

BYRON EAGLE PRIDE



A LOOK INSIDE...
**SINKING FUND
MILLAGE
PROPOSAL**

CAST YOUR VOTE ON
AUGUST 6, 2024
SEE PAGE 8

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Brandon C. Chapman

Dear Byron Schools Community,

I am honored and excited to introduce myself as the new Superintendent of Byron Schools. It is with great enthusiasm that my family and I join this vibrant community.

My wife, our three wonderful children, and I are looking forward to becoming active members of Byron and contributing to its legacy of excellence.

I bring to this role 25 years of rich and diverse experience in the field of education. For 16 years, I dedicated myself to teaching, where I had the privilege of inspiring and guiding students in their academic and personal growth. My journey then led me to serve as an athletic director and assistant principal for a year, where I gained invaluable insights into school administration and the importance of extracurricular activities in student development. For the past 8 years, I have had the honor of serving as a high school principal, a role that allowed me to work closely with students, staff, and the community to create a nurturing and high-achieving educational environment. Additionally, my extensive coaching experience has reinforced my belief in



teamwork, discipline, and the pursuit of excellence.

I am thrilled about the opportunity to work alongside the dedicated members of the Byron Schools Board of Education, our talented staff, our passionate students, and the supportive community. Together, we will strive to build a strong foundation of teamwork and collaboration, ensuring that Byron Schools offer the best educational experience and opportunities for every student.

Our collective efforts will focus on fostering an inclusive, innovative, and

academically rigorous environment where every student can thrive. I am committed to open communication, transparency, and partnership as we navigate the challenges and celebrate the successes that lie ahead.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you as we embark on this exciting journey together. Let's make Byron Schools a beacon of educational excellence and a source of pride for our community.

Sincerely,
Brandon C. Chapman, Superintendent



BYRON AREA SCHOOLS - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

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**SOAR
LIKE AN
EAGLE!**



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Byron, Michigan 48418



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PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

BYRON EAGLE'S NEST PRESCHOOL: SO MANY GREAT OPTIONS!

We can make it work for you:

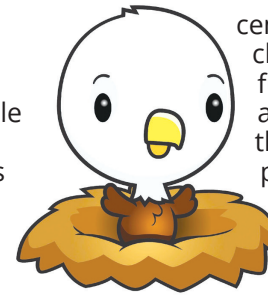
- 3-year-old program OR 4-year-old program?
- Full-day preschool OR part-day preschool?
- Ride the bus OR Don't ride the bus?
- Child care OR No child care?



Eagle's Nest Child Care, after a span of 25 years, has undergone a remarkable transformation. In July of 2022, our facility was blessed with a grant that has not only revamped the center but also the preschool classrooms, leaving a lasting impression on our families, community, and students. Seeing our little ones walking into their newly renovated rooms, their faces lit up with pride, is truly a gift. Their anticipation and eagerness to come to the center each day is a testament to the positive impact of these changes, reassuring families of the quality of our care.

Thanks to the generous grant, we have not only remodeled our center physically but also transformed it educationally. We have shifted from a teacher-oriented facility to a play-oriented, child-centered space. This transition has significantly enhanced our children's learning experiences, enabling them to learn through active involvement with teachers and materials. The newly created exploration areas have ignited a natural love of learning in our children, clearly indicating the educational benefits of our programs. This exciting new approach is sure to intrigue potential new families, offering them a glimpse of the exciting learning opportunities we provide.

In addition to changing the



center, all preschool classrooms have new furniture, equipment, and toys. They even have their own age-appropriate play structure, vital for our students' physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Because of the changes made

within our early childhood programs, **we have increased enrollment in the three-year-old program by 75% and doubled our four-year-old enrollment in just four years.** This growth is a testament to the support and involvement of our teachers and community members, making us all proud to be Byron Eagles.

Today, we are thrilled to announce our expanded offerings at Eagle's Nest! We now provide even more sections of preschool, **including full and half-day programming for 3—and 4-year-olds, 4-day, and 2-day programs, before—and after-school childcare, and our new and improved Kids Kamp summer program.** Our teachers offer cutting-edge, hands-on, engaging, and age-appropriate activities, and our curriculum is designed to develop math, science, literacy, and social-emotional skills.

