BYRON AREA SCHOOLS
NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION

BYRON EAGLE PRIDE

BYRON HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

SEE PAGE 8

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE AT BYRON AREA SCHOOLS



Brandon Chapman
byronsupt@byron.k12.mi.us

The 2026–27 school year is off to a great start, and I am proud of the continued progress taking place throughout Byron Area Schools. One of our priorities remains maintaining and improving our facilities through thoughtful planning and diligent budgeting. This summer brought a tremendous amount of work across the district, and I am pleased to share that our major summer projects are now officially complete.

At the football stadium, we have new home and visitor grandstands, along with improvements to the concession stands and press box and newly redesigned restrooms. The middle/high school campus also received several significant upgrades. High school hallways are brighter with a fresh coat of paint and larger, updated lockers, while the back parking lot was expanded by 52 additional parking spaces, along with new pavement and fencing.

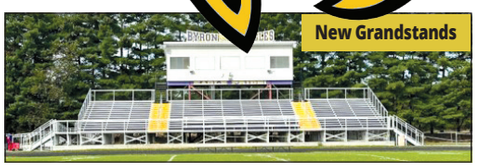
Transportation has also seen some exciting additions. A new school bus is now part of our fleet and on the road, along with a new 10-passenger athletics/school van that will provide additional flexibility for student activities and athletics.

At the elementary school, we continue to integrate technology into our classrooms with the addition of Smart TVs, while also making important upgrades to our air-handling units to improve the learning environment for students and staff.

While our facilities work is highly visible, we are also tirelessly working behind the scenes to strengthen the academic foundation of Byron Area Schools. This year, we are piloting a new 7–12 grade mathematics curriculum and are in the beginning stages of exploring a new English Language Arts curriculum. These curriculum decisions are being approached thoughtfully and with a focus on research-based practices, alignment, and what will best support our students. Once these new curricula are fully in place, Byron Area Schools will have a cohesive, research-based K–12 curriculum in these core areas for the first time in well over a decade. This is an important step forward for instructional consistency and student learning across the district.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year and into the winter months, our work continues. We are actively working with companies to explore an upgraded PA system at the elementary school, additional interior and exterior improvements at the middle school, and the integration of new camera systems throughout the district.

These improvements represent more than just buildings, equipment, and curriculum—they are investments in our students, staff, and the future of Byron Area Schools. I appreciate the continued support of our community and Board of Education as we work to ensure our schools remain safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and academically strong places for our students to learn and grow.



New Grandstands



New Smart TVs



New High School Lockers

2026 BYRON HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

See Page 8







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:
www.byron.k12.mi.us
Byron, Michigan 48418

CONTACT US:
Phone: 810-266-4881
Fax: 810-266-5723

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NEW BYRON STAFF SPOTLIGHT

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

MR. EDDIE MELIKIAN

AS OUR NEW K-12 MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Melikian brings seven years of teaching experience across Ohio, New York, and Michigan, where he has taught Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Drumline, Orchestra, Choir, and General Music.



A Bowling Green State University graduate, he is excited to bring his passion for music and performing arts to Byron and hopes to bring some of these ensembles back to the district. Originally from France, Mr. Melikian moved to the United States with his mom at age 10. Outside of school, he is also a professional musician who has performed or recorded with artists including Darryl McDaniels of Run-DMC, Mark Mendoza of Twisted Sister, Bakithi Khumalo of Paul Simon, Kelli Baker, and comedians from The Howard Stern Show, including Sal Governale and Richard Christy. He is currently affiliated with his Michigan country band, Neon Crows. Mr. Melikian is excited to continue growing music in Byron, with a goal of building a 60-member marching band by 2030. E-mail: eddiemelikian@byron.k12.mi.us Phone: (810) 266-4881 ext. 1133

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

MR. RICHARD CLEYMAN

AS OUR NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER

Mr. Cleyman teaches middle school social studies and high school science. He brings two years of experience as a long-term substitute teacher at Hartland Schools and earned his degree from Eastern Michigan University. A Hartland graduate himself, Mr. Cleyman lives in Byron with his wife, Patricia, their two children, Richard Jr. and Cecelia, and their two dogs, Penny and River. He is drawn to Byron by the strong sense of community and pride throughout the district and enjoys working in the community he and his family call home. Outside the classroom, Mr. Cleyman coaches 7th grade boys basketball and high school girls basketball. We are excited to have Mr. Cleyman as part of the Byron family!



