

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST-SEPTEMBER | 2023-2024



WELCOME TO ALL NEW & RETURNING BHS STUDENTS & FAMILIES!

We hope you all had a relaxing & restful summer! We are excited to welcome everyone back for the 2023-2024 school year! There have been many changes to the footprint of Byron High School. As we've watched things change around here, we cannot help but feel incredible gratitude for the support of the Byron community! It's going to be so fun getting everyone into our new spaces! Make sure you read through this newsletter so you're ready for the year!

WELCOME BACK NIGHT 2023-2024

Wednesday, August 23rd is our BHS Welcome Back Night from 3:00-6:00pm, with teachers being available in classrooms from 4:00-6:00pm. Here is the list of things you'll be able to do in order to get ready for the first day of school:

- ❑ Get your picture taken for your ID & the yearbook
- ❑ Make sure you've got lunch money for TAHER
- ❑ Turn in your athletic forms to the Athletic Department
- ❑ Drop off meds with Health Aide in Nurses Office
- ❑ Try out your locker combination
- ❑ Meet with your counselors if you have any questions
- ❑ Pick up your Chromebook
 - ❑ PLEASE NOTE: All forms on Infinite Campus must be completed before your Chromebook will be given to you.
- ❑ Visit your teachers and see how their summers were
- ❑ 10th Grade vision screening

AUGUST EVENTS

14th

1st day of practice for Fall sports. MUST have current physical on file to practice

22nd

9:00-11:00 am
New Student Orientation

23rd

11:30 - 2:30pm
Freshman Orientation

3:00 - 6:00pm
BHS Welcome Back Night

28th

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

MANDATORY INFINITE CAMPUS ANNUAL UPDATE

Student safety is extremely important to us. To ensure our data base information is accurate, we have activated the Infinite Campus Annual Update. We need 1 parent/guardian to login and verify/update as needed. You will need the information below to complete this task:

- ❑ Household information - address & phone numbers
- ❑ Parent information - work & cell phone numbers, email addresses
- ❑ Student information - demographic & health/medication info
- ❑ Emergency Contact - addresses and phone numbers

The Annual Update and completion of forms within Infinite Campus must be done before a student's Chromebook is issued to them. **Click this link** if you need detailed instructions.


INFINITE CAMPUS PORTAL

The Infinite Campus portal is your tool to stay connected to your student's education. If you have not taken the time to set up your Parent Portal, please contact the office & we can assist you in setting that up. You should be using your own portal, not your students. As parents, you may receive different notifications & messages than your child will. To access Infinite Campus from a computer, follow this path:

Byron Public Schools -> Parents & Guardians -> Infinite Campus -> Enter your username & password

To access Infinite Campus on a tablet or smartphone you will need to download the Infinite Campus app, then enter our District ID, which is **XJLZDW**

CLICK HERE FOR NEW INFINITE CAMPUS URL





Welcome
TO THE
#BYRONBEARS
TEAM

SHELLY BIELEN

Shelly is a #ByronBears grad and received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, a Master's degree in Secondary School Counseling from Winona State University, and has 24 years of experience!


"I look forward to becoming a team member at Byron High School and getting to know the staff, students, and families."





High School Counselor

COUNSELORS' CORNER



WELCOME SHELLY BIELEN!
Mrs. Bielen has joined our BHS team and will be working with students whose last names start with A-D. She is an amazing human being and we are so thankful she joined our BHS team!

Click HERE for information pertaining to upcoming events and important dates at the high school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BHS FAMILIES

FOR QUICK ACCESS TO THESE ITEMS, YOU CAN BOOKMARK THE
BYRON HIGH SCHOOL HOMEPAGE

BHS ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

if your student is going to be absent from school please notify the school by hand written note, emailing our BHS Attendance Office or giving us a call. Please include the following information in your communicaiton:

1. Your student's name
2. Date and time of absence
3. Reason for absence

EMAIL: bhs.attendance@byron.k12.mn.us

PHONE: 507-775-2301

BHS DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our BHS Daily Announcements can be found on the Byron High School homepage under under Quick Links (right hand side of webpage). These announcements are updated periodically throughout the day. They contain information about important up coming events and any changes to sports and activities.

