

BYRON EAGLE PRIDE

A LOOK INSIDE...
TIMELESS
TRADITIONS AND
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUR LOCAL
STUDENTS

Byron Area Schools Expands Offerings with New Developmental Kindergarten and Virtual Academy

Byron Area Schools is excited to announce two new educational programs for the 2024-2025 school year. The newly launched Developmental Kindergarten (DK) Program is designed for Young-5 students with birthdays from June 1 to December 1. This full-day program mirrors the structure of traditional Kindergarten, providing before and after-school childcare and transportation options. The DK Program aims to foster a supportive learning environment that balances high expectations with a slower pace, helping

students develop essential social, emotional, and academic skills. We're still accepting new students for our current DK class, so if you're interested in enrolling your child, call today!

In addition, Byron Area Schools now offers a flexible, online learning environment through the Byron Virtual Academy for students in grades 6-12. This virtual academy features a diverse range of courses, including core subjects and electives, allowing students to learn at their own pace. With personalized learning and support from

experienced instructors, participants will have the resources needed to stay engaged and achieve academic success. What sets the Byron Virtual Academy apart is that students can still participate in Byron Athletics, extracurricular activities, and clubs, provided they meet the necessary requirements.

These initiatives reflect Byron Area Schools' commitment to meeting the diverse needs of its students and preparing them for future success.

Learn more:
www.byron.k12.mi.us/enrollment



Jason Beverly

Byron Area Schools Welcomes Principal Jason Beverly

Byron Area Schools proudly announces the appointment of Jason Beverly as the new Principal for both the High School and Middle School. A former middle and high school history teacher, Beverly's career includes serving as the Athletic Director at Laingsburg High School and later returning to Bendle Area Schools as both Athletic Director and Assistant Principal. As a Navy veteran, he brings a disciplined approach to academics, combined with a genuine understanding and caring nature for both students and staff. Beverly is committed to fostering a supportive and engaging educational environment, and he looks forward to building strong connections within the Byron community.



Sarah Campbell

Byron Area Schools Welcomes New Student Resource Officer

Byron Area Schools is excited to announce the hiring of Student Resource Officer Sarah Campbell, thanks to a state safety grant and a collaborative effort with the Township and the Durand Police Department. Officer

Campbell's presence aims to enhance safety and security across the district, providing students with a trusted figure to turn to for guidance and support. This initiative marks a significant step in ensuring a safer learning environment for all students, reflecting the community's commitment to prioritizing their well-being.

**6-12TH GRADE
VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

Looking for something different this year?

- 6th- 12th grade
- Personalized Learning
- Variety of options
- Optional lab days
- Still participate in Byron Extra Curricular, Clubs & Athletics!

Contact us today to learn more about our flexible learning pathways.
Learn More: www.byron.k12.mi.us/VirtualAcademy

Developmental Kindergarten

EMPOWER YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL WITH OUR NURTURING DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.

(810) 266-4881
www.Byron.k12.mi.us/enrollment

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BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

What an amazing first few months at Byron Elementary! Our Eagles have learned and reviewed what it means to S.O.A.R! Our school-wide mantra means Show kindness, Offer respect, Act responsibly, and Remember safety. Every time a student exhibits these qualities, they earn a SOARing ticket to place in a drawing for a variety of events and rewards at monthly assemblies. Of course, the kids chosen always have the option of selecting a brand new book from our Erik Jones vending machine and trying their luck to see if they get an autographed book! The goal for last year was 13,000 tickets as a school community. Our Eagles ended up earning over 18,000 tickets and earned themselves a brand new GAGA ball pit! This special reward was made possible by our 5th-grade student council, our wonderful

GAGA BALL



ADOPT A BOOK



Byron PTA, Mrs. Lysa Shaw, and Mr. Loren Spencer. It has been a joy to witness the kids play GAGA ball with their friends at recess, along with the other Sinking Fund improvements to our grounds.

We now have all-new, safe concrete that creates a structured walkway for our students to use, as well as brand new basketball hoops with hopscotch and four square options. The decrease in hard areas has opened up grassy spaces for our students to use for races, games, and sports activities, while the new fence and gate keep our students safe from outside traffic. The staff appreciates the new, safe parking lot with appropriate lighting, as well as the bus loop that allows for accessible, visible loading and unloading of our precious cargo. We thank you for your vote and support of our facilities, staff, and students!

