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Byron Area Schools

October 22, 2019

Dear Families:

I wish each and every one of you a very happy fall season as we complete the first quarter of the 2019-20 academic year. As we transition to the month of November, I am reminded of all the blessings and opportunities we have in our homes, community, and work environment. At Byron Area Schools, I am thankful for all of our dedicated and professional staff members who provide and create a positive learning experience for your children. And I am truly thankful for working with you who allow us this opportunity to make a difference with your most treasured gifts...your children!

Just a few updates and reminders for all of our Byron families:

1. October is Michigan College Month in which the purpose is to promote a college readiness environment in our schools. Please keep in mind, "college" refers to continuing learning beyond Byron High School. Today, high school graduates have many opportunities, including traditional 4-year universities, community colleges, on-line learning programs, certification programs, and Early College. Our staff and students participated in many activities during Big Future Week (October 7-11).

Ask your child about the following:

- EDP (Educational Development Plan)
 - PSAT Assessment
 - High School Credit and Grade Point Average
 - SAT Scores
 - FAFSA (Financial Aid) Process
 - Requesting Transcripts
 - College Visits
 - Application Process for Early College
 - Applying for College and Training Programs
 - Scholarships
2. You should be hearing all about our Positivity Project! Last year, a few of our staff members, led by Olivia Lake, attended an introductory training. Returning, these staff members were excited to work with our entire staff to begin the implementation of this K-12th grade initiative. The Positivity Project equips building staff with the resources, training, and strategies to teach positive psychology's 24 character strengths and empower their students to build positive relationships. You may ask why relationships? From research, we know that positive relationships are the cornerstone of health, happiness, and resilience...and (according to experts) many jobs of the future. Through the Positivity Project, we will use strategies to inspire positive relationships -- student-to-student & student-to-teacher and to cultivate a school-wide mindset that other people matter. These strategies will be incorporated into our lessons (content area departments are collaborating) and will only add to our current Restorative Practices and MTSS strategies. Do these characteristics sound familiar?
 - September 9-13: Kick off Week (#otherpeoplematter)
 - September 16-20: **Curiosity** (Science Teachers)
 - September 23-27: **Teamwork** (Homecoming)
 - September 30-October 4: **Open-mindedness**

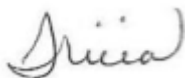
- October 7-11: **Being Present and giving others my attention**
- October 14-18: **Integrity**
- October 21-25: **Perspective**
- October 28-November 1: **Creativity**
- November 4-8: **Bravery**

3. “National Principals Month” is recognized during the month of October as well. This week, our Board of Education celebrated and thanked Mr. Haynes and Mr. Dobson for their leadership, dedication, and service to our students, staff, parents, and entire Byron community. Please remember to thank Mr. Haynes and Mr. Dobson when you have an opportunity!
4. Thank you to all of our parents of our secondary students who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences in early October. We welcome and invite the parents of our elementary school students to participate in our annual Parent-Teacher Conferences in November. As you know, working together as parents and teachers, our children will obtain higher student achievement. Listed below is the specific schedule:

Wednesday, November 6 th	4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 7 th	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
5. We continue to work with our construction and architect contractors to plan our next Sinking Fund Project. This will involve paving and resurfacing parking lot areas on our campuses. As we progress through this process, we will communicate more specific information. THANK YOU for your continued support with our Sinking Fund elections.
6. Our next Professional Learning Day will be held on Friday, November 15th. Therefore, there will not be any classes for our students on this day.
7. After celebrating Thanksgiving beginning Wednesday, November 27th, students will return to classes on Monday, December 2nd.
8. On Saturday, December 7th, many of our students will participate in our annual Chamber of Commerce event “Christmas in the Village,” including carriage rides, Breakfast with Santa, cookie decorating activities, and a parade. We invite all of you to join us for this activity.
9. As a reminder, if you wish to receive text messages from Byron Area Schools regarding school closings, activities, etc., you must opt-in via SchoolMessenger. Instructions are attached to assist you in the opt-in process.

Again, I wish you a very HAPPY day and month ahead!

Educationally yours,



Tricia Murphy Alderman
Byron Area Schools Superintendent



The Trusted Platform
for School Community Engagement

Parents and Guardians

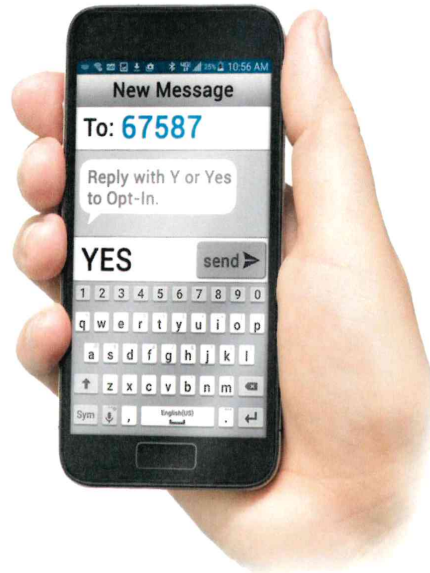
You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 67587

i [Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:](#)

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.