We invite you to tour our newly remodeled classrooms and enroll your child today to experience the Eagle's Nest difference!



Byron Area Schools

2024-25

Byron Preschool Enrollment

3 year olds & 4 year olds
SIGN UP TODAY!



www.Byron.k12.mi.us/ByronPreschool

BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A note from Byron Elementary Principal **STACEY JOHNSON**

What a year it has been at our Elementary! This marks the second year of my time at Byron Elementary and it feels so good to be an Eagle! Our year highlights begin with our SOARing ticket schoolwide program. Our school wide focus is to SOAR; which means we strive to show kindness, offer respect, act responsibly and remember safety every day. The staff at BES challenged the students to earn 13,000 tickets for the year as a whole. The reward for meeting the goal would be a brand new GAGA ball pit on the upper playground. Well that goal was met... and exceeded! Our students earned just shy of 17,000 tickets on the year and were celebrated by earning prizes, gold coins for our Erik Jones book vending machines and other miscellaneous items each month. Our GAGA ball pit will be installed this summer for our future Eagles to enjoy for years to come. **Great work Byron Elementary Eagles!**



This spring, we proudly held the **Annual Darlin' Dance** under the direction of Miss Criscenti and Ms. Laurin. The Darlin' Dance dates back to 2004.

The Darlin' Dance was born out of a collective desire to create a memorable experience for our students, which allowed us to raise funds for a year-end field trip. To make this dream a reality, our fifth-grade teachers came together, organizing fundraising events to ensure financing was not an issue. The Darlin' Dance became the major fundraiser, a testament to our community's commitment to our children's education and experiences.

Originally introduced as a Daddy-Daughter Dance, the event quickly evolved to embrace the support of several surrounding communities. It became an opportunity for all families, regardless of their composition, to come together with their children and enjoy a memorable evening out. This inclusive tradition is one we are proud to continue, as it reflects the core of our district and our community.

Another celebration for the year was the resurgence of our **5th Grade Student Council**. In the fall, Mrs. Rye and I visited our 5th grade classrooms to discuss the purpose of a student council, the election process and selection criteria. The 5th graders worked hard on their campaigns and marketing and in the end, five students were chosen by their fellow students. These five students worked on fundraising using Bake Sales and eventually petitioned to our wonderful PTA for their donation of funds to purchase materials for the GAGA ball pit. Our very own, Mr. Spencer has offered to volunteer his time in the construction of the new pit and we again are so very thankful for our community at Byron and its willingness to promote our students' well being.

Byron Elementary is offering a **3-week math session** and a 3-week reading session this



SCAN FOR:
Elementary School
SUPPLY LIST



summer to incoming first through 8th grade students. The day will be spent sharpening skills, reviewing material while enjoying some recess time and snacks. A huge "thank you" to the teachers and families who are working to prevent the dreaded summer slide in achievement.

Lastly, we capped the year off with amazing **field trips** taken by our grade levels. The 5th graders got to spend an entire day at Camp Copneconic. They participated in activities to help grow their appreciation of nature and enhance their teamwork skills and ziplined across the treetops! The 4th graders took a bus to Comerica

Park to watch the Tigers in action against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Our 3rd graders carried on the end of tradition with a walk to enjoy some ice cream from the Dam Twist, while our youngest Eagles got to spend time at Crossroads Village, Potter's Park Zoo and Howell Nature Center to celebrate another amazing year.

Byron Elementary would like to wish a **happy retirement to our beloved Mrs. Michelle Gerstler and Ms. Tammy Laurin!** We are so thankful for their dedication to our school and hope they have an amazing time in the next chapters of their lives! **#foreveraneagle**

BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL



SCAN FOR:
Middle School
SUPPLY LIST



Students often look back on their schooling cherishing memorable moments. Three such moments at Byron Middle School are "Outdoor School", the 7th/8th trip, and athletics. Here our students and staff build permanent memories. Perhaps you are reading this and remembering your moments here at Byron Area Schools.