A big shout-out to the community for its support in our Adopt-A-Book program that purchases new library-bound, hardcover books for our elementary library. The books purchased also come with a lifetime binding guarantee that ensures all donated books will be able to be enjoyed for many years to come. (Photo above) Here are a few proud Eagle donor pictures! If you're interested in adopting a book, please contact Mrs. Stacey Johnson at the elementary school or send in cash/check made payable to Byron Area Schools

with Adopt-A-Book in the memo. Thank you in advance for your support in creating lifelong readers here at BES!

Each month, our K-12 staff celebrates and explicitly teaches a new character trait that best embodies being a Byron Eagle. Our district is celebrating students who exhibited the open-mindedness trait this past month in September. These students have been chosen for their willingness to consider others' ideas and opinions, try new things, and be empathetic to their classmates. Our recipients are presented with a certificate at our monthly board meetings, complete with a teacher-written statement on why these students have been chosen among their entire grade level for exhibiting that trait. October will focus on Self-Control and November will center on Gratitude. Congratulations to our September Student of the Month (pictured below).

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: OPEN MINDEDNESS



HOMETOWN HEROES: HOMECOMING



In the spirit of Homecoming Week, Byron Varsity athletes and the marching band members visited the Elementary students to teach and inspire them.

ART



Elementary Art Education

Our Eagles have struck gold with Mrs. Spencer as an art educator! Students have art specials once a week, and our amazing K-5 artists just finished art projects featuring bingo daubers. This was a new art supply for us, and the work the students produced was fantastic! They read the book Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg before beginning, since the "paint markers," as we call them, are not erasable. Students had to be brave in creating bold black lines in their projects. If they made a mistake, they were told to keep going. Even mistakes can become something beautiful! Just like last year, student artwork will be stored in portfolios until the spring art show. This year will feature a "glow gallery" at the art show. Students will be creating glow-in-the-dark art with special neon art supplies purchased by the PTA!

Byron Elementary
Students

SOAR

Show Kindness,
Offer Respect,
Act Responsibly,
Remember Safety!

PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

At Eagles' Nest Preschool, we are excited to start the new school year! As our students grow, they're learning essential classroom routines, developing foundational academic skills, forming friendships, and enhancing their social abilities. Our teachers are committed to providing the very best experiences for our littlest Eagles, helping them **SOAR** into a lifelong love of learning!

We are excited to introduce some new traditions that make learning fun and memorable for our young learners!

Monthly Jamboree Sing-Along

A lively and engaging event where preschoolers gather to sing their favorite songs and learn new ones. It's a great opportunity for

students to bond, build confidence, and develop a love for music while celebrating school spirit.

Preschool Christmas Program & Underwater Celebration

Mark your calendars for December 12th at 6 PM! We're hosting a magical Christmas program combined with an exciting underwater celebration. Our preschoolers will showcase their talents through festive performances that are sure to delight families.

We look forward to celebrating these moments with you!

SCAN FOR:
JAMBOREE
VIDEO



Discover Quality Early Childhood Education at Byron Area Schools!

Looking for a nurturing and enriching preschool experience for your child?



Byron Area Schools' **Eagles' Nest Preschool and Childcare** offers a variety of programs to meet your family's needs!

Our Programs:

- **3-Year-Old Full-Day Program:** Runs 4 days a week – a perfect balance of learning and play.
- **Flexible Options for 3-Year-Olds:** Choose from half-day and 2-day programs to suit your schedule.
- **4-Year-Old Full-Day Program:**

Engaging, hands-on learning to prepare your child for success.

• **Half-Day Option for 4-Year-Olds:** A shorter program designed for early learners.

Also offering **Before and After School Childcare** to accommodate your busy schedule!

At Eagles' Nest, we focus on fostering growth, creativity, and social skills in a safe and caring environment. Our experienced staff is dedicated to helping your child thrive.

BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Last week, our 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to travel to Gettysburg, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia. While on their travels, they visited some of our nation's greatest landmarks and historical sites. On the first day, students were able to tour the

battlefields of Gettysburg, spend time on the grounds of The Mount Vernon Estate, pay their respects at the Pentagon Memorial, and drive past the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial "Iwo Jima." The second day started with a stop at Arlington National Cemetery, where they watched the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, toured the U.S. Capitol Building and the Library of Congress, and walked along the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and the Lincoln Memorial. They only caught a glimpse of The White House

as the area was under renovation, but they did get to see the new World War I Memorial and watch the playing of taps by a bugler dressed in a WWI uniform. The students were also able to view some of the memorials after dark, like the World War II and Martin Luther King Memorials. The next day, they traveled to Philadelphia, where they ate at the Reading Terminal Market (think cheesesteaks and pretzels). They were able to stand close to the Liberty Bell and tour Independence Hall. A visit to Carpenters Hall, Christ

Church, Ben Franklin's grave, and The First Post Office rounded out the visit to old Philly. We then wound down the trip with a visit to The Franklin Institute Science Museum and a "Rocky" run on the steps of The Philadelphia Museum of Art before they departed for Byron.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FFA

The MS FFA started four Broiler Projects on Wednesday, October 2nd. We have four groups raising birds. Each group of students will receive 25 chickens to take care of for the next five weeks. Once completed, students will create a report and have their chickens compete with other MS groups around the state at Munsell's Poultry Processing in early November.



CRAFTS & CONTEMPLATION AFTER SCHOOL CLUB 2024/2025

This is the third year for the middle/high school Craft & Contemplation After School Club. We started meeting a couple of weeks ago and did some planning for the year. We have some craft days and cooking days planned. If you have any questions, please contact Malinda Smith at (810) 266-4620.

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL



HOMECOMING HAPPENINGS!

Byron's 2024 Homecoming week, held from September 16 to 21, was a total success! The 2024 theme was cartoons, and students had a blast all week dressing up for spirit days. High schoolers got creative on "Anything but a Backpack" day, bringing everything from shopping carts and trash cans to kayaks and inflatable rafts! Our beloved Homecoming traditions continued throughout the entire week. At the Powderpuff Football game, Daniel Fondren was crowned the 2024 Homecoming King, and Debi Murray was awarded this year's "Honorary Eagle" for her dedication to the Byron Eagles. Thank you, Debi! On Friday, the community came together for the parade, followed by a beautiful evening at Eagle Stadium for the Homecoming Game. During halftime, the marching band put on a marvelous performance, and Myleigh Rohner was crowned Byron's 2024 Homecoming Queen. A HUGE thank you to our staff, community members, coaches, and families for making this unforgettable week possible!



WE ARE BYRON!



BYRON ATHLETICS

THE VALUE OF ATHLETICS: REFLECTING ON A SUCCESSFUL FALL SPORTS SEASON AT BYRON

As the fall sports season draws to a close, Byron's athletic programs are shining bright, demonstrating not only a commitment to competition but also the invaluable life lessons that come with participating in sports. From volleyball to cross country, football, and golf, our student-athletes have shown resilience, teamwork, and dedication, embodying the spirit of Byron.

SCAN FOR:
High School and
Middle School
**ATHLETIC
SCHEDULES**



Cross Country: Steady Improvements

On the cross-country front, the runners are also showcasing significant progress. Each race reflects their hard work and determination, with many athletes achieving personal bests. The XC team will travel to Webberville for the MHSAA Regionals October 25-26. Best of luck to all the runners!



Football: Grit and Determination

Friday nights have become a testament to the grit and determination of the Byron Football team. With each game, the players demonstrate resilience, learning to adapt and overcome challenges on the field. While the record may not be where this team wanted it to be, they continue to build a foundation for the football program from the ground up.

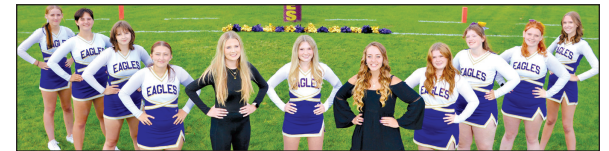
Golf: A Standout Season

Meanwhile, our lone female golfer has been making waves, consistently medaling, and winning throughout the season. Her dedication and skill have not only brought her personal success but have also inspired her peers. Byron athletics would like to send a special thank you to the Chesaning School Community for allowing Adalen Brown the opportunity to compete with them throughout the season.



Volleyball: A Team on the Rise

The Byron Volleyball team continues to battle fiercely in the Mid-Michigan Athletic Conference (MMAC). Their perseverance is evident as they navigate a challenging schedule, improving their skills and teamwork with every match. Volleyball will head to Ovid-Elsie for the first round of the state tournament the week of November 4-9.