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

HILLARY GRIFFIN

AS OUR NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

Miss Griffin is in her first year in education and teaches middle school math while coaching 8th grade girls basketball. She earned her degree from Wayne State University and was drawn to Byron because she loves the small-town community where everyone knows everyone. Hillary lives in Howell and learned about Byron through friends and family. She has two older sisters and recently adopted a tortoiseshell kitten named Pepper. A fun fact about Hillary is that she played college basketball! Outside of school, she enjoys reading, hiking, and watching Dancing with the Stars. We are excited to have Miss Griffin as part of the Byron Eagles family!



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

MRS. ARIONNA KONDEL,

AS OUR NEW KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Mrs. Kondel is in her first year in education and earned her degree from Ferris State University. She enjoys beginning her teaching career in Byron, becoming part of the close-knit school community, and building meaningful relationships with students, families, and colleagues. She has always been drawn to smaller schools because she values their strong relationships and teamwork. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, golfing with her husband, and playing fetch with their two dogs. We are excited to have Mrs. Kondel as part of the Byron family!



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

MISS GRACE MENDENHALL

NEW HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

Miss Mendenhall is in her first year in education and teaches 9th and 11th grade English, as well as AP Language. She earned her degree from Michigan State University and enjoys getting to know her students and building relationships in the classroom. During her time at MSU, Miss Mendenhall was a member of the MSU Western Equestrian Team. Outside of school, she enjoys riding horses and reading. We are excited to have Miss Mendenhall as part of the Byron family!



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

MS. VANESSA WERNETTE

AS OUR NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Ms. Wernette brings eight years of experience as a school counselor and earned her degree from Central Michigan University. She enjoys working with middle school students during such an important time in their lives by building relationships, helping them navigate challenges, celebrating their successes, and making sure they know they always have someone in their corner. She chose Byron because of its strong sense of community and commitment to making sure students feel known, supported, and valued. Ms. Wernette is a proud mom of a son and three daughters and a huge animal lover with a golden retriever named Tug. She lives in Davison and is a Davison graduate. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, traveling, and being anywhere near the water. She also admits to having an obsession with jewelry and Tim Hortons coffee because, as she says, you can never have too much of either! We are excited to have Ms. Wernette as part of the Byron family!



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING

ABIGAIL FERGUSON

AS OUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

Abigail Ferguson teaches 10th and 12th grade English and 7th grade social studies. She is in her first year in education and earned her degree from the University of Michigan-Flint. Abigail enjoys being part of Byron's warm, welcoming community and small-school environment, which makes it easy to build relationships with students. After substitute teaching at Byron in the spring, she knew she wanted to return. A fun fact about Abigail is that she lived in Tanzania, Africa, for five years when she was little! Outside of school, she enjoys hiking, camping, traveling, playing board games with her family, and cooking a variety of international foods. We are excited to have Abigail as part of the Byron family!



NURSES NOTES

Are you one of the nearly one in four adults that have an extreme fear of going to the dentist? Between the scraping and poking, shots and fillings (not to mention how expensive it can be,) it's understandable that many adults delay dental care.

Unfortunately, that fear and delay can often filter down to our kids. But how important is it that children learn to brush daily and get good dental care? Early and consistent visits to the dentist have been shown to positively affect children' s health in more ways than just a pretty smile! According to the National Institutes of Health, helping your children take care of their baby teeth can result in:

• Proper placement and alignment of adult teeth

• Correct speech and pronunciation as they learn to talk

• The ability to eat healthier foods

• A positive body image

Not taking care of teeth can result in bacterial growth that causes cavities, a serious infection or even pockets of infection called abscesses. Poor dental hygiene in children often carries over into adulthood and can be responsible for the need for even more expensive dental care, tooth pain and the loss of adult teeth.

Fortunately for our students, we have access to an amazing service that comes here to our buildings and provides free and low cost dental care to our students.



Mrs. Andrea Howard, RN

For the past several years, the Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has visited us with their mobile dental program called "Smiles are Everywhere!" The center has 5 buses that are available to area schools to provide dental exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, x-rays (if ordered by the dentist) and follow up referrals as needed. The service can bill insurances and is also available to those without insurance with an income based fee. We've been able to set up a twice-a-year visit schedule, so students can see the dentist in the fall and again in the spring to help maintain their dental health.

When the bus first came to our school, we had less than 10 students that signed up. This fall, we had so many kids that they had to come back a second day! It was encouraging to know that so many kids were able to get needed dental care without interrupting their education or parents' work schedules. While most of the "patients" are elementary school students, the service is open to both middle and high school students.