The **7th/8th grade trip** is a biennial trip that has taken our middle school students to Washington DC. Students get to see historical attractions such as Mount Vernon, the Arlington National Cemetery, the Library of Congress, the Lincoln Memorial, and more. While en route to Washington DC other attractions of note have been the Liberty Bell, the Pentagon, the Smithsonian, and the National History Museum, among other attractions.

Athletics is a chance to compete together and make lasting relationships. Byron students endure a lot together through thick and thin, joy, injury, laughter and excitement, through trials and tribulations, through failures

and successes...but TOGETHER they PERSEVERE! Byron Middle School brought back their football program this past year to add to other remarkable sports/clubs like bowling, baseball, softball, basketball, cross-country, track & field, volleyball, and ski club. Recently, Robotics has been extended to the middle school as well, widening the opportunities for student involvement!

Who can forget **Outdoor School** at Byron Middle School? The middle school staff makes a tremendous effort to bring this wonderful and fun opportunity to our students. The smiles plastered on the students faces and the sounds of laughter resonate throughout the school and downtown. Students enjoy cooking, sports, fishing, geocaching, arts & crafts, gardening, and canoeing, amongst other activities over a two day period. The students come prepared and energized for this wonderful opportunity, but leave quiet as a mouse, without a sound, exhausted from the activities and excitement.

Come SOAR as a Byron Eagle!



Byron is YOUR School of Choice!

- Proven Academic Track Record
- One-to-One Technology
- Before & After School Child Care
- 3 yr old & 4 yr old Preschool Options
- NEW Developmental Kindergarten
- Supportive Staff/Student/Family Partnerships
- Strong Participation in CTE & College Dual Enrollment
- Positive Behavior Support Program

LEARN MORE
Find us on #ByronEagles

For the 2024-25 School Year:
Kindergarten and 4 yr old preschool spots are still available!
Limited spots left in Developmental Kindergarten and 3 yr old preschool.
Call Today!

(810) 266-4881

www.Byron.k12.mi.us/enrollment

Congratulations, Byron 2024 Retirees!



Jan Amsterburg



Stacey Anibal



Michelle Gerstler



Tammy Laurin



Don McLennan



Trish Sprague

NOW HIRING

Come join our team!
For more information, go to:
www.byron.k12.mi.us/employment

BYRON STAFF, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES:

Text "yes" to 67587 to sign up for Byron Area Schools Text Alerts

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL



Keeping Traditions, Striving for Excellence, and Making Memories!

Byron High School is achieving new accomplishments while valuing and appreciating long time traditions that set Byron Area Schools and its community apart from the rest!

Who else can put on a show like **"Arnie Dog Day"**? Student Council members invest time and effort to make this day fun for the entire student body. Although the name has had some changes, the feel of the day has persisted with excitement and fun. Students engaging in competitions, tractors being driven and displayed at school, cars and trucks being voted on for best sound system, loudest exhaust, or likely to self-destruct. The day is without a doubt...uniquely Byron!

No one can forget **Homecoming!** This is truly a spectacle that encompasses the whole community! The week is filled with memories of decorating hallways, student/staff crazy dress up days, class competitions, float building, and the entire community brought together in town for the Homecoming Parade

and filtering into the stadium to watch Byron football! For the cross-country team it is an early start, running the game ball from the opposing team's school! Byron Pride is always in the crisp, fall air!

Byron organizations are reaching for new heights annually! **Byron National Honors Society** and **Student Council** has teamed up in recent years to enhance production in helping food banks. NHS has set its sights to helping improve Byron students with academics this coming year. The esteemed **Byron FFA** orchestrated many service projects and showcased the spirit and dedication of Byron with members in Leadership contests making States as well as our **Floraculture team** bringing home a gold award! The **Byron Robotics team** catapulted to new accomplishments, taking the "Judges Award" at Kettering and for the first time in history, qualified for the State Robotics Championship through winning competitions!

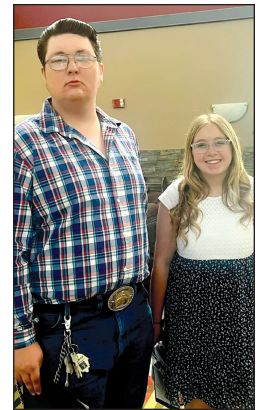


No one does it quite like our schools and community.
WE ARE BYRON!