Announcements are shared with the students at 8:06am 2:56pm daily. There is also a School Announcements section on the **BHS homepage** for important updates and announcements.

BHS NEWSLETTERS

The High School sends newsletters out monthly. These messages usually come from School Messenger. Please be looking for them and taking the time to read them so you stay in the loop with what is going on at the High School. You will be able to find the newsletters on the **BHS homepage**, under Quick Links. (right hand side of webpage).



BHS STUDENT HANDBOOK

The student handbook can be found on the BHS homepage under the Student Life & Parent channels.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

The Byron Public Schools calendar can be found on the District's homepage under the 'About Us' channel. **Click here for the 2023-2024 District Calendar**

LUNCH REMINDER

Byron High School is a closed campus for lunch.

COUNSELORS

Shelly Bielen (Student Last Name A-D)
shelly.bielen@byron.k12.mn.us

Andrew Petersilie (Student Last Name E-M)
andrew.petersilie@byron.k12.mn.us

Danielle Gavin (Student Last Name N-Z)
danielle.gavin@byron.k12.mn.us

Byron High School
1887 2nd Avenue NW
Byron, Minnesota 55920

Phone: 507-775-2301 /FAX: 507-775-2303

IMPORTANT DATES FOR BHS FAMILIES



AUGUST

- 14** 1st day of practice for Fall sports
(Current physical must be on file to practice.)
- 22** New Student Orientation 9:00-11:00am
Location: Counseling Department
- 23** Freshman Orientation 11:30am - 2:30pm
Location: Byron High School Gymnasium
BHS Welcome Back Night 3:00-6:00pm
(see 1st page for details)
- 28** First day of school

SEPTEMBER

- 4** No School; Labor Day
- 11** Homecoming Week Begins! Details to come!
- 15** Homecoming Football Game 7:00pm
Location: NEW Byron High School Stadium
- 16** Homecoming Dance 7:00 - 11:00pm
Location: Byron High School Commons
- 18** Flu Clinic 8:00-10:30am
- 26** Picture Retakes
- 27** BHS Conferences 3:30 - 6:00pm
Junior Parent/Student Meetings
Times 3:45 - 4:45pm & 5:00 to 6:00pm
Location: BHS MPR
- 29** FLEX FRIDAY/No New Homework Weekend

OCTOBER

- 2** Jostens Senior Meeting 2:30-3:00pm
(Graduation Info)
- 10** Academic Awards Ceremony 7:15-8:00am
Location: Byron High School Gymnasium
- 11** PSAT Test for 10th & 11th Graders 8:00am
Must have pre-registered last Spring
- 19** FLEX FRIDAY (Thursday)
- 20** NO SCHOOL - MEA
- 27** End of 1st Quarter
- 20** NO SCHOOL - Professional Day

NOVEMBER

- 17-19** BHS Fall Musical
- 22-24** NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING
- 30** BHS Winter Band Concert 7:00pm
Location: BMS Auditorium

DECEMBER

- 6** BHS Conferences 3:30 - 6:00pm
Freshman/Sophomore Parent Meetings
Times 3:45pm & 5:00pm
Location: BHS MPR
- 8** FLEX FRIDAY/No New Homework Weekend
- 12** BHS Winter Choir Concert 7:00pm
Location: BMS Auditorium
- 25-31** NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

- 1** NO SCHOOL - NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 5** FLEX FRIDAY
- 11** End of 2nd Quarter
- 12** NO SCHOOL - Professional Day
- 15** NO SCHOOL - Staff Development Day