Beyond Winning: Lifelong Lessons

While winning is undoubtedly exciting, the true value of athletics lies in the lessons learned along the way. Commitment, teamwork, and the ability to overcome adversity are traits that extend far beyond the playing field. As this season wraps up, it's clear that the impact of these experiences will last a lifetime for our student-athletes.

Byron's fall sports season has been a celebration of hard work, improvement, and the bonds formed through competition. As the fall season slowly starts to come to an end and teams prepare for the winter sports season, the foundations built during these months will undoubtedly contribute to their future successes, both in sports and in life.



TWO NEW TRADITIONS TO KICK THE YEAR OFF RIGHT!

As another school year has arrived, so have two new traditions at Byron Area Schools. The first took place on a bright Saturday morning, September 7th. The seniors were afforded the opportunity to purchase their parking spots in the student lot and paint a mural that represented them. We had seven students participate this year, and their creativity and talent were on full display. Witnessing the students, friends, and fami-

lies participate in this activity was a joy. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the future as a great way for students to show off their personalities and character.

The second tradition was held during homecoming week on Friday, September 20th. This event involved the current seniors passing down a spirit token and note to the kindergarteners. The seniors lined up on one goal line and walked to the kin-

dergarteners from the other goal line, meeting at midfield to exchange notes and words of wisdom. As the students walked, a custom Byron song played over the loudspeakers, making the moment truly magical. Parents were welcome to attend and experience this new tradition, and it was a very emotional gathering. All involved were excited about the opportunity, and we look forward to this amazing event next fall.

**SCAN TO WATCH
VIDEO:
SENIORS PASS
DOWN TO
KINDERGARTENERS**





BAND

The Byron Bands have started the year off with a bang! The 6th-grade band is learning and reinforcing fundamentals, the 7th/8th-grade band is getting a great start on their fall concert music, and the high school band is already halfway through their marching season!

The Byron Eagle Marching Band is performing their show, "Electric

Secrets," four more times after their marathon homecoming performance.

See us next:

Nov 7 - Fall Concert - 6th grade - HS band, 7 PM, HS Gym

Dec 7 - Byron Christmas Parade 7th - HS band

Dec 17 - Winter Concert - 6th grade - HS band, 7 PM, EL Gym

BYRON FFA

We have 6 seniors who were chosen to go to the National Convention. These 6 seniors have been the most active members since their freshman year. The members include Myleigh Rohner, Shiann Bacon, Lizzy Strzelecki, Daniel Fondren, Zerik Crawford, and Jordan Huhn. While at the National Convention, our members will get to participate in many activities, including a rodeo, a Megan Moroney and Nate Smith concert, a hypnotist show, a career expo and FFA shopping

mall, many informational business sessions with guest speakers, and also touring Chicago. In addition to our 6 seniors, Emma Davis will also be participating in the National FFA Band. This is the first time a member from Byron will be represented in the National FFA Band since the early 2000s. As part of the band, she will be rehearsing with members from all around the country and performing at each business session in front of close to 50,000 people.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION / EARLY COLLEGE

BYRON AREA SCHOOLS STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IN HOUSE CAREER TECH EDUCATION

49%

of 9-12 grade Byron students are participating

CAREER TECH EDUCATION IN VERNON

19%

of 11-12 grade Byron students are participating

GENESEE CAREER INSTITUTE

6%

of 11-12 grade Byron students are participating

DUAL ENROLLMENT

5%

of 11-12 grade Byron students are participating

EARLY COLLEGE/ 5TH YEAR

24%

of 11-12 grade Byron students are participating

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CAREER PATHWAY OPTIONS AT: WWW.BYRON.K12.MI.US/CAREERPATHWAYS

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council hosted its first blood drive of the year with Versiti Blood Center on September 27th and collected 31 units of blood! It is because of generous student and community donors like you that Versiti will help save up to 96 lives.

The next blood drive will be on Friday, January 10th, at the high school library. Visit versiti.org/mi to sign up to donate!



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
- NEW Byron Virtual Academy
- Strong Participation in CTE & College Dual Enrollment
- Positive Behavior Support Program

LEARN MORE
Find us on  **#ByronEagles**



(810) 266-4881

www.Byron.k12.mi.us/enrollment



NURSES NOTES



Mrs. Andrea Howard, RN

The nurse's office at the elementary school is quite often a busy place. As I write this, I've got one kiddo with an emesis basin (aka a plastic bucket lined with a Walmart bag) in front of her "just in case," one kiddo waiting for his parents to come pick him (and his achy ear) up, and another with ice on a swollen bug bite.

In between sick visits, though, I have time to work on issues that impact our students and staff at the elementary, middle, and high schools.

One of the topics I'm focused on is improving the long-term health of our students, including their dental health. In September, we were able to host the Great Lakes Bay Health Center mobile dental bus for our first-ever visit. Last spring, we sent out permission forms to all of our elementary school students and made the forms available to the older students in their middle and

high school offices. In early September, the bus parked at the elementary school for two days while students who had parent-signed permission slips were seen by the dentist and hygienist for an exam, cleaning, fluoride treatment, and any needed sealants. The service works with most, if not all, insurance plans. Families without dental insurance can easily apply for a sliding scale rate, which is never more than \$40.

We had about a dozen kiddos who were able to use this convenient, child-friendly service. It received rave reviews from all of the patients, and I am happy to say we have scheduled a return visit for early March 2025. Falling just over six months from the fall appointment, the March schedule will give interested students the chance to have twice-yearly dental visits. Hopefully, we will see the number of students taking part in the



visits increase as the word gets out to more and more families. Keep us in mind if your students could benefit from better dental health!

Another opportunity I'd like to be sure our Byron families know about is the chance all of our students have to take an American

Heart Association CPR and First Aid course free of charge here at our schools. The classes are offered as students express an interest, last about three hours, and provide stress-free, hands-on training. If your teen would like to learn more, have them ask their school secretary for more information.

I'm always on the lookout for ways to improve the day-to-day health of our students. If you know of a need or see a gap in the way we care for the health of our students, feel free to give me a call. And as always,

It's good to be an Eagle!

FOOD SERVICE

Food Service would like to notify Middle and High School students of the upcoming Special Menu Days.

We look forward to serving you all!

- **October 24th** is Homemade Pizza Day
- **November 21st** is our Thanksgiving Feast
- **December 19th** is our Christmas Celebration Lunch

Make a payment on a meal account here: <https://byronarea.familyportal.cloud>

SCAN FOR:
BYRON LUNCH MENU



BYRON AREA SCHOOLS CALENDAR



NOW HIRING

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



BYRON PTA

CALLING ALL TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND GUARDIANS!

Would you like to help with Popcorn Day at the elementary school? Maybe you have ideas you'd like to share for new fundraisers or activities?

Participate to create a positive impact by joining the PTA. Our next meeting dates are 11/7/24, 12/5/24, and 1/9/24. All meetings are approximately one hour long and are held in the elementary library at 6 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

— Jillian (President) and Samantha (Vice President)
Byron PTA Email: byronareapta@gmail.com
Byron PTA Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ByronAreaPTA



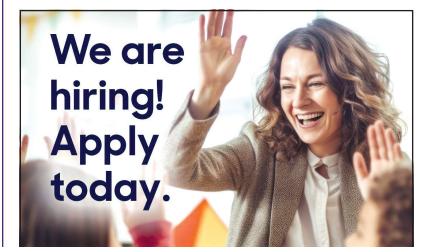
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

We are so thankful for our substitute teachers! If you're interested in substitute teaching this school year, you'll want to start the application process now.

BECOME AN EDUSTAFF SUBSTITUTE

Whether you're looking for a flexible schedule or more steady employment, substitute teaching through Edustaff offers competitive pay, access to health and 401(k) benefits, the chance to work at a school you consider a future employer, and a great way to be involved in your child's or grandchild's school and stay active in your community.

Go to <https://www.edustaff.org/requirements> to apply!



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Dear Byron Area School District Community,

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of the Byron Area School sinking fund. Your affirmative vote this past August demonstrates a strong commitment to the continued growth and improvement of our schools, ensuring that we can provide the best possible

learning environment for our students.

This funding will enable us to address essential infrastructure needs, enhance facilities, and support critical maintenance projects that are vital to the success of our educational programs. Your support reflects a shared dedication to the future of our children and our community,

and for that, we are truly grateful.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership and commitment to the Byron Area School District. Together, we are making a significant impact on the educational experience of our students.

Warm regards,
 Byron Area School Board and Administration

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LIVE MUSIC FUNDRAISING EVENT
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 Meetings 7pm HS Library
 11/13 12/11 1/8

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