Sound interesting? We are planning for another visit in March. Prior to that visit, we will be handing out forms in Friday folders for elementary school students, middle and high school students can get a form from the offices. As always, if you have any questions you can contact me, or visit the Great Lakes Bay Health Centers website at: https://greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org/mobiledental123/



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES:

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

We would greatly appreciate donations of pencils, seal top bags, and tissues.

THANK YOU FOR ANY HELP YOU CAN PROVIDE!

BYRON AREA SCHOOLS CALENDAR

BYRON PTA

Byron PTA Email:
byronareapta@gmail.com

Byron PTA Facebook
www.facebook.com/ByronAreaPTA

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT



BYRON AREA SCHOOLS 6-12TH GRADE VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The Byron Virtual Academy is off to a great start this school year! We currently have 16 students taking advantage of the program, including 3 middle school students and 13 high school students, and they are doing extremely well.

The Virtual Academy gives students another pathway to be successful while still remaining connected to the Byron school community. Students have the flexibility of completing their coursework virtually while continuing to receive support and remain part of the Byron Eagles family.

One of the great examples of that flexibility is our student athletes. Three Virtual Academy students are currently competing in Byron athletics, allowing them to take advantage of a virtual education while still representing Byron, building relationships with teammates, and participating in extracurricular activities.

We are extremely proud of the work our Virtual Academy students are putting in and are excited to continue watching the program grow. No matter where or how our students learn, they are still Byron Eagles! To learn more, go to www.byron.k12.mi.us/virtualacademy

PRESCHOOL • CHILDCARE • YOUNG FIVES

EAGLES' NEST PRESCHOOL: A PLACE WHERE LITTLE LEARNERS SOAR

EAGLES' NEST DIRECTOR



Darci Williams
williamsd@byron.k12.mi.us

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!

MONTHLY JAMBOREE SING-ALONG



Our preschoolers attended their first Jamboree of the school year! Jamboree is 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.





ANNUAL PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND UNDERWATER ADVENTURE

Mark your calendars for December 10th at 6 PM! We're hosting our 3rd annual 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!

★ ★ ★ NEW ★ ★ ★

WEEKLY PLAY TO LEARN PLAYGROUP FREE! FRIDAYS FROM 10:00AM-11:00AM

Playgroups are an ideal place for children from birth to five to learn and develop through play and for the parents and caregivers to build friendships, exchange parenting information, and learn to work together.





What can playgroups offer your child?

- Social Skills
- Independence
- Self confidence
- Simple rules and routines
- Local friends
- Exploration
- Creative play
- A chance to play and learn in small groups before entering school

Interested?
Contact Darci Williams (Director)
Call: 810-266-6323
williamsd@byron.k12.mi.us

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 Program:**
  Full & Half Day Options
  2, 3, and 4 Day Options
- **4 Year Old Program (Preschool for All):**
  Full & Half Day Options
  Free for all eligible 4 year olds

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.

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE:

Byron Area Schools
Director: Darci Williams
Phone:810-266-6323
Website: www.byron.k12.mi.us/byronpreschool

Spaces are limited! Enroll your child in our Eagles' Nest Preschool and Childcare programs today!



BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Stacey Johnson
Johnson@byron.k12.mi.us

What an amazing first few months at Byron Elementary! Our Eagles have learned/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/rewards at monthly assemblies. Of course, the kids chosen always have the option of choosing a brand new book from our Erik Jones vending machine and try their luck to see if they get an autographed

DARCI WILLIAMS,
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR & ELEMENTARY DEAN OF STUDENTS



Mrs. Williams will continue serving as our Preschool Director and Childcare Director while also taking on the role of Elementary Dean of Students. In this role, she will work closely with students, families, and staff to support a positive, safe, and welcoming school environment. Her responsibilities will include helping with student attendance, behavior and discipline, student support, and promoting positive school-wide expectations. Mrs. Williams will also work with teachers and staff to help address student needs and ensure that students have the support they need to be successful at school. Mrs. Williams can be reached by email at williamsd@byron.k12.mi.us or by calling the preschool office at 810-266-6323. We are excited to have Mrs. Williams continue supporting our students and families in this expanded role!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
MS. MARY ADAMS!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ms. Mary Adams for her generous monetary donation to our school! Support from caring families and community members like Ms. Adams makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. Donations like this help provide additional resources and opportunities that enhance our students' educational experience. We are so grateful for her generosity and support of Byron Elementary School. Thank you, Ms. Adams, for helping us make a positive impact on our students and our school community!





