BYRON AREA SCHOOLS
JUNE 2026 CELEBRATION EDITION

# BYRON EAGLE PRIDE



VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM MADE IT TO STATE PLAY-OFFS!
SEE PAGE 8

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**Brandon Chapman**
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### SUMMER PROJECTS:

As we end another successful school year, our district is hard at work on a wide range of projects and improvements that will benefit our students, staff, and community for years to come. This summer will be especially busy as we continue investing in our facilities, safety, and educational programs.

Several major facility projects are scheduled throughout the district. At the athletic complex, the home and visitor football field grandstands will be replaced, providing safer and more comfortable seating for our fans and community members. The concession stand and restroom areas will also receive new drywall and updated fixtures to improve functionality and appearance.

Inside the high school, students will return in the fall to refreshed hallways featuring new lockers and updated paint. We are also repaving and expanding the back parking areas near the gymnasium to improve traffic flow and accessibility during events and daily activities.

At the elementary school, new rooftop HVAC units will be installed to improve efficiency and comfort throughout the building. Meanwhile, repairs and updates to the middle school bathrooms are underway to address long-standing facility needs.

Academically, our middle school staff is working diligently to adopt a new grades 6–8 math curriculum that will align closely with our current K–5 math program. This alignment will help create a more seamless learning experience for students as they progress through the district.

Student and staff safety continues to remain one of our highest priorities. The district has transitioned to a new keyless entry system, and all remaining building cores will be rekeyed over the summer to strengthen building security. We are also exploring the installation of a new public address system at the elementary school to replace the current outdated system. In addition, the district is planning for upgraded camera systems throughout all district buildings and facilities.

Beyond these projects, the district has actively pursued several competitive grant opportunities that could further expand support for our students and schools. These include a student mental health grant that may allow us to hire a dedicated middle school counselor, a grant opportunity to provide Byron Area Schools with its own full-time Student

**CONTINUED** on Page 12




## BYRON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR CLASS OF 2026

*— See Page 11 —*





## BYRON AREA SCHOOLS - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

| Tonia Ritter, President | Ellen Glass, Vice President | Jeanette Prestonise, Secretary | Phillip Hamilton, Treasurer | Richard Whaley, Trustee | David Harris, Trustee | Jim Anibal, Trustee |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE!**

**FIND US:**
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www.facebook.com/ByronAreaSchools

# EAGLES' NEST PRESCHOOL



## A PLACE WHERE LITTLE LEARNERS SOAR

### WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR AT PRESCHOOL!

What an incredible preschool year it has been! From laughter-filled days and hands-on learning to special memories made with friends, this year was truly one to remember. We ended the year with wonderful family field trips, fun picnics, and exciting activities that celebrated all the growth and joy our students experienced together. It has been so special watching each child learn, explore, and blossom throughout the year. Thank you to our amazing families for being part of the journey and helping make this year so meaningful. As we say goodbye to one wonderful school year, we are already excited for all the fun, friendships, and learning that await in the 2026-2027 school year!

### EAGLES' NEST PRESCHOOL – NOW ENROLLING FOR 2026-2027!

Where Young Learners SOAR into a Lifelong Love of Learning!

Byron Eagles' Nest Preschool offers a nurturing, well-rounded environment where children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. From literacy and math readiness to social skill-building and creative enrichment—your child will thrive in a fun and supportive space!

**Exciting Reasons to join:**
- New Age Appropriate Play Structure
- On-site Library Featuring Mara, Our Beloved Therapy Dog!
- New Sensory Garden

**Enrichment Activities Include:**
- Music
- Art
- Dance

**Our Preschool Program Features:**
- Kindergarten Readiness Activities
- Small & Large Group Play
- Healthy Meals and Snacks
- School Bus Transportation for 4 year olds
- Before and After School Childcare Available!



### ALL 4-YEAR-OLDS QUALIFY FOR FREE PRESCHOOL!

Also offering a fantastic 3-year-old program with full-time and part-time options! Many families don't realize they may qualify for Child Development and Care subsidies through the MDHHS (MiBridges). Please contact us if you need assistance.

**Our Mission:**

To foster growth, creativity, and social skills in a safe and caring environment led by experienced, passionate educators.

Help your child take flight with a strong foundation for future success—spaces are limited!

**CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE OR ENROLL:**

**Byron Area Schools**
**810-266-6323**

**https://www.byron.k12.mi.us/byronpreschool**

**Director: Darci Williams**



Director: Darci Williams

Let your child SOAR at **Eagles' Nest Preschool**—where every day is an opportunity to grow, explore, and shine!