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION / EARLY COLLEGE

Byron Area High School has had **Early College partnerships** for several years. Our current partners include the University of Michigan Flint and Baker College Owosso. Through the Shiawassee Early College Program we also partner with Lansing Community College and Mott Community College. This past year, 30% of upperclassmen, including six fifth-year students, took one or more college classes, at little to no cost to their families. This year's 5th year students earned 311 credits over their last three years. In 2024/25, 34% of the juniors and seniors will be taking college classes.

Students participating in **Career & Technical Education programs**, at either the Shiawassee College & Career Readiness Center or the Genesee Career Institute, represented 16% of the 11th and 12th graders. The residents



of Shiawassee County recently passed a millage to support the expansion of both Career & Tech Ed programs in our county, as well as support the current Early College Program. Shiawassee County's 2023/24 CTE programs included: Electrical, Health Science Academy, Public Safety, Teaching Cadet and Welding. For 2024/25, they will be

adding more sections of the current programs as well as a Heavy Equipment program. Twenty-five percent of our juniors and seniors will be participating in these CTE programs in the fall.

In addition to the above programs, upperclassmen may work and earn high school credit for that. The State of Michigan requires

the job to be within the student's individual career pathway. In 2023/24, 7% of seniors did this.

Byron High School takes pride in acknowledging our 2024 CTE award recipients, Laine Freidel (Machine Tool) and Karsyn Dix (Agriscience), who were recognized at a countywide CTE Award Ceremony this past Spring.

SCAN FOR: SCHOOL CALENDAR



1st day of school:
Thursday, August 22, 2024
Homecoming:
Friday, September 20, 2024

BYRON BACK TO SCHOOL LINKS AND DETAILS



NURSES NOTES

In November of 2022, I was fortunate enough to become the school nurse for Byron Area Schools. It had been several years since there had been a nursing position in the school district, and the job was really mine to create and make my own. While I have been a registered nurse for 25 years, all of that time had been spent in a hospital setting. I was excited to see what could be accomplished in a community environment, one that I lived in, and in a school district that my kids had attended and several of my grandkids are currently enrolled in.

With the support of the building principals and our superintendent, we were able to put several new programs in place that have already had a positive impact on our students and staff.

In the elementary school, we initiated a program through **Michigan Model for Health** with



Mrs. Andrea Howard, RN



weekly lessons in all kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms. We've had lessons on a variety of topics from healthy eating, encouraging healthy sleep patterns, what to expect at the doctor's and dentist's office, good handwashing and hygiene practices and safety at home. In our older students' classes, we've also spent time talking about dangerous substances they could soon become exposed to, and ways to avoid unhealthy habits.

The focus of health education in our middle and high schools has been on **vaping, drug and alcohol awareness**. During National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, Ms. Smith (our high school counselor) and

I put together a week's worth of activities and prizes for the kids to help encourage healthy choices. The response was overwhelmingly positive and we hope to make it an annual event. I have also been able to help Mr. Ladd with 9th grade health classes, as well as time spent talking with the middle schoolers to encourage them to decrease their intake of caffeine laden energy drinks.

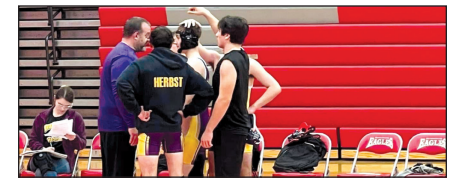
In all of our buildings, we were able to restock and upgrade our emergency equipment and supplies. We formed two **Medical Emergency Response Teams** with volunteers from our staff and held training sessions to teach our teams what to do in the event of a cardiac or medical emergency.

And yet, there is so much still to do, and so much to look forward to. In between cleaning up scrapes, taking temperatures and consoling little ones with sore throat and bee stings, I am always wondering what project I should tackle next. I love being a part of this school district. I love getting to know the students, and I am excited about what the future holds for us at Byron Area Schools.

It's good to be an Eagle!