SPIRIT TOKEN EXCHANGE

On Friday, September 25th, our school community celebrated our 3rd Annual Spirit Token Exchange! This special tradition brings our Byron High School seniors together with our kindergarten students on our football field for a fun and meaningful experience. It is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest and oldest students to connect, build relationships, and show their Byron pride. We are excited to continue this special tradition for years to come!



★ ★ ★ NEW THIS YEAR: ★ ★ ★
EAGLE OF THE WEEK!

This new acknowledgement system is designed to celebrate and recognize students for their positive choices, growth, and effort. Each week, classroom teachers will select one student who has demonstrated SOARing traits or has shown meaningful progress in an area they have been working on.

This program provides students with more immediate recognition for their accomplishments than our SOARing tickets and assemblies can offer. It is also a way to celebrate students who may not be selected for a Student of the Month award but are still making positive contributions and demonstrating growth within the classroom.



Students selected will be announced schoolwide and receive a certificate along with a small incentive, such as a food certificate, to celebrate their achievement and encourage continued positive growth.

MAKE A SMALL DONATION. MAKE A BIG IMPACT!

Looking for a simple way to support student learning and help grow our elementary school library? Our Adopt-A-Book program gives families and community members the opportunity to put new books directly into the hands of our students.

For just $20, you can sponsor a brand-new, library-bound book that students will be able to enjoy and check out for years to come. As a special thank-you, your name—or the name of someone you choose—will be placed on an Adopt-A-Book sponsor label inside the book for the life of the book in our library.

Another great benefit is that the books purchased through this program come with a lifetime warranty, so they can be repaired or replaced when needed, helping your contribution continue to benefit students for years to come.

Interested in adopting a book? Please contact Mrs. Stacey Johnson at the elementary school, or send in a cash or check payable to Byron Area Schools with "Adopt-A-Book" in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us grow our library, support student learning, and inspire lifelong readers at BES!

BYRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Jay Schmitt
schmitt@byron.k12.mi.us

This October Byron's 7th and 8th graders took an educational trip to Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, bringing history to life as they explored important sites that helped shape our nation. Their adventure began in Gettysburg with a tour of the historic battlefields. Students also visited the Mount Vernon Estate, reflected at the Pentagon Memorial, and stopped at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, famously known as the "Iwo Jima" Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial along the Potomac. Washington, D.C., offered even more opportunities to experience American history firsthand. Students visited Arlington National Cemetery and witnessed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They explored the U.S. Capitol Building before visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and the Lincoln Memorial. This year they were also able to touch the Washington Monument. They were able to see the newer World War I Memorial and hear a bugler dressed in a WWI uniform play Taps. After sunset, the group continued sightseeing at the World War II Memorial, the breathtaking Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. The journey continued to Philadelphia, where students enjoyed lunch at Reading Terminal Market, a favorite destination for local foods such as Philly cheesesteaks and soft pretzels. They got an up-close look at the Liberty Bell and stepped inside Independence Hall, where important moments in our nation's founding took place. Their tour of historic Philadelphia also included the constitution center where students were able to learn more about the birth of our nation.

To finish their trip, students explored the Franklin Institute Science Museum and recreated a famous movie moment by running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, just like Rocky. With memories and new historical knowledge to take home, the group then headed back to Byron.













MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL ANNUAL HOME FOOTBALL GAME TAILGATE

Byron Middle School students enjoyed an evening of fun, food, and Eagle spirit at the new facilities near the softball fields. Students enjoyed hot dogs and water provided by Student Council, along with food generously donated by families and community members. They played cornhole, participated in a variety of sports, and had a great time together before heading over to the football game to cheer on the Eagles. It was a great night filled with fun, food, and plenty of Eagle spirit!





BYRON HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL

HS/MS ART TEACHER



Jamie Anderson

Over the summer, Byron High School art students contributed their talent to a vibrant new mural at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds. Art teacher Jamie Anderson recruited seniors Jonah Spencer and Breeanna Voyle, along with 2025 graduate and Shiawassee Fair Attendant Myleigh Rohner, to work on the project from June 22 to August 21. Working alongside student artists and educators from across Shiawassee County, the team created a stunning piece of public art. The mural was officially unveiled during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 20 and will be enjoyed by fairgoers for generations to come.