## NOW ENROLLING FOR 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR!

CONTACT:
williamsd@byron.k12.us
**810-266-6323**

OPTIONS:

**3-Year-Old Preschool**
Tuition based 3-year-old preschool for 33 months +

**4-Year-Old Preschool**
FREE GSRP Preschool for 4 year

**Childcare**
Before and After School Childcare

**Summer Options**
Summer Kids Kamp Childcare for Preschool and School-age



# BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

**Stacey Johnson**
**Johnson@byron.k12.mi.us**



What a year it has been at Byron Elementary! We continue to uphold beloved traditions such as the Darlin' Dance, SuperKids Day, and PALS, while continuing to grow in our endeavors to best serve our students, families and community. We held a math event in January, inviting families in to see how math instruction looks at all grade levels as we entered our second year of a new math curriculum. Earlier this spring, we celebrated "March is Reading" month with a Family Literacy Night. Students in preschool through 5th grade visited in the evening with their families to pick up reading free reading materials and reading skill help to utilize at home when practicing their reading. These events will continue to happen and evolve as Byron Elementary works to meet the needs of our learners and their families.

## CONGRATULATIONS MRS. STATON

Byron Elementary would like to wish a happy retirement to our Mrs. Marla Staton! Mrs. Staton taught for 29 years while serving in other leadership roles in our district. She stepped into her latest role as Math Title Teacher and did amazing things for our MTSS system and most importantly for our students. She never shied away from a challenge or an obstacle and fully embraced this new role. Our staff has learned so much from Mrs. Staton will miss her greatly, but wish her continued success on her new endeavors. #foreveraneagle








## ADOPT-A-BOOK PROGRAM

Looking to make a small donation to make a big impact on student learning? Our elementary school utilizes the Adopt-A-Book program to grow our school's library. A donation of $20 places one brand new, library bound book in our school's library to be checked out by students for many years to come. In addition, your name or the name of your choosing will be placed on the Adopt-A-Book sponsor label inside the book during its life in the library. Since beginning this program in 2023, we have added 120 hardcover books to our library!

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Our 5th grade student council worked hard this year under a new leader, Mr. Spencer. They conducted fundraisers, gave a phenomenal presentation at the Bridging Generations Luncheon and helped plan upcoming improvements to our school grounds. We are so proud of their hard work to make their elementary school a better version before they head to middle school!




## FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT RAFFLE WINNERS







## SUPER KIDS DAY

Our Super Kids Day event continues to be a favorite among our Eagles! We hold a 5K around our building in the morning and end the day with stations, which would not happen without the hard work of Mrs. Vandemark, parent volunteers, and community partners. All kids participate in various activities such as tug of war, badminton, ladder ball, corn hole, beach ball races, bounce house fun, etc... A big thank you to all of the people who help make this annual event a memorable one for our Eagles!








# BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## ART SHOW

A big congratulations to our Eagle artists at this year's Elementary Art Show. Over 300 pieces of art, accumulated from this year alone, were on display for families to enjoy and marvel at. Mrs. Sara Spencer does a tremendous job balancing the 14 sections of art classes on just two days a week, while teaching our students the benefits of artistic expression and encouraging amazing individual pieces.





## DONUTS AT DROPOFF

Our 2nd grade teaching team, Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs. Hayes continued the Donuts at Dropoff for a third year in a row. The energy of the second graders as they hand deliver donuts and handwritten notes to families who are dropping their children off at school is so uplifting and sweet. Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs Hayes are helping their students recognize and reward the efforts of families who are getting their student to school, on-time and ready to learn. Thank you Second Graders!







## FIELD TRIPS

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 Jackson Field to watch the Lansing Lugnuts in action. 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 Howell Nature Center and Potter's Park Zoo to celebrate another amazing year.

# NURSES NOTES

## THE SUMMER OF REAL FOOD



Mrs. Andrea Howard, RN

If your meals are anything like the ones at our house during June, July and August, there are certain foods that just scream "It's finally summer! Let's eat!" Sunny days are traditionally celebrated with things like Doritos, hot dogs, push-ups and ice cream bars, tall bottles of cold pop and ranch dressing on everything!

Emerging dietary science, though, confirms what we probably already knew deep down in our convenience food-loving hearts... real food: food that comes from a plant or has a mom and dad is just all around better for us. According to healthline.com, real food is "food that is as close to its natural state as possible." That means food that is unprocessed, free of chemical additives and rich in nutrients. Here are 10 reasons they highlight to focus on "real food."

- It's loaded with important nutrients
- It's low in sugar and may reduce sugar cravings
- It's heart healthy and helps manage blood sugar
- It's high in fiber
- It helps lower triglyceride levels
- It provides variety
- It's high in healthy fats
- It may reduce disease risk
- It may help prevent overeating
- It sets a good example for our kids

Like most suggestions from well-meaning experts, changing an entrenched lifestyle like the convenience food focused diet most of us eat is not an easy-peasy switch. If you're ready to start the move to a more whole food focused diet, the key is to make your new choices as tasty as they can be. It's important to make a whole food diet feel like a reward and not a punishment!

The internet is full of yummy, easy to prepare recipes to help you incorporate more whole foods into your family's diet. Here is one I found to get you started.

## CHIA AND ALMOND OVERNIGHT OATS

*Serves 4*

**INGREDIENTS:**

2 cups old fashioned oats
8 tablespoons chia seeds
2 cups milk of your choice
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
½ cup plain unsweetened greek yogurt
Berries and almonds

**DIRECTIONS:**

Mix oats and chia seeds in a bowl. In a separate bowl, mix together yogurt, milk and vanilla, stir into oats/chia seed mixture. Spoon into a large, covered container and leave in the fridge overnight. In the morning, portion into 4 bowls and top with berries and almonds.

Chia seeds are a new food for me. While they don't have much flavor, they are full of healthy omega 3 fatty acids, help to reduce blood pressure and cholesterol levels, support healthy digestion and can aid in weight management. The little tiny seeds swell up in liquid to make a little ball of gel that helps your body move food through your system. They're also full of healthy antioxidants, help stabilize blood sugar and help you feel full longer.

Quinoa is another relatively new food for me. Quinoa is an ancient grain that is full of B vitamins, dietary fiber and can reduce inflammation.

*— Recipes taken from bbcgoodfood.com*

# BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



**Jay Schmitt**
**schmitt@byron.k12.mi.us**

I can't believe another academic year is already in the books and summer is here! There were many initiatives that were started or improved upon this year at the middle school, which made it seem like the year flew by. Additionally, intentionally breaking up some of the traditionally long stretches between breaks with strategic fun days that students genuinely look forward to, we helped everyone's sights keep moving forward.

One such perennial event and one of our proudest traditions at the middle school is our exceptional Outdoor School. This is a transformative experience that takes our students beyond the four walls of a traditional classroom. There is truly nothing quite like the joy of seeing our kids thrive in this alternative, nature-based setting, where typical academic pressures fade away and are replaced by genuine smiles shared among peers and staff alike. The program offers an assortment of hands-on adventures tailored to every interest, allowing students to paddle calm waters while canoeing, navigate around town on bikes, and collaborate on exciting geocaching hunts. Beyond the active pursuits of golfing and fishing, they also have the opportunity to tap into their creative and practical sides through art, photography, journaling, and even hands-on cooking and gardening. Ultimately, Outdoor School fosters an environment where every student can discover a new passion and create unforgettable memories under the open sky.

Throughout the year and at the conclusion of each year, Byron Middle School collects and analyzes a multitude of different data sets with the aim of improving our practices to better serve our community. Over the past two years, the middle school team has worked collaboratively to implement research-based programs focused at supporting students, such as Check-in Check-Out (CICO) and social groups. We have already been able to celebrate many of the students in these programs and graduate them out of these programs, as they achieved their goals. Additionally, the middle school has implemented our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) with the acronym PRIDE. PBIS isn't just a program; it's a commitment to changing the school's culture and climate, through fostering a culture of positive recognition. We want to build an environment where we intentionally "catch" students doing the right thing. By rolling out strategic incentives, we hope to create a school culture where positive choices are celebrated, motivating everyone to bring their best selves to class. One of our last PBIS random drawings of the year, a student selected the incentive of cutting the administrator's tie. Although this wasn't my favorite choice, the joy it brought to the students was well worth it!

This year our middle school staff worked really hard to implement two interventions to support our students. The staff worked collaboratively to transform our SPARC period to provide incentives for students excelling academically, while providing academic support for students in need. Additionally, the middle school implemented a targeted math intervention support for our student population falling within certain math criteria. This year the intervention gave support to roughly 40 students in mathematics, with about 86% of those students increasing their knowledge in mathematics! We look forward to continuing to improve upon these supports for our Byron Middle School students.

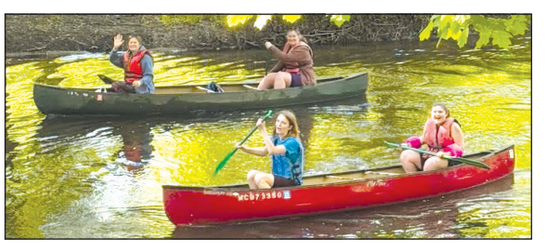
We want to extend a massive thank you to our Math Leadership Team, made up of both middle school and high school staff, for their hard work and dedication over this past year. This exceptional team of educators has been spending countless hours behind the scenes reviewing and exploring new math curricula. Let's be honest, choosing the right math program for middle schoolers is no small task. It requires deep analysis, collaboration, and a passionate commitment to finding materials that make math engaging, accessible, and appropriately challenging for all types of learners. This upcoming mathematics curriculum refresh will empower our teachers to help students build confidence and master critical problem-solving skills for high school.

Between the focus on positive and supportive culture fostered by PBIS, the academic excellence driven by our Math Leadership Team (other departments to follow), and the recent interventions the opportunity for our students' success is building. Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and amazing students for making these initiatives a reality. Let's keep this momentum going and improving each year! I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation!













## STUDENT COUNCIL:

This year stucco collected 92 units of blood with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan. Thank you to all who donated and made this year a successful one. Please watch for summer drives.




## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

The Byron High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) has been a proud cornerstone of student leadership, scholarship, character and service, officially inducting dedicated members since 1964. Rooted in a deep commitment to giving back, our chapter continuously provides support to our local community through strong, collaborative partnerships, such as our ongoing work with the Byron Masons summer raffle. You will frequently see our students volunteering their time to ensure the success of beloved local traditions like the annual Byron Alumni Banquet, Super Kids Day at our elementary, as well as stepping up to support broader regional needs by assisting the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. We are thrilled to celebrate the continuation of this incredible legacy this year, as we proudly inducted five outstanding new members into this wonderful and helpful organization!

# BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

## HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



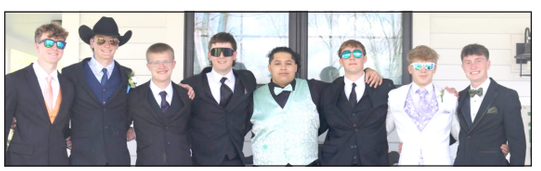
**Jason Beverly**
**beverly@byron.k12.mi.us**

### BYRON PROM 2026: A NIGHT AT THE DERBY

Our Byron Eagles experienced a truly magical prom night at Northfork Farms & Outback, the perfect country setting with a modern twist. From dancing in the beautiful reception hall to making memories around the bonfire roasting s'mores, playing cornhole, spike ball, giant Connect Four, and even visiting the horses, the night was filled with laughter, friendship, and unforgettable moments. Congratulations to Miyah Treidel and Isiaha Finch on being crowned Prom Queen and Prom King!







### BYRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB

Congratulations to the Byron High School Drama Club on their amazing performance of Game of Tiaras this past March! The cast and crew delivered an incredibly entertaining show filled with energy, humor, and talent from start to finish.

Thank you to everyone involved for all the hard work and dedication that made the production such a success.

Bravo to the students, directors, stage crew, and volunteers for putting on such a memorable performance!





### ARNIE DOG DAY

This fun tradition started back in the 1990s thanks to Mr. Dinse and Mrs. Richardson. At the time, Mr. Dinse was the student council advisor, and the goal was simple: to bring some joy and celebration to the school year. Arnold "Arnie" Berkompas, a beloved staff member, became known for grilling the hot dogs, earning the event its name: Arnie Dog Day.

Over the years, the celebration grew to include games, water balloons, and even awards for the best car, truck, or tractor. The event was later renamed Duck & Dog Day, and then May Day, but the spirit remained the same.

In 2023, we sadly lost Arnie. To honor his memory and the role he played in making this day special, Byron High School proudly returned to the original name: Arnie Dog Day.

We're excited to keep the tradition going and celebrate another amazing Arnie Dog Day here at BHS!



### HIGH SCHOOL / MIDDLE SCHOOL ART



Teacher: Jamie Anderson

Byron High School Artists should be so PROUD of their hard work this year! This year's Art Show was a great display of their efforts and talents.

An artist and former educator judged the show and honored these students with the following awards:

**Best of Show**: Eisley Rocco
**Da Vinci Award for best technical work**: Celina Soegaard
**Matisse Award for creative use of color**: Jayden Kinaitis
**Kahlo Award for best originality**: Jonah Spencer
**Dali Award for most expressive drawing**: Carly Charbonneau
**Van Gogh Award for most expressive painting**: Jaelyn Doty
**Honorable Mention**: Heidi Conlen, Kory Colbert, Breeanna Voyle, Addie Brown, Caitlyn Wasilenski

**AT SENIOR AWARD NIGHT THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE GIVEN OUT TO OUR SENIORS:**

**Pushing Boundaries Award**: Kory Colbert and Jaelyn Doty
**Artistic Voice Award**: Eisley Rocco
**Best Artist**: Caitlyn Wasilenski





## COREY WHITE PLACED 10TH IN THE NATION

### DURING THE SKILLSUSA HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION CONTEST EARLIER THIS MONTH!

Corey White of Byron won the Heavy Equipment Operation contest at the SkillsUSA Michigan State Leadership and Skills Conference in Grand Rapids on April 18th. After submitting a one-page printed resume and participating in an interview, Corey showcased his skills using a hydraulic excavator, skid-steer loader, and rough-terrain forklift, first by successfully maneuvering a driving course, and then by conducting machinery inspections, changing attachments, and demonstrating trenching or backfilling. In June, Corey advanced to Nationals, joining over 6,500 students in Atlanta for a hands-on trade competition and took 10th in the nation! Corey is a student at Shiawassee RESD's College and Career Readiness Center in Vernon. A senior at Byron Area Schools, Corey has been with the CTE Heavy Equipment program since its inception.



# BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

## HIGH SCHOOL FFA

### PAST EVENTS SINCE FEBRUARY UPDATE:

**Feb. 16-20**: We celebrated FFA Week with themed dress-up days, games, and donuts from our Alumni.

**March 4-6**: We took 18 members to our annual State Convention at Michigan State University. We had 2 candidates for State Office, 7 members participate in the State FFA Band, 8 members earn State FFA Degrees, 13 members earn their Outstanding Junior Award, 17 members receive an academic excellence award, and 6 members compete in State-Level Leadership contests. Eli Prestonise received a silver rating and 7th place in the Greenhand Public Speaking contest and our Agricultural Issues Team placed 3rd in the state with a Gold Award! Their team consisted of Emma Glass, Andon Prestonise, Evan Ritter, Patrick Conlen, and Abby Harper and their topic was agricultural land development.

**March 18**: We had outstanding community support at our annual Labor Auction! We had 62 members participate, raising over $23,000 for our chapter activities.

**March 20**: We elected our SENIOR OFFICERS:
**President**: Evan Ritter
**VP**: Vanessa James
**2nd VP**: Kara Chapman
**Secretary**: Jessica Ward
**Treasurer**: Patrick Conlen
**Reporter**: Ben Sherwood
**Sentinel**: Abby Harper

**April 8**: Our 40 pairs of PALS celebrated the end of the year at their annual PALS Party. Special thanks to Margie Whaley for facilitating this program, connecting FFA members with elementary school students in mentorship.

**April 17**: We had 10 high school teams compete in FFA Skills Contests in the areas of Forestry, Floriculture, Land Conservation, Vet Science, Nursery/Landscape, Poultry, and Environmental Science. Of these teams, two of our Floriculture teams received a silver and a gold rating, and our Nursery/Landscape team received a silver rating.

**April 19**: Members partnered with the Antrim-Burns 4-H club to rake leaves at the Union Plains Cemetery.

**April 24**: We elected our JUNIOR OFFICER TEAM:
**Jr. President**: Eli Prestonise
**Jr. VP**: Sophie Osborn
**Jr. Secretary**: Brice Honke
**Jr. Treasurer**: Arabella MacIsaac
**Jr. Reporter**: Teaghan Rohner
**Jr. Sentinel**: Greysen Villani

**April 27-28**: Our newly elected Sr. Officers attended Regional Camp in Lapeer with other chapters from around our area. Evan Ritter and Delaney Richardson represented our chapter as Regional Officers who helped run the camp this year.





**April 30**: We celebrated our members' successes with 200 attendees at our annual Awards Banquet!

**May 4**: Our freshmen Ag Biology students learned about soil fertility and composting on a field trip to AgroLiquid Fertilizers in St. Johns.

May 5: Our Vet Science students competed in the Market Rabbit Contest at Munsell's Poultry Processing. This project allowed us to raise 5 meat rabbits in class for 3 weeks and track their growth and health.

**May 7**: 46 members prepared exhibits for Elementary Farm Day, with 23 exhibits of farm animals and other agricultural topics to teach ag literacy to elementary students. Special thanks to Ed and Lori Bedell, who ran hayrides with their draft horses.

**May 12**: Members took animals to visit with the residents at the Argentine Care Center.

**May 20-23**: Our Alumni ran their annual Plant Sale, with over $8,500 in net sales for the week.

### COMING UP:

**June 5**: We are taking a day trip to Michigan's Adventure with 25 members.

**June 8-11**: We are taking a four-day Reward Trip to Nashville, Tennessee with our 23 most active members from the year.

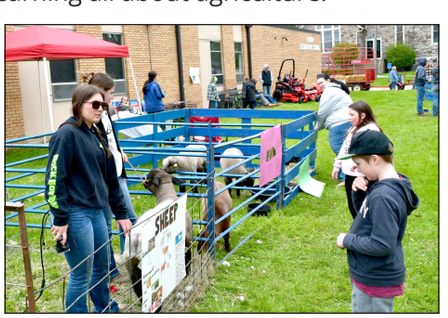
**July 13-15**: Our newly-elected officers will attend an Officer Training Camp in Bay City to plan for the upcoming year.

**August 9-15**: 17 members will be exhibiting animals at the Shiawassee County Fair through our FFA chapter, including swine, sheep, beef cattle, poultry, rabbits, and goats. We are also excited to cheer on Myleigh Rohner as she represents our chapter as this year's Shiawassee County Fair Attendant.

## FARM DAY

Byron High School FFA students set up their annual Farm Day at the Elementary School, which is always a hit! From Farm animals to snacks from the farm, it's a fantastic day of learning all about agriculture.






## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Josephine Forbush, who has been named the 2026 Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators Outstanding Early Career Teacher! Josephine has been teaching at Byron High School since 2022. In her time here, she has focused on honoring the traditions of the long-standing Byron Agriscience Program and FFA chapter while guiding growth and intentional change.





## FUN ON THE LAST DAY

Seniors paused to enjoy the Elementary Parachute one last time on their very last day of school.

# BYRON ATHLETICS

## HIGH SCHOOL TRACK



This year Byron Track and Field had an extremely successful season.

**For the Boys**: Byron Boys had an extremely competitive season with stand out performances from multiple athletes, earning multiple medals and points throughout the season. At Regionals, we took 15 boys. 14 earned personal records, and 8 earned All Region (Top 8 overall). We had 7 state Qualifiers: Josiah Johncox (3200 meter relay, 1600, and 800), Colten Royer (1600 meter relay, 400), Cristian Cortez-Alvarez (3200 meter relay), Halston Hooley (3200 Meter Relay, 1600 meter relay), Brayden Steele (3200 meter relay), Jonathan Adkins (1600 meter relay), and Gavyn Garris (1600 meter relay).

**For the Girls**: Byron Girls worked extremely hard with small numbers, proving it's not the size of the team that matters, but the competitive spirit and drive of the athletes on it. Despite only taking around 7 girls to each meet, every girl had stand out performances and often earned medals and top 8 performances. At Regionals five out of seven girls that attended earned personal records. 3 were All Region (top 8 overall). Alivia Ellington also made history as being the first athlete from Byron to compete in a run off after tying for 8th in the prelims. For the Girls there are two state qualifiers: Shayla Bacon (three time state qualifier in High Jump) and Gracie McDowell (two time state qualifier in Long Jump, also qualified for the 200 this year).

## SOCCER



The Byron Girls Soccer team faced a challenging season, but their perseverance, teamwork, and determination never wavered. Throughout the year, the Eagles continued to compete with heart and pride, highlighted by an exciting 2-0 victory over Flint Carman-Ainsworth. Each player entered the season with personal goals and consistently put in the effort to achieve them, both on and off the field.

Despite the obstacles they faced, the team remained committed to growing together as a group while also developing individually as athletes and teammates. Their dedication was evident in every practice, game, and moment of adversity they encountered. The Eagles showed tremendous grit, resilience, and a positive attitude all season long, continuing to push each other to improve every day.

The growth, leadership, and passion displayed by this team have built a strong foundation for the future, and it will be exciting to see how their hard work and commitment carry over into next season.

## SOFTBALL



Congratulations on an amazing season to our Byron Softball Team! Your hard work, dedication and drive carried you far this season and you all should be so proud of yourselves! District Champs, Regional Champs & State Quarterfinalists!

Throughout the season, the team has continued to improve week by week, showing growth both on the field and as a group. Players and coaches have focused on working hard, competing together, and staying positive during the ups and downs of the season.

## JV SOFTBALL



This season was an exciting one as we welcomed back a Byron JV softball team for the first time in several years! The girls did not disappoint, finishing the season with an impressive 9-1-1 record. From big home runs on offense to clutch pick-offs on defense, this team showed their love, passion, and dedication to the game every single day. Beyond the wins and accomplishments on the field, this group grew together as teammates supported one another, and represented Byron softball with pride.

## BASEBALL



The 2026 Byron Varsity Baseball Team has just concluded a challenging, but successful season.

The starting line-up for all 27 games consisted of one Senior, one Junior, and 8 Sophomores.

The Varsity Baseball Eagles finished the regular season with an 8-19 record, but remained positive throughout as Coach Walt continued to emphasize the fact that "we're basically a Junior Varsity team competing at the Varsity level".

2026 was a season of growing pains.

A season of making mistake's, and learning from those mistakes!

A season of learning the fundamentals, the rules, and how to play as a team.

The boys took it on the chin quite a few times this season, but, improved with every game and practice.

Their attitudes were great throughout.

The future looks very bright for the young Eagle Batsman!

## GOLF



Small But Mighty!

The Byron Eagles qualified for the State Finals for the first time in at least 30 years, finishing third at a Division 4 Regional at The Medalist GC in Marshall. At the State Finals, our Boys Golf Team placed 17th in the State!

The 2026 Byron Golf team roster only shows seven student athletes. However, this team represents the closest and most talented group we've had in years. We have three seniors, three juniors and a sophomore. This is year two of a brand new and promising program restart. These guys are buying into the Byron Way mentality and seeing the results on the course. We never thought we would see an actual golf course with the very wet spring. Our home course was underwater and closed until May 1st! We drove all over the place finding anywhere that would let us play. The boys showed mental toughness in the face of adversity and perseverance that paid off. Our first conference jamboree was one we'll never forget, especially for senior Anthony Wren. He carded an extremely rare 240 yd albatross at Briar Ridge! We came into the midseason tournament ready to prove ourselves taking second out of ten and moving into third in the conference. Nobody was underestimating Byron anymore! The rest of the season saw some ups and downs but we're now primed for Regionals and very hopeful for qualifying for States! These are exciting days for Byron Golf and we would love to connect more students to the game and your program. Please watch the school Facebook page for two summer golf camps, 2nd to 5th grade and 6th to 8th grade. We also encourage you to get your golfer into the Flint Junior Golf Association, a fun and affordable summer program. If you have any questions please reach out to Coach Nate or Liz Gray. Hit em straight!

# BYRON ATHLETICS

## THANK You!

**TO OUR 2025-26 GOLD SPONSORS**

RITTER FARMS

HARPER JACKSON

RANDY WISE

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

## ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

# BYRON ATHLETICS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

**Sponsorships must be in by July 30, 2026**

## GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR $2500

- Full Sign in Eagles Stadium
- Full HS/MS Gym Signs
- Name on Master Sponsorship Board on Baseball/Softball Press Box
- Name on Master Sponsorship Board at all 3 concessions
- Company Logo on our Website*
- Athletic Family Pass (5 Members) for full school year*
- Business card size ad in HS Yearbook*
- Company name mentions during all home Varsity Football Games*
- Company name mentions during all home Varsity Basketball Games*
- Proud Sponsor Yard Sign*
- Byron Athletics Sponsor Coffee Tumbler*

## PURPLE LEVEL SPONSOR $1500

- Full Sign in Eagles Stadium
- Name on Master Sponsorship Board on Baseball/Softball Press Box
- Name on Master Sponsorship Board at all 3 concessions
- Name Listed on our Website*
- Athletic Pass (2 Members) for full school year*
- Business card size ad in HS Yearbook*
- Company name mentions during all home Varsity Football Games*
- Company name mentions during all home Varsity Basketball Games*
- Proud Sponsor Yard Sign*

## EAGLE LEVEL SPONSOR $750

- Full Sign in Eagles Stadium
- Name on Master Sponsorship Board on Baseball/Softball Press Box
- Name on Master Sponsorship Board at all 3 concessions
- Business card size ad in HS yearbook*
- Athletic Pass (2 Members) for full school year*
- Proud Sponsor Yard Sign*

## BYRON ATHLETICS APPRECIATES YOU!

Byron Athletics is looking to make changes for our student athletes! The changes we want to make require assistance from our community. We would love to see upgrades to Eagles Stadium, such as locker rooms and field care. For our Baseball and Softball fields we would love to see field upgrades and a batting cage facility. We would love to see remodels happen, such as all three concession locations and other projects such as equipment and weight room upgrades. The list could go on and on. That's where you come in by choosing a package above. Individual purchases can also be made outside of sponsorship levels, except exclusives or limits marked by an *. Year renewal terms will be matched to the school year.
If you have questions, please contact our Byron Athletic Director.

Sponsorships must be in by July 30th, 2026.

# Congratulations, Byron 2026 Retirees!


Renee Vandemark


Marla Staton


Michele O'Brien


Lisa McNitt

## BAS FOOD SERVICE



**Samantha Marks**
**Food Service Director**
**Marks@byron.k12.mi.us**

Thank you for another great year! I'd like to take this opportunity to list some of the changes made this school year.

**District Wide**
- Menus that change with the semester/ students requests
- Removed all Red Dye #40 from menus
- Received a Moolah for Schools Grant
- 1,698 half day lunches provided!

**Elementary**
- Recess Before Lunch implemented
- 2 lines for check-out
- Peanut Tree nut Aware
- Increased cold choices for lunch by 30%!
- Breakfast in the Classrooms for state testing 3-5th
- Implemented 5th grade Choice Day

**MS/HS**
- Additional standing cooler- MS/HS
- Additional Special Menu Day
- Increased cold choices for lunch by 16%!

We look forward to serving you next school year! As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns!

*Thank You,*
*Sam, Dawn, Jen, Kristy, Alyssa, Star, Jules & Jillian*
*Your BAS Food Service Crew*

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2026-27 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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Dave & Irene Wyrick
810-266-5286 or 810-845-8517
10407 S. Byron Rd.
Byron, MI 48418
mrfarmallh@gmail.com

PUNKY'S
Located inside the Sola Salon
17245 Silver Parkway, Suite 23
Fenton, MI 48430
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# BYRON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR CLASS OF 2026

At the Byron High School Class of 2026 commencement ceremony held on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 2 p.m., Byron High School was filled with celebration, reflection, and heartfelt recognition as graduates marked the close of their high school journey. The ceremony opened with the Byron Area Concert Band's stirring performance of *Pomp & Circumstance*, setting a traditional and proud tone for the afternoon. Salutatorian and Class President Reagan Murphree delivered the welcome speech, followed by an inspiring senior address from Valedictorian Eisley Rocco. A particularly meaningful moment came during the presentation of flowers by Principal Jason Beverly, as each senior was given the opportunity to honor someone in the audience who had made a lasting impact on their lives, turning the stage into a space of gratitude and connection. The Class of 2026 also selected beloved Middle School Math Teacher Lisa McNitt—who is retiring after 40 years of service to Byron Area Schools—as their faculty speaker, adding a deeply personal tribute to the program. Principal Jason Beverly, alongside Superintendent Brandon Chapman, formally presented the class, while Art Teacher Jamie Anderson led the presentation of diplomas as the milestone became official. Behind the scenes, Class Sponsors Ellen Glass and Rebekah Vandemark helped guide the seniors through their final year. The Class of 2026 was symbolized by the lily, carried forward with the motto "The best way to predict your future is to create it," paired with the colors purple and black, and the spirit of their class song, "Good Ole Days" by Macklemore—capturing both nostalgia and hope as they stepped into the future.









## OPEN HOUSES

**MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL**
Monday,
August 17, 2026
5 -6:30pm

**ELEMENTARY**
Tuesday,
August 18 2026
5 - 6:30pm

**1ST DAY OF SCHOOL**
Thursday,
August 20, 2026

**SCAN for 2026-27 BACK TO SCHOOL CONTENT**

www.byron.k12.mi.us/backtoschool




## BECOME AN EDUSTAFF SUBSTITUTE

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**CONTINUED**
from Page 1

Resource Officer (SRO), and an infrastructure grant aimed at addressing additional HVAC, electrical, and structural needs across the district.

We are extremely hopeful about the positive changes ahead and grateful for the continued support of our families, staff, and community. Together, we look forward to starting the new school year with meaningful improvements that will enhance the educational experience for all students.

## BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY:

We are excited to announce the return of our 2nd Annual Back to School Rally on Tuesday, August 4th from 5:30–7:00 p.m.! After the tremendous success of last year's event, we are looking forward to making this year's rally even bigger and better for our students, families, and community.

Once again, community vendors and organizations will be on hand with plenty of giveaways, free food, bounce houses, and fun activities for all ages. The Back to School Rally is a great opportunity for families to reconnect, gather important back-to-school information, and celebrate the start of another exciting school year together.

We are grateful for the support of our local businesses, organizations, volunteers, and staff who help make this event possible. We hope to see everyone there as we kick off the new school year with fun, excitement, and community spirit!

## BRIDGING GENERATIONS LUNCHEON:

We've brought back the Bridging Generations Luncheon and it was a total success!

Earlier this Spring, we were honored to welcome 27 members of our community to share lunch, conversation, and laughter with 10 high school students and our 5th grade Student Council members. This special event was created to strengthen connections between students and senior members of the Byron community through meaningful conversation, storytelling, and relationship building. It was incredible to see generations come together around the table, learning from one another and building new friendships. Events like this remind us that Byron Area Schools is more than a school district, it's a community. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it so memorable!

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Friday Root, CISR
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