the loss of life, the hospitalizations, and the many consequences of battling this virus have been tragic. In our country, we have seen extreme divisiveness and brokenness. People have dug their heels in on many fronts and have begun looking to their own interests. Unreliable information is everywhere and truth has never been considered more relative in society. Both news and social media pander to their audience and far too many of us see things the way we want to see them.

Hence the need for our Christian school and mission. We know where truth is found, and we point our children to it daily. This year we have been blessed to see our students grow in discernment, seek truth and justice, build community, and serve humbly to build His Kingdom. We are grateful for that responsibility and opportunity.

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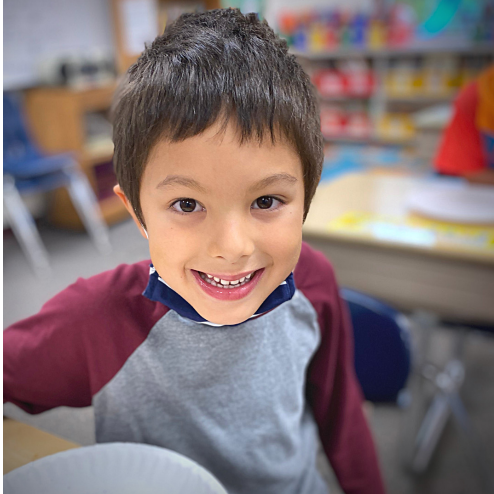
NEW JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

One year after a successful launch of our full-day preschool program, we are excited to announce a full-day junior kindergarten program at Byron Center Christian School (BCCS), which is in addition to our current half-day class offering!

Junior kindergarten is a unique class designed for students not yet ready (or of age) for kindergarten. The class focuses on whole child development, with specific emphasis on fostering confidence and independence in young learners. Daily routines will blend aspects of preschool learning (play-based activities, centers, and hands-on learning) and kindergarten learning (specific writing skill development, math concepts, and co-curricular activities). Teachers will use a variety of instructional strategies in order to ensure all types of learners can be successful. The full-day class will also include lunch, rest time, specials classes, and lots of time outdoors. Outside the classroom, students will utilize active-play opportunities, our full gymnasium, our early education library, and the computer lab.

As in every grade at BCCS, faith will form the foundation of all instruction as teachers help students discover the unique gifts God has given them, and provide learning experiences that ensure lasting impact and opportunities for serving.

If you are interested in learning more about this new program (or any of the offerings here at BCCS), we are still offering personal campus tours. Visit www.bccs.org/junior-kindergarten or call us today at 878-3347 before classes are full!





FORMATIONAL LEARNING

One of the primary units in 4th-grade social studies is economics, which introduces 4th-grade learners to aspects of business, government, finances, and more. The academic learning in this unit covers areas such as supply and demand, interest, personal budgeting, and other economic concepts.

At Byron Center Christian School (BCCS), we understand how critical this unit is for our students. In order to ensure they actually grasp the concepts being taught, our 4th-grade teaching team has implemented a year-long simulation. Rather than only using traditional instruction, notes, and a series of quizzes, students are provided the opportunity to start their own business. Teachers open a marketplace and students get to buy and sell goods from their classmates. Other aspects of the project include working on budgets, classroom jobs, renting vs. buying, earning interest on income, experiencing the effects of taxes on their income, and much more. Miss Splawn shares, “Market day is one of the best days! The kids are so invested in it. They

have to make careful decisions about what to sell, how to price their products to meet demand, and what to spend their hard-earned money on!”



More important than learning the concepts of supply and demand or the way interest accumulates is that students gain a Biblical understanding of money. Miss Oetman shared, “One of the aspects we focus on is tithing. We discuss how all our blessings come from God, and on Fridays we celebrate what God has given us by giving 10% back to Him. It has been so humbling to see students take this to heart and even give more than 10%.”

This project is a great example of the excellent education at BCCS and how we help students be prepared for real-life application of the concepts they have been taught. In this case, we want our students to know economics and money management, and to be able to use those things in a Godly way, because all that we have belongs to the Lord. Our hope and prayer is that these types of formative experiences allow for lasting learning and lead to God-honoring decisions from our students for years to come.