Byron High School art and woodshop students were hard at work creating customized locker banners and yard signs to celebrate Homecoming. Combining craftsmanship and creative design, they constructed personalized displays to honor fall student-athletes and marching band members. Their dedicated effort added vibrant school spirit across the halls and stadium, showcasing pride and support for their peers during this exciting Homecoming season.





Art II and Advanced Art students learned the Coptic stitching method and bound their own sketchbooks!



Middle school art students learn about tinting and shading to create different values in paint.



Art I students learn to use shading techniques and drastic value changes in order to make a drawing look dimensional.

BYRON MARCHING BAND

The Byron Eagles Marching Band's halftime performance, "Dreamworks Animation Medley," has been a standout success this season. Alongside a strong musical and visual presentation on the field, this year's program marked the return of feature baton twirling for the first time in 17 years, performed by senior Adyson Hunter under the direction of instructor Mrs. Melikian.

Mr. Eddie Melikian
Byron Area Schools
6 - 12 Band Director
K- 5 Music Teacher





MS/HS CRAFTS & CONTEMPLATION CLUB

The MS/HS Crafts & Contemplation Club is off and running for its 6th year! Students have chosen the "theme" for upcoming dates. Both middle & high school students are welcome to join at any time. Contact Ms. Smith for any questions via email at smith@byron.k12.mi.us or via phone at (810) 266-4620.







BYRON 2026 HOMECOMING

Byron's 2026 Homecoming was nothing short of magical! From exciting activities to incredible Eagle pride, the entire week was filled with memories worth celebrating. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this year's Homecoming such a special celebration for our school and community!

Eagle spirit was everywhere throughout the week. From pep assemblies and Powderpuff to float building and all the traditions in between, each event showcased the pride and enthusiasm that make Byron such a special place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:

Freshmen – Kenadi Maschke and Brennan Jones
Sophomores – Riley McCormick and Brayden Smith
Juniors – Adalen Brown and Kyan Roberts
Seniors – Adilyn Selon, Harper Wilcox, Jessica Ward, Jonah Spencer, Evan Ritter, and Aiden Gray
2026 Prince & Princess – Stone Evans and Oakley Ward



A special congratulations goes to

HARPER WILCOX & EVAN RITTER

who were crowned the 2026 Byron Homecoming Queen and King!





Each year, Byron honors one exceptional individual as our "Honorary Eagle," selected through votes from students and staff based on community nominations. This year's Honorary Eagle was Brandy Paldan. Congratulations, Brandy, and thank you for all you do for our Byron community!

Wednesday's Powderpuff Game brought plenty of competition and excitement as the Juniors took on the Seniors. The Seniors claimed the victory! Great job to all of the players and cheerleaders who made the evening so much fun.

The Float Building competition brought this year's "Pixar" theme to life in creative and memorable ways:

Seniors – Monsters, Inc.
Juniors – Toy Story
Sophomores – Inside Out
Freshmen – Finding Nemo



Thank you to all of the volunteers and parent supervisors who gave their time and helped each class create such amazing floats!

The Byron PTA brought even more Purple & Gold spirit to Elementary by providing every student with a purple and gold necklace for Purple & Gold Day. Teachers and staff joined in the celebration, too!

Our pep assemblies are always a Homecoming favorite, and this year was no exception! Thank you to the Byron Student Council and Byron Varsity Cheerleaders for bringing so much energy and enthusiasm to the halls. Congratulations to Gracie Bohm, who was named Most Spirited High Schooler, and to the Senior Class for taking home the Spirit Trophy!





Friday's Homecoming lunch received a festive touch from our HOCO Café Crew, while the Byron FFA Alumni continued its annual tradition of bringing everyone together for the Homecoming Barbecue. Thank you to everyone who helped support and continue this much-loved community tradition!

One of the most meaningful moments of the week came when Byron High School seniors continued our new tradition of passing the "Byron Eagle School Spirit" token to our kindergarten students. The tradition serves as a special reminder of the connection and pride shared by Eagles of every generation.

Adding to the excitement, Byron varsity athletes and marching band members visited Byron Elementary for our annual Hometown Hero Day. Their visit gave our youngest Eagles a chance to see school spirit in action and feel connected to the excitement surrounding Homecoming.





The Byron Cross Country team also helped kick off Homecoming Friday by proudly carrying the game ball into the stadium. Following their successful Byron Homecoming Hustle 5K, the team celebrated with a perfect cool-down run while delivering the ball and showing off their teamwork, dedication, and Eagle pride.

From beginning to end, Byron's 2026 Homecoming was filled with excitement, laughter, tradition, and community spirit.