BYRON ATHLETICS

SCAN FOR:
High School and
Middle School
ATHLETIC
SCHEDULES



SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL



CAST YOUR VOTE ON AUGUST 6, 2024

FACT

If approved, this proposal would revert the sinking fund millage to the same rate the voters approved in 2019.

FACT

The sinking fund is subject to public reporting and disclosure requirements, so the public knows how the money is being spent.



RESTORING THE SINKING FUND TO 3 MILLS



The Byron Area Schools 3.0 millage sinking fund will be used for safety and security upgrades, as well as electrical and plumbing upgrades.

WHAT THE MILLAGE IS: CAN BE USED FOR:

- Security
- Buses
- Technology upgrades
- Electrical upgrades
- Plumbing upgrades
- Remodeling
- Repairs
- Athletic facilities

WHAT THE MILLAGE ISN'T: CAN NOT BE USED FOR:

- Salaries
- Textbooks
- Routine maintenance
- Office supplies
- Classroom supplies
- Software

Sinking Fund revenues are dedicated to making infrastructure improvements and repairs to school district facilities.

These funds are to be used only for capital improvements. A Sinking Fund in the District eliminates borrowing and interest costs to maximize taxpayer dollars. This proposal is for a time period of 5 years.

How have past sinking funds been used in district improvements?

- new electronic sign
- paved high school entrance
- paved student parking lot
- concrete work at the elementary school
- new roofing installed over the elementary gym
- repair and paint elementary gym interior

Current Sinking Fund projects:

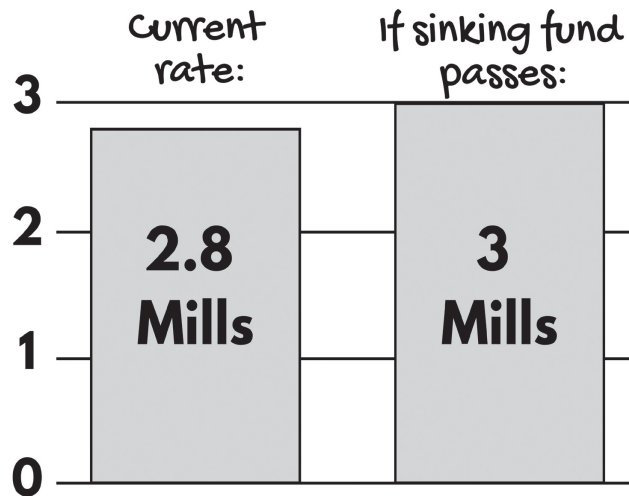
- replacing elementary school parking lot
- installing new exterior outdoor lighting
- paving and concrete work by the playgrounds
- reconfiguring playground area
- refinishing high school and elementary school gym floors

VOTING LOCATIONS:

- ANTRIM TOWNSHIP**
12014 South Bancroft Rd, Morrice
- ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP**
9048 Silver Lake Rd, Linden
- BURNS TOWNSHIP**
10355 Bath Rd, Byron
- COHOCTAH TOWNSHIP**
10518 Antcliff Rd, Fowlerville
- CONWAY TOWNSHIP**
8015 N. Fowlerville Rd, Fowlerville
- DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP**
4492 Center Rd, Linden
- VERNON TOWNSHIP**
6801 South Durand Rd, Durand



SCAN HERE FOR MORE SINKING FUND INFORMATION AND UPDATES



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Brandon Chapman, Superintendent
Tonia Ritter, Board President
810-266-4881

BYRON AREA SCHOOLS 2024 SINKING FUND PROPOSAL

www.byron.k12.mi.us/2024Vote



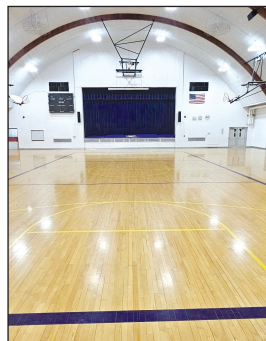
NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN



NEW ROOFING INSTALLED OVER THE ELEMENTARY GYM



PAVED STUDENT PARKING LOT



REPAIR AND PAINT ELEMENTARY GYM INTERIOR



CONCRETE WORK AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NEW HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE