

Mission/Purpose Statement

BCS is a dynamic and collaborative learning community. We cultivate an engaging environment that embraces all students and empowers them to pose questions, integrate resources, synthesize, evaluate and apply their knowledge to positively influence our diverse and ever-changing world.

WEEK AT A GLANCE – Week of October 21 - October 27

We will begin our Weeks-at-a-Glance with important dates this week followed by Mr. Morawski's letter and BCS News and Announcements.

To submit an item for next week's "WAG", email cbassett@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Monday, October 21

- 4PM Boys Soccer Practice - Home vs. East Hills MS

Tuesday, October 22

- 7-8AM Girls Intramural Basketball
- 3:20-4:10PM Girls Basketball Game - Away @ Berkshire MS
- 4:15-5:45PM Boys Soccer Practice
- 4PM Cross Country Meet - League Meet (League Meet Runners only)
- 4:10-7:30PM "Willy Wonka, Jr" Auditions (see below for more info)

Wednesday, October 23

- 6:45-8AM Girls Basketball Practice
- 3:20-5PM PM Boys Soccer Practice
- 4:10-6PM Forensics Long Practice

Thursday, October 24

- Picture Retake Day
- 7-8AM Girls Intramural Basketball
- 10:50AM Perimeter Lockdown Drill
- 2:10PM 3/4 Town Hall (Media Center)
- 2:55PM 5/6 Town Hall (Media Center)
- 3:20-4:30PM Special Cross Country Practice - Stroh's Run (parents pick up students @ Stroh's)
- 4PM Girls Basketball Game - Away @ COUNTRY Day
- 4PM Boys Soccer Game - Home vs. Cranbrook Kingswood MS
- 4:10-6PM Debate Long Practice

Friday, October 25

- 7:15AM 8th grade NJHS Induction Ceremony in the gym
- 4:15-5:45PM Boys Soccer Practice

Saturday, October 26

- Forensics & Debate "Spooktational" Tournament (Roeper)

Sunday, October 27

Click on the link to the **full BCS Calendar**: <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Page/26>
2018-2019 District Calendar - <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Page/9941>

October 20, 2019

Hello BCS!

River trips, Proud Dads annual meeting, Hispanic and Latinx Panel, and a trip to Philly and NYC for 108 7/8 students are just a few select activities that demonstrate, once again, that BCS truly is a great place to be. Check out our [Birmingham Covington School Facebook page](#) to see some of the pictures from the week!

We had a great turnout at our **BCS Proud Dads annual meeting** on Monday night. If there were “dads” unable to attend but want to be included on occasional reminders and volunteer opportunities from our leaders, please fill out and **submit this brief [contact form](#)** at the following link: <https://bit.ly/31dejF7>.

With Halloween quickly approaching (a favorite day for many children – and adults), we would like to remind you that we will celebrate Halloween on Thursday, October 31 which will be a half day for BCS students (11:30 AM dismissal-no choice hour). We welcome parents and guardians to join in our festivities which will begin with our annual **all-school parade** around 10:10 AM. Parents should remain outside to avoid congestion in our hallways weather permitting (we will parade indoors if it is raining). The parade route will have the students proceed outside on the sidewalk at the east end of building, circling around the front of the school, then the walkway in front of the pool to the west end of the school by the bus loop. Feel free to stand anywhere along this route to encourage, cheer on and take pictures of the students. The parade will begin with the 3/4 students followed by 5/6 and 7/8 students. The **classroom parties will immediately follow** the parade back in the students’ homerooms/academic labs around 10:30 AM. The parties will conclude at 11:15 AM to clean up and prepare for dismissal at 11:30 AM. We look forward to a great day!

Additionally, join us in our **Hershey’s For Heroes** effort! During the days of Friday, November 1 to Wednesday, November 6, in the front office, we will be collecting candy to donate to the [Soldiers Angels](#) program. This program donates candy in care packages to soldiers overseas. So, have your child donate their extra Halloween candy to this great cause!

Also, save the date of Friday, November 1 for our first **[Proud Dads Eat and Run](#)** of the year. Proud Moms, Dads, Aunts, Loved Ones, join your BCS kid(s) & their friends for lunch and fun on November 1 (3/4 at 11:45am; 5/6 at 11:05am and 7/8 at 12:45pm). Here is [the flyer](#) with all the details!

Finally, I would like to ask for your support with encouraging your students to participate in this year’s **Reflections Program**. This program is such a unique opportunity for students to showcase their creativity where they can reflect, create art, and be recognized. Reflect on the theme, **LOOK WITHIN**, and create original art in the categories of dance, film production, literature, music, photography and visual arts. Enter to win recognition, prizes, and

scholarships. Check out later in this WAG for more details and click on the Reflections page on our website: <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/domain/1845>.

Thank you for reading,

Mark Morawski

mmorawski@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Twitter: @mark_morawski #BCSLearns

Check out my blog: <https://learnleadlove.wordpress.com/>

P.S. Be sure to stay connected with BCS-related information:

- The weekly BCS Week-at-a-Glance (WAG) will be sent out each Sunday.
- The BCS website at <http://www.bcsonline.info/>
 - [Faculty and Staff Directory Pages](#)
 - [The BCS PTA](#)
 - [2019-2020 School Times, Lunch Schedule, and Curriculum Nights Flyer](#)
 - [BCS Student Handbook](#) and [BPS District Student Code of Conduct](#)
 - Like [BCS on Facebook](#)

Character Connections Word of the week: COLLABORATION/TEAMWORK

Infuse this word into your conversations and share these quotes with your children as a character education focus. There will be a new word every two weeks.

- *"It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."* – Charles Darwin
- *"Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up."* – Oliver Wendell Holmes
- *"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."* – H.E. Luccock

ALL BCS NEWS

BE SURE AND VISIT <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/bcs>

FOLLOW US on twitter (@bcs_cobras) and LIKE "Birmingham Covington School" on FACEBOOK

Chartwells - BPS Food Service - [Parents/Lunch Menu](#)

2019-20 THEATRE PRODUCTION: ANNOUNCING WILLY WONKA, JR - AUDITIONS ON TUESDAY

The delicious adventures of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory light up the stage in this captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film, in addition to a host of fun new songs, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR.* is a scrumdiddlyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth.

- **Students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to audition!**
- Auditions for cast and crew are on **Tuesday, October 22rd** from 4:10-7:00pm.
- Audition Packets, Parent Information, Audition Materials, Permission slip, and link to the audition sign up can be found at www.covingtonproductions.com under the "Theatre" tab.
- Students must turn in an audition permission slip form (located in the office) and pay the pay-to-participate fee **PRIOR** to auditions.

- The Play Production runs during Quarter II with show dates of January 29-31, 2020. Questions? Email Mrs. Bassett at theatrebcs@gmail.com.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Picture retake day is Thursday October 24 on the cafeteria stage during lunch periods. If your child was absent on picture day, he/she will get their picture taken Oct 24. If you are unsatisfied with your child's photograph and expect a new picture on RETAKE DAY, please remember to send in your original picture packet with your child that day. Your child will give the unwanted packet directly to the photographer. Picture order forms are in the school office or can be found on the BCS website. Please contact Kaiser Studio with questions: 248-619-9119, ext 100. [Picture Day Form](#)

IN CASE YOU'RE THINKING AHEAD TO HALLOWEEN

At BCS, our students and staff enjoy Halloween with a morning parade and party in the morning (as it is a half day of school), as you prepare a costume for your child, please be sure your it is an appropriate costume for school in order to avoid scaring any of our younger students. ***We ask that students avoid the following:***

- masks that cover the face (masks restrict vision, can lead to accidents, and often frighten our younger students)
- blood-like makeup, real or pretend weapons (knives, guns, swords, etc.), evil, scary, or horror characters

Some suggestions for students costumes include: Inventors, Animals, clothing from an historical period, Presidents, Community helpers (police, fire fighter...), Super heroes, Careers (doctor, teacher, engineer...), Book characters, Sports (football player, snowboarder, marathoner...), Friendly characters, Food. You could even develop a costume that embraces our BCS Theme ***Moral Courage!*** Remember that children tend to "act" their costumes, so the appropriateness of the costume is important. Thank you in advance for helping make this day an enjoyable one for our students.

SEND IN YOUR BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!

Please collect and submit your Box Tops for Education to the box marked with the Box Tops logo in the office on the credenza. This program is a great way to raise funds for BCS. Each one is worth 10 cents when our school redeems them. The fall submission deadline is the end of October, so please send in whatever you have saved to date this week.

PROUD DADS EAT & RUN – JOIN US

Be sure to stop by BCS on Friday, November 1, for the first BCS Proud Dads Eat & Run of the year. Proud Moms, Dads, Aunts, Loved Ones, join your BCS kid(s) & their friends for lunch and fun on Friday, November 1, 2019. Click on [the flyer](#) for all the details!

- 11:05-11:45 – 5/6
- 11:45-12:25 – 3/4
- 12:45-1:25 PM – 7/8

HERSHEY'S FOR HEROES

During the days of November 1st to November 6, in the front office, we will be collecting candy to donate to the Soldiers Angels program. This program donates candy in care packages to soldiers overseas.

VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 5!

The **BPS Operating Millage** ballot proposal is asking voters to consider the following:

- **RESTORE** the 18 mill non-homestead (commercial and second resident) rate.
- **REPLACE** the authorized limit to 21 mills, allowing the District to levy the full 18 mills and protect against future rollbacks.
- **EXTEND** the voter-approved homestead millage rate of 14.24 mills through 2028.

There is **NO RESIDENTIAL HOMEOWNER TAX RATE INCREASE.**

For more information, visit www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/millage2019

[Reflect, Create Art, Be Recognized](#)

2019-20 PTA REFLECTIONS ART PROGRAM

Reflect on the theme, LOOK WITHIN, and create original art in the categories of dance, film production, literature, music, photography and visual arts. Enter to win recognition, prizes, and scholarships. The top 2 BCS entries from each category will go on to the BPS District Program and possibly State and/or National recognition. Participants will be recognized/awarded at the BCS Reflections Pizza Lunch. **Click** for [Rules and Entry Form](#). Submit entries through Friday, November 8th in the Media Center. To volunteer or for questions, contact Diana Patterson at d4patter4@sbcglobal.net.

*Click <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/domain/1845> for all the details.

BCS PISTONS FAMILY NIGHT

FRI, NOV. 22 – 7:00PM, PISTONS vs. HAWKS

Enjoy a fun night at Little Caesars Arena with Birmingham Covington School to watch the Pistons take on the Atlanta Hawks on Friday, November 22 at 7:00pm. Everyone will get a Pistons item and a voucher to take a free throw on the court after the game. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Birmingham Covington School.

EXCLUSIVE TICKET PRICING:

100-LEVEL END (Section 126): \$45 (\$70 value) 200-LEVEL CORNER (Section 229): \$20 (\$35 value)

Order forms are due no later than Friday, November 1, 2019. Link to the Pistons Order Form:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_yZ7nkuNKYe9rLii568c2FlyszbxBOWj

HEARING AND VISION SCREENING AT BCS

Please see the [Hearing and Vision Screening Information Sheet](#) regarding screening scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. BCS 4th grade students are scheduled for hearing screening on November 25-26, 2019. BCS 3rd, 5th and 7th grade students are scheduled for vision screening on Jan. 14-17, 21, 22, 23, 2020. Students in grades not listed are not screened. If you do not want your child screened, please email Cindy Balicki, cbalicki@birmingham.k12.mi.us.

LUNCH AND ITEMS DROPPED OFF DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

When dropping off books, lunches, homework, etc. for your child, we now have a cart located in the vestibule when you walk into the school. Please place your child's belongings on the cart with their name. If your child calls/texts you to request an item, please let them know that they will need to come to the office to pick it up. Then, your child can check the cart later that day before the item is needed to collect it. Lunch items not picked up, will be delivered to the lunch room during the appropriate lunch period. The teachers and staff are very excited about this new process and look forward to fewer interruptions in their classrooms.

ARE THE BCS BUSES ON TIME LEAVING CAMPUS

As a reminder, daily, we update the timing of our afternoon buses leaving our campus for the day. Use this [Bus Status Link](#) to check if your child's bus left campus on time. Thank you!

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR AMAZON SMILE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BCS!!!!

There is no cost to you, and Amazon donates a % of your purchases to BCS PTA. It only takes a few minutes to sign up. Happy Shopping!!

- Go to smile.amazon.com and register Birmingham Covington 3-8 PTSA in Bloomfield Hills, MI as your charity on your Amazon account
- Whenever you shop Amazon, go to the smile.amazon.com website instead. It has the same merchandise at the same prices as the regular Amazon website

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PTA FUNDING

At the October 3rd PTA , a proposal was brought forward to provide \$1700 funding for the BCS Library to purchase books for the Birbery 2019-2020 reading program. The PTA has provided support for the program in the past. The library is requesting additional funding this year as a result of district-wide budget cuts. The funding would come out of the PTA's Unplanned Expense budget. Without the support of the PTA, the library will either not able to provide the books for students to participate in this program at the same rate as in previous years or will need to make cuts in other areas. A vote on this proposal will be held at the November 7th PTA meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

About the Birbery Program

The Birbery is a districtwide reading program for 6th-8th grade students in which the students are invited to read up to 10 highly praised, acclaimed books published within the calendar year that are potential Newbery Award contenders. Those students who read all ten books participate in our school's Quiz Bowl competition; those who read five or more attend as spectators and enjoy the celebration centered around the program. The five winners of the Quiz Bowl go on to Baldwin Library (via limo), where Baldwin librarians host the committee made up of 15 middle school students. The true goal of the Birbery program is to get middle school students reading, and BCS has been successful accomplishing this goal in the past. All ten books in the 2018-19 program together circulated 641 times during the school year. While only a percentage of middle school students participate in the Quiz Bowl aspect of the program, the high-quality of the books and the excitement of the program make them a popular choice among 6th-8th graders during and even after the Birbery program dates.

3/4 UPDATE

3/4 GYM SCHEDULE

Monday, October 7 through Friday, November 1:

Butzin, Davis, Harvath, and Wallington will be in the GYM.

Frishman, Seley, Maliszewski, and Parkin will SWIM.

5/6 UPDATE

GRADES 6-8 POWERSCHOOL PASSWORD CHANGE

The new version of PowerSchool will force all students and parents to change their password after their initial log in. The minimum password character length is eight (8). In addition, the password must contain at least 1 upper case letter, 1 lower case letter, and 1 numeric character. BCS grade 5 and new grade 6-8 students and parents will receive log in directions in the next few weeks, and grades 3/4 parents will receive log in directions toward the end of the first quarter in order to view report cards that will be available online.

7/8 UPDATES

SEAHOLM AND GROVES HIGH SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSES

Join Birmingham Public Schools for their high school Open Houses. Join Seaholm High School for an Open House event on Monday, Oct. 28 at 5:30 PM, and join Groves High School for an Open House

event on Monday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 PM. Learn more about character education, rigorous academics, championship sports and the wealth of opportunities that await your child within the Birmingham Public Schools! Can't make the Open House? Call 248.203.3001 to be connected to a school for a tour.

LIBRARY UPDATES

Follow the BCS Library Media Center on social media

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/covingtonschoollibrary>

Twitter: @BCSMediaCenter

or visit our website at <https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/domain/1157>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The BCS Library is looking for parent volunteers. We need your help with: assisting students, checking in and out books, shelving & organizing, and processing new books. No experience necessary – training provided! Sign up to help at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094ea4a823a02-bcslibrary1>. Questions? Email the librarian, Ann Truesdell, at atruedell@birmingham.k12.mi.us. Thank you!

BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

Celebrate your child's birthday by donating to the BCS Library! Your donation buys a new book for the library in which we place a bookplate with your child's picture, name, and birthday. Your child is the first to check out the book, and our collection continues to grow with updated, high interest books! Learn more at

<https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/cms/lib/MI01908619/Centricity/Domain/1157/BCS%20Birthday%20Book%20Club.pdf>.

4th and 5th Grade BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Battle of the Books is a program sponsored by Baldwin Public Library and supported by BPS Media Specialists to encourage and foster students' enjoyment of reading. Fourth and fifth grade students form teams with an adult coach, read from a selected list of six books, and then participate in a district-wide contest where they will compete with other teams by answering questions based on the books. Titles for this year will be announced at the Battle Kick-Off held for 4th and 5th graders at BCS on **Monday, November 4. Save the date for the district-wide Baldwin Battle of the Books on Saturday, February 2, 2020!** Watch for more information coming soon.

GROWING UP 2020 CONFERENCE

Growing Up 2020 (formerly known as Surviving the Social Jungle) is taking place for the first time in **Northville, Saturday, November 9**, and will include three simultaneous, and distinctly different, tracks:

1. for kids 3rd-6th grade (7 fun stations; hands-on, small groups),
2. teens 7th-12th (2 interactive sessions; self-defense separated by gender),
3. and the adults who care about them (keynote plus 2 workshops selected from 12 options).
Professional Development credits will be available.

Registration, and details for the 3 tracks may be found at the website, www.KidsEmpoweredOnTheMove.org.

1. Adults will hear a powerful keynote with national speaker, educator, author, [Katey McPherson](#), and then attend 2 workshop sessions, during which they can choose from 6 concurrent breakouts. (12 options total). The presenters and topics are diverse, and extremely timely. There's something for everyone.

2. While adults are sharpening their saws, kids will participate in 7 hands-on activity stations where different skills are learned.
3. The teen track is designed with the unique needs of teen girls and teen boys in mind, including separate self-defense sessions.

Participating youth receive a string backpack, reusable water bottle, nut-free snack, and station take-aways to remind them of the lessons learned, and participation in a performance from special guest, singer/songwriter, [Ali McManus](#). Her inspirational message of resilience is powerful. You can see her "Unbreakable" music video, [here](#).

Check out this [2-sided flyer](#) for details for the Kid Track on the back.

Link to Facebook invite: <https://www.facebook.com/events/394636654536225/>

Link to Kids Empowered where there will be a number of different posts that can be shared about the conference. <https://www.facebook.com/WeAreKidsEmpowered/>.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION FOLLOWS...

For a complete list of upcoming BPS and community news and information click [BCS Community News](#)

For additional District and Event News, Athletics Community Sports Groups Information click [BPS District eNews](#)

Review the annual FERPA updates and guidelines:

[FERPA Directory Notice](#)

[FERPA Annual Notification of Rights](#)

Review the [District's Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

Ask questions, submit comments or share stories anytime, anywhere through [Let's Talk!](#)