FEBRUARY

- 14** BHS Conferences 3:30 - 6:00pm
- 16** FLEX FRIDAY/No New Homework Weekend
- 19** NO SCHOOL - President's Day

MARCH

- 8** FLEX FRIDAY
- 14** End of 3rd Quarter
- 15** NO SCHOOL - Professional Day
- 18-22** NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

APRIL

- 1** NO SCHOOL - Staff Development Day
- 9** ACT
- 24** BHS Conferences 3:30 - 6:00pm
- 26** FLEX FRIDAY/No New Homework
- 27** Prom 6:00pm - Somerby

MAY

- 5** National Honor Society Induction
- 6** BHS Spring Band Concert 7:00pm
- 14** BHS Spring Choir Concert 7:00pm
- 17** FLEX FRIDAY
- 24** End of 4th Quarter/LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
GRADUATION - BHS Gymnasium 7:00pm

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

ONE PAGERS AND OTHER COOL STUFF



ONE PAGERS: WHAT ARE THEY?

The pages following are what we call 'One Pagers.' They were created to provide the information families need on a specific policy or procedure. These one pagers create a common language for all of us so that we are communicating the same information & expectations with students regardless of if they are at home or in school. Not all policies & procedures are liked by students, so a common language is important. We are so very thankful to work alongside our BHS parents & guardians.

1st Day of School & Every Day After

This one pager gives you information pertaining to school start time, student IDs, BHS cell phone procedure and the school district's student dress and appearance policy.

Attendance Procedures

This one pager gives you information pertaining to communicating absences, truancy reporting, excused vs. unexcused absences and make up work.

Cell Phone Procedure

This one pager gives you information about the research around cell phones and their impact on student learning and growth. In addition, it communicates our school's cell phone procedure and the rights the school district has when it comes to cell phone procedure violations and unlawful or unethical use.

Student Dress & Appearance

This one pager gives you information on the updated school board policy regarding student dress and appearance. In addition, it communication consequences when policy is not followed.

FLEX FRIDAYS

It's important to note that THESE ARE NOT AUTOMATIC DAYS OFF. This one pager communicates what Flex Fridays are, 2023-3024 dates and the expectations students must meet.

FAQs

HOMEWORK MAKE UP: What if my student is gone for an extended period of time?

Students must communicate with their teachers when they know they will be gone on vacation so that together they can come up with a reasonable plan for classwork completion.

CELL PHONES: How do I communicate with my child if they do not have their phone?

Parents can contact the main office at 775-2301 to get a message to their student. In addition, you can send an email to your child's school email.

FLEX FRIDAYS: Are Flex Fridays days off of school?

It is important to note that these ARE NOT days off. If your student is REQUIRED to attend Flex Friday they will receive an unexcused absence should they not be in attendance.

ABSENCES: Is sleeping in considered excused or unexcused absence?

Unexcused. We are preparing our high schools for the real world.

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

1ST DAY OF SCHOOL & EVERY DAY AFTER

BE ON TIME...SCHOOL STARTS @ 8:00

Being on time is important because it communicates that you are a person with great character. Being on time shows that you are responsible, caring and respectful. Be that person who shows up on time.

We know that life happens and that's when we need to communicate effectively. Please contact the office by hand written note, email or a phone call if you are going to be late or absent. Include the following information in your communication:

1. Student's name
2. Date and time of absence
3. Reason for absence

EMAIL: bhs.attendance@byron.k12.mn.us

PHONE: 507-775-2301

STUDENT ID...GOTTA HAVE IT

EVERY student needs their student ID card to purchase lunch and any time they are leaving or re-entering the building. Please note:

- ▶ TAHER will send you to the office to get an ID should you not have your ID with you at lunch.
- ▶ The first 2 replacement IDs are free, but the 3rd replacement is going to cost you \$1.00

BHS CELL PHONE PROCEDURE

EVERY student needs to put their cell phone & airpods in the holder when they enter the classroom. Cell phones will remain in the holder for the entire class period unless directed by the teacher that students will need their cell phone for an activity.