HAPPY HOMECOMING, BYRON!







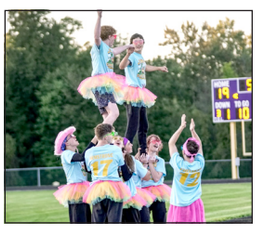


















BYRON HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



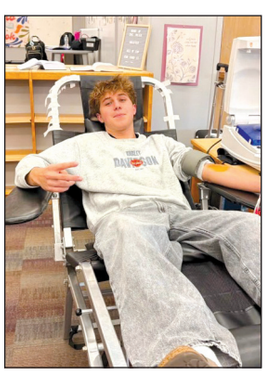
Jason Beverly
Beverly@byron.k12.mi.us

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL STARTS THE YEAR STRONG!

Byron Student Council kicked off the school year with an impressive first blood drive in September. Students and staff came together to donate, resulting in an incredible 21 successful donations! Stucco's next Blood Drive will be held on Friday, October 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Byron High School Library. No tricks or scares, just a chance to give back! We hope to see another great turnout from our Byron community.

Student Council also helped make the high school Homecoming Lunch Tailgate a huge success! Members provided games and activities for students to enjoy before the big game. A special thank-you goes to the Michigan National Guard for providing additional games and activities and helping make the event even more fun.

From giving back to the community to creating memorable school traditions, Byron Student Council is excited to continue making a difference throughout the school year!







Malinda Smith

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

If you would like to schedule an appointment with me, please send me an email with preferred dates and times or give me a call. I often meet with parents to discuss course options, both current and future. Students heading into 11th & 12th grades have a lot of options and it can often become confusing. PLEASE don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Phone: (810) 266-4620 x1608 • Email: smith@byron.k12.mi.us

The 2026/2027 school year is off to a great start and the percentage of students participating in optional programs continues to impress! Many students are participating in more than one program. High school students are not only enrolled in our in-house Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses, they are also enrolling in county-wide programs, working, or taking college classes.

We will be taking the current 10th graders to the Shiawassee County College & Career Readiness Center on October 20 where they will learn more about options for their junior & senior years. More information sessions, along with scheduling and application details, will be given out in the following months.

Career & Technical Education / College Programs

BYRON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IN HOUSE CAREER TECH EDUCATION	SHIAWASSEE COUNTY CAREER TECH EDUCATION	GENESEE CAREER INSTITUTE	DUAL ENROLLMENT	EARLY COLLEGE/5TH YEAR
57%	24%	6.5%	14%	37%
of 9 - 12 grade Byron students are participating	of 11 - 12 grade Byron students are participating	of 11 - 12 grade Byron students are participating	of 11 - 12 grade Byron students are participating	of 11 - 12 grade Byron students are participating

(Data for 2026/27 school year)

HOMESTEAD ENTERPRISES
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING
Quality isn't expensive, it's priceless.
SPECIALIZING IN:
GENERATORS
PANEL UPGRADES
SERVICE CALLS
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS
POLE BARNS & AG BARNS
Residential • Commercial Agricultural
810-923-7775
office@homesteadmi.net
www.homesteadmi.net
Howell • Michigan
Licensed & Insured

Byron Methodist Church
Open Door Christian Fellowship
101 S. Ann St. Byron Mi 48418
810-266-4976
Byronmethodist101@gmail.com
Services:
BMC 9:15am | Open Door 11am

Wyrick's Orchard
Dave & Irene Wyrick
10407 S. Byron Rd.
Byron, MI 48418
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BYRON SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

BYRON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Our Athletic Department has taken pride this school year in ensuring our new website and social communications are up to par. We've heard great feedback from both parents and athletes regarding the ease of access to scheduling, team news and more! If parents and athletes haven't already, registering yourself for an Eventlink Account, it is the best way to follow along with any and all updates regarding Byron Athletics. On our website: www.byronathletics.com there is a small icon on the right side of the screen above the Facebook icon, that is green and black, to take you to www.eventlink.com. There, you want to either login, or create a new account. Eventlink is the scheduler we use for our entire website. Within your created account, you can pick and choose which sports you would like to follow. Any and all changes that occur throughout the season would then be emailed to you immediately upon the change being made. This allows you to have real time updates, immediately at your grasp. We have practice schedules, scrimmages, games, tournaments, etc. input for your viewing. We also have arrival times, departure times, addresses and any other pertinent information you would need to successfully follow any of our programs. We hope this has been a positive addition to our athletics that is helping each and every one of you! If anyone needs guidance in setting up an account, please feel free to reach out to our office and we will be happy to assist you!