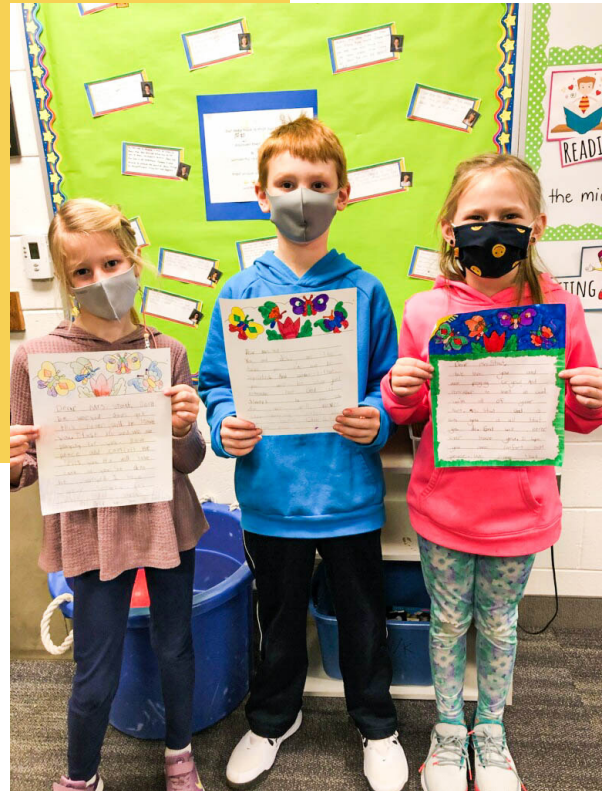
FOLLOWING GOD'S LEADING

One morning this past December, our second graders went caroling at our early education campus as part of music class. On their return to school, they decided to stop and sing at a neighbor's house that a teacher knew from church. Unknown to students or staff, she had just received a difficult medical diagnosis that morning and was touched by the presence and singing of the second graders.

After later learning of the diagnosis, teachers and students discussed what they could do to be community builders and support this school neighbor. Students decided letters of encouragement would be helpful and they wanted to start working immediately. They grabbed supplies, looked up Bible verses they thought would be encouraging, and dove in, taking ownership of the work! After their first trip, the students also learned that this neighbor's favorite song is "Trust and Obey." They are currently learning this hymn in music and plan to return and bless this neighbor once again.

The best part of this experience is that the original plan was to carol at the early education campus. The music curriculum calls for second-grade students to learn singing, and the teachers thought caroling would be a great experience for students because it provides a real audience for the gift of music. Thankfully, God had a far bigger plan as the singing and letters that followed very much impacted this neighbor. What started as a simple music lesson turned into true formational learning. What we thought was a random stop on the way back to school, God used to bless one of His children that needed to feel His presence.

Our hope and prayer is that our students learn and grow, but more importantly, are open to how God leads and will let God use them for furthering His kingdom!



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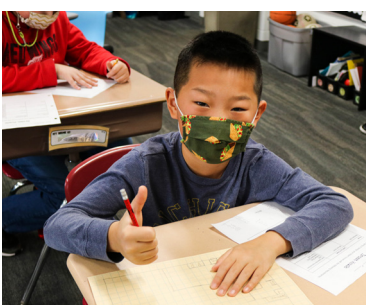
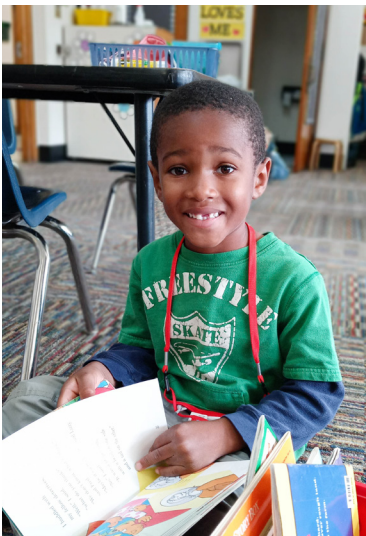
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BCCS FOUNDATION

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!



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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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Preschool and Kindergarten
Registration: Now Open!

Spring Break: April 2-9

Annual BCCS Auction: April 16-23



NOW OPEN!

**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN AND
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

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