Questions or concerns, please contact

Kelly Braun, BHS Assistant Principal



(Phone) 507-775-2301 (Email) kelly.braun@byron.k12.mn.us

We want all BHS students to be successful starting on the 1st day of school. Here is some student handbook information that we thought would be helpful!

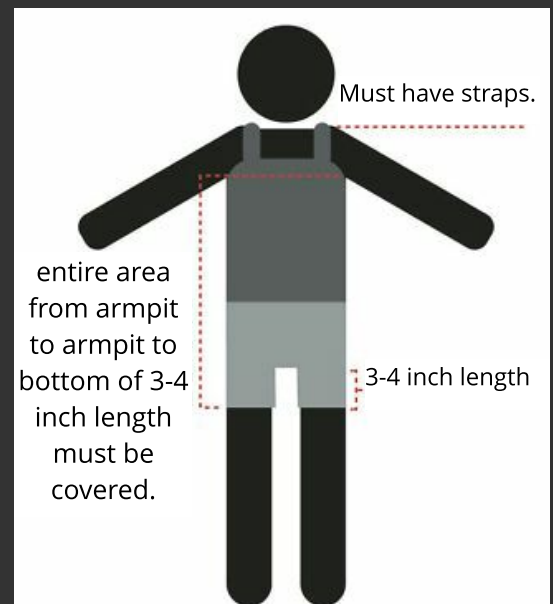
WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

GO BEARS!

STUDENT DRESS & APPEARANCE

- ▶ Clothing that covers the areas as seen in graphic below.
- ▶ Clothing must cover undergarments.
- ▶ Clothing may not promote activities that are illegal for use by minors.
- ▶ Clothing & jewelry may not have objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures that communicate a message that is racist, sexist, or derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances or provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals.

When in doubt...check this person out!



BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

How do I let the school know my student will be absent?

Please contact the office by hand written note, email or a phone call. Include the following information in your communication:

1. Student's name
2. Date and time of absence
3. Reason for absence

EMAIL: bhs.attendance@byron.k12.mn.us

PHONE: 507-775-2301

Absences & Reporting

Unexcused & Excused Absences

- ▶ 8 Total absences - 1st Letter sent home
- ▶ 12 Total absences - 2nd letter sent home. Any future absences without a doctor's note are considered unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

- ▶ 3 unexcused absences - Phone call home from assistant principal.
- ▶ 5 unexcused absences - 2nd letter sent home & parent meeting at school.
- ▶ 7 unexcused absences - Truancy filed with county

Unexcused Tardies

- ▶ 3 unexcused tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- ▶ 3 unexcused tardies = 30 minutes of detention
- ▶ Each tardy beyond 3 = 30 minutes of detention

Questions or concerns, please contact
Kelly Braun, BHS Assistant Principal

507-775-2301

kelly.braun@byron.k12.mn.us



Regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability.

What is an excused absence?

Students may be excused from school with no effect on grades for the following reasons:

1. Illness
2. Death in the Family
3. Medical, dental or orthodontic treatment
4. Counseling appointments
5. Prearranged travel or work
6. Other urgent reasons as interpreted by principal
7. Religious holidays
8. Curricular & extracurricular activities
9. Removal of a student due to suspension

Excessive excused absenteeism may effect a student's grade. Suspected cases of excessive absenteeism will be report to administration before the grade is effected. Examples would be:

1. Consistent absence on certain days of the week.
2. Always missing on the day of a test.
3. Missing more than one day per week

Make up work due to absence

- ▶ Must be turned in within 2 days of returning to school.
- ▶ Any work not completed within 2 days will result in no credit for the missed assignment.
- ▶ Classroom teacher or building principal may extend this time in the cases of extenuating circumstances.

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

CELL PHONE PROCEDURE

What is the BHS Cell Phone Procedure?

EVERY student needs to put their cell phone and airpods in the holder when they enter the classroom. Cell phones will remain in the holder for the entire class period unless directed by the teacher that students will need their cell phone for an activity.

When can students use cell phones?

- ▶ During passing time
- ▶ During lunch
- ▶ Before or after school
- ▶ When an adult give me permission

What will the consequences be when a student doesn't follow the BHS cell phone procedure?

- ▶ Referral to the office resulting in disciplinary action.
- ▶ Loss of cell phones privileges, resulting in a phone call home and the student having to turn their cell phone into the office each day (8am-3pm) for the remainder of the quarter.

What rights does the school district have if they suspect I've violated a school rule or law?

- ▶ The school district may search the device.
- ▶ The school district can confiscate a student's cell phone.
- ▶ The school district will, if applicable, hand the cell phone over to law enforcement.

Questions or concerns, please contact

Kelly Braun, BHS Assistant Principal

(Phone) 507-775-2301 (Email) kelly.braun@byron.k12.mn.us



Why a cell phone procedure?

It takes 90 days to create a habit. As humans, we had over 700 days of creating habits due to a global pandemic. Our goal is to help re-establish healthy cell phone habits for the purpose of helping our students become successful citizens, collaborators, communicators, creators, critical thinkers and people of character when they graduate from Byron High School.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

The cell phone procedure is supported by the research below.

- ▶ Students self report they check their phones 3 times per class period, but when observation data was collected, researchers found that students check their phone close to 22 times per class period. *(Duncan, Hoekstra & Wilcox 2012)*
- ▶ Students' average grades go down when cell phones are used during class, suggesting cell phones are a distraction that cause students to lose focus on what they are supposed to be learning. *(Sao Paulo, 2017)*
- ▶ The use of social media platforms & gaming have a negative impact on GPA. *(Lep, Barkley & Karpinski, 2017)*
- ▶ Multitasking with any sort of technology or platform negatively impacts a student's ability to learn effectively resulting in low test scores. *(Wood, 2012)*
- ▶ Social networking & cell phone/texting have the most negative impact on GPA and scores. *(Jacobson & Forste, 2011)*

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT DRESS & APPEARANCE

School Board Policy Statement

The policy of this school district is to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities & in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

Appropriate Clothing

Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to the following:

- ▶ Clothing appropriate for the weather.
- ▶ Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
- ▶ Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).

Inappropriate Clothing

- ▶ Clothing that covers the areas as seen in graphic below.
- ▶ Clothing must cover undergarments.
- ▶ Clothing may not promote activities that are illegal for use by minors.
- ▶ Clothing & jewelry may not have objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects or pictures that communicate a message that is racist, sexist, or derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances or provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals.
- ▶ Headgear, including hats or head coverings are not allowed in the building except with the approval of the building principal (e.g., student undergoing chemotherapy, medical situations, student religious practice or belief).

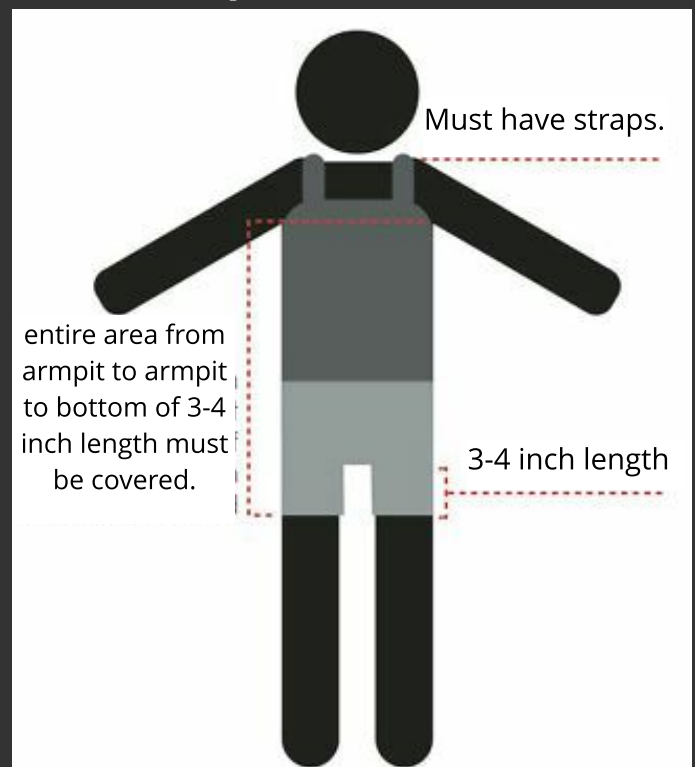
School Board Policy #504: Student Dress & Appearance

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress & grooming that are related to educational goals & community standards

Consequences for not following the policy:

- ▶ Student will be directed to make modifications (we always have super trendy clothing options in the office!)
- ▶ Student will be sent home if they refuse to comply with the policy.
- ▶ A parent or guardian will be notified.

When in doubt...check this person out!



Questions or concerns, please contact

Kelly Braun, BHS Assistant Principal

(Phone) 507-775-2301 (Email) kelly.braun@byron.k12.mn.us

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

FLEX FRIDAYS

What are BHS Flex Fridays?

Flex Fridays are school days. They are not days off. Flex Fridays are used for the purpose of providing students intervention time with their teachers and enrichment opportunities that take place inside and outside of school.

How were the dates chosen?

Dates are chosen intentionally as the Friday after conferences (at mid-quarter) and the Friday before the end of a quarter so that students can have targeted intervention time and enrichment opportunities.

How do I know if my student is REQUIRED to come in for Flex Friday?

During conferences or through another means of communication, teacher(s) invite your student in for Flex Friday because they feel your student needs support. When invited, it is REQUIRED that your student attend.

If students can check ALL of the following boxes, they will not be required to come in on Flex Fridays:

- No F's for grades
- No missing work
- No detention time to serve

What could a typical Flex Friday look like?

The student arrives at school & during their scheduled time they would meet with that teacher and any other teacher that invited them that day. Depending on what they need, students will be engaging in:

- Interventions with teachers
- Completing missing work in the classroom of the teacher(s) that invited them in.
- Enrichment opportunities
- College level courses may have requirements for students to be in class on Flex Friday
- Partner or group work that could take place on or off campus.

Please note that if students are not invited for intervention purposes, or do not have enrichment work that needs to be completed, they would not need to be on campus that Friday.

**Buses running normal schedule & lunch is available.*

Survey data from 9-12 grade students show a strong desire to continue with Flex Fridays for the purpose of intervention time with their teachers, enrichment opportunities that took place inside and outside of school, and to support student mental health.

2023-2024 FLEX FRIDAY DATES

Quarter 1

- ▶ **Conference Date: September 27**
- ▶ **Mid-quarter Flex Friday: September 29**
- ▶ **End-of-quarter Flex THURSDAY: October 19**

Quarter 2

- ▶ **Conference Date: December 6**
- ▶ **Mid quarter Flex Friday: December 8**
- ▶ **End of quarter Flex Friday: January 5**

Quarter 3

- ▶ **Conference Date: February 14**
- ▶ **Mid quarter Flex Friday: February 16**
- ▶ **End of quarter Flex Friday: March 8**

Quarter 4

- ▶ **Conference Date: April 24**
- ▶ **Mid quarter Flex Friday: April 26**
- ▶ **End of quarter Flex Friday: May 17**

What if my child is sick on a Flex Friday?

If your child is required to attend and they are absent, a phone call will be made home. The absence will be unexcused until confirmed otherwise. Please contact the office by hand written note, email or a phone call. Include the following information in your communication:

1. Student's name
2. Date and time of absence
3. Reason for absence

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