SCAN FOR:
High School and Middle School
ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

VARSITY FOOTBALL



This season, our 3–2 record reflects a football team that I believe is continuing to build a strong foundation. More importantly, we are establishing the right culture, toughness, and commitment needed to become the program we want to be. Byron football should be about dedication, sacrifice, relentless effort and passion. Always representing the purple and gold with pride! The backbone of this year's team is definitely our offensive and defensive line, anchored by our senior captain #8 Evan Ritter! We go as they go! So, as we move forward, our focus has to remain on the little details. We must continue to improve our execution...strengthen our fundamentals, clean up our play with discipline, and eliminate some of the self-inflicted mental mistakes. The foundation is being built; now it's up to ALL of us to keep working, keep improving...just keep fighting and continue raising the standard for this Byron Eagle Football program! ATTITUDE & EFFORT!

JV VOLLEYBALL



This season has been such a rewarding one to be a part of! With only seven girls on the team, the girls have faced their fair share of challenges, but they continue to show up, work hard, and improve every single day. Their determination, energy, and willingness to push through obstacles have been amazing to see. Every game and practice has brought growth, and the progress they've made so far is something to be proud of. These girls have proven that a small team can have a big heart, and I'm so excited to see what the rest of the season brings for these girls!

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL



The Byron Varsity Volleyball team has continued to battle and grow throughout the 2026 season, showing determination and drive each time they step onto the court. The Eagles have faced a challenging schedule that has provided opportunities for the team to develop both individually and as a group. Throughout the season, the girls have continued to work on their consistency, communication, and ability to compete through difficult stretches. Their effort and willingness to keep fighting have remained a constant as they represent Byron on the court. As the season moves into October, the Eagles look to build on the experience they have gained and continue making progress during the second half of their season. With conference matches and tournament competition still ahead, the team has several opportunities remaining to showcase growth and finish the season strong. The 2026 season has been about more than wins and losses. This has been a season of new structure, developing confidence, supporting one another, and continuing to build the Byron Volleyball program both on and off the court.

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY



The 2026 cross country season has been an exciting one for the Byron Eagles, with strong individual performances, continued improvement, and a varsity boys team putting itself in position to make some noise when the postseason arrives. The Eagles wasted no time showing their potential. Byron opened the season at the Birch Run Earlybird Invitational and came home with a second-place trophy. The boys entered the year with a strong returning core led by 2025 State qualifier Brayden Steele, along with Halston Hooley, Jonah Spencer, and Aiden Gray. Newcomers Christian Cortez-Alvarez and Lucas Quimby have also stepped in and become important pieces of the varsity lineup. That early success has continued throughout the first half of the season. One of the highlights came when the Byron varsity boys finished second out of 15 schools, with several Eagles turning in impressive performances. Halston led the way with a second-place finish in 18:32.32, while Brayden was right behind him in fourth at 18:56.79. Lucas Quimby finished 11th in 20:05.39, Jonah Spencer took 19th in 20:44.74, and Aiden Gray finished 37th in 22:30.08. As the season has progressed, the bigger picture has started to become even more exciting. At Byron's second MMAC Conference meet, Halston and Brayden continued to establish themselves among the area's top runners and put themselves in solid position to earn First Team All-Conference honors. Just as importantly, the performances of Aiden, Christian, Jonah, and Lucas have helped Byron move into second place in the race for a Regional team qualifying spot. That team aspect is what makes this group special. Cross country may look like an individual sport on the surface, but every finishing position matters. Byron's success has required contributions throughout the lineup, and the Eagles have continued to push one another as their times improve and the races become more important. On the girls side, Bella continues to work and compete for Byron, representing the Eagles each time she steps onto the course and keeping the girls program moving forward. Now the focus turns toward the most important part of the season. The goal that was talked about at the beginning of the year is still right in front of this team: finish in the top three at Regionals and earn an opportunity to compete at the State Finals as a team. There is still plenty of running left, but the Eagles have put themselves in position to make the final stretch of the season an exciting one. From returning State experience to new runners stepping into important roles, this group continues to get better every time it hits the course. Keep running. Keep improving. Keep chasing the next runner.

BYRON SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

WEIGHT ROOM

Our early morning workouts have been a huge success! We meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:10–7:15 a.m. Over the past three weeks, we have averaged 10 students each morning, putting in the extra work to get stronger, faster, and help prevent injuries. We are already seeing the benefits carry over into athletics, with no major or season-ending injuries in football and the middle school basketball team remaining injury-free while getting off to a 8-2 start. It's great to see our athletes putting in the work and seeing it pay off! We encourage all 7th-12th grade athletes to take advantage of this great opportunity!

GIRLS GOLF



The Byron Girls Golf team has had an outstanding season, welcoming new talent while continuing to build on the success of the program. Junior Adalen Brown has been the lone golfer representing Byron for the past two seasons, and this year the program welcomed freshman Taylor Fondren to the team. Together, Adalen and Taylor have had several strong performances throughout the season, including a second-place finish at the Judson Scramble. Taylor has been a great addition to the program and has continued to improve throughout the season, earning 2nd Team All-Conference honors. The duo has represented Byron well while continuing to grow as teammates and competitors. Adalen has had an incredible season, finishing undefeated in league play, earning 1st Team All-Conference honors, and being named the overall league champion. She has consistently competed at a high level, with highlights including a 2nd place finish at the Ranger Invitational, a Top 10 finish at the Greater Genesee Girls Golf Tournament, 1st place in the small-school division and 2nd overall at the Dick Sporting Goods Invitational, and 1st place at the East vs. West Michigan Girls Golf Tournament. Adalen is coming off an impressive third-place finish at the State Finals last season and ready to defend her title. She has already advanced to Regionals, which will be held October 7 at MSU Forest Akers East, and will look to make another strong postseason run as she works toward a return to the State Finals on October 16 at Grand Valley State University. Congratulations to Adalen and Taylor on an outstanding season and for representing Byron so well!

MS & VARSITY CHEERLEADING



Our Cheerleading program is making strides in the exact direction we want it to. This season our Varsity team has a roster of 15 girls. We've been able to learn new skills, hit stunts with higher levels of difficulty and have full performances to entertain our community! We hosted our Youth Cheerleaders on the track with us for Homecoming and were able to have our Middle School Team join us as well. It was a tremendous success having all levels of Byron Cheerleading work together to cheer our football team onto a Homecoming Victory! We are looking forward to continuing to build bigger, stronger and start new beginnings this coming winter by welcoming Competitive Cheerleading to Byron! Our Varsity Team will hit the mat in January with three different competitions that we hope to eventually trickle down to the lower levels of Byron Cheerleading as well. The future is bright here for our program and we are just getting started! Let's go Eagles!



MS FOOTBALL



Byron's Middle School Football got off to a rocky start. We did not have the numbers that we hoped for, and barely had enough to field a team. Therefore, our goal initially was just to make it through the season with everyone healthy. After our first game, we had 5 more students join the team. This helped substantially with practices and our performance for our week 2 game against Bentley, we rolled for our 1st win of the season. Unfortunately, we lost one of our key players to injury in that game. Week 3, the team came out flat from the opening play and the game got away from us quickly. We're looking to regroup and come out strong in week 5 against Brown City.

MS CROSS COUNTRY



Our Middle School Cross Country team may be small, but they are full of determination, dedication, and competitive spirit. All of our runners worked hard throughout the summer, and their preparation showed from the start of the season. In our first race, several athletes set new personal records, creating a strong foundation for the season ahead. With six boys and two girls, our definition of success may look different from larger teams. While team placement matters, our primary focus is on individual growth, consistency, and becoming stronger runners with each race. Our goals are to practice with purpose, learn from every race, support one another, and challenge ourselves to improve our personal bests. We are also focused on preparing our 8th-grade runners for high school Cross Country next year by building their endurance, confidence, discipline, and racing mindset. They have embraced this challenge and continue to impress us with their effort and growth. I am extremely proud of this group. They work hard, encourage one another, and continue to show that a small team can make a big impact.

8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL



The 8th Grade Girls Basketball team is off to an exciting 8–2 start! The girls have met our goal of scoring at least 10 points each quarter while holding opponents to 6 or fewer twice this season, earning a well-deserved pizza celebration. I'm especially proud of their growth defensively, as they continue to improve their communication, teamwork, and man-to-man defense. We've also celebrated some great individual moments, including Payton M's 34-point game, Ava W's first career three-pointer, Nicole A's game-winning three against Durand, and Sophie S's strong leadership at point guard. Most importantly, this team continues to compete for one another, celebrate each other's successes, and grow together. I'm excited to see what they accomplish next. Go Eagles!

7TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL



Our 7th grade girls team has made tremendous strides this season. A 7th grade team filled with 6th graders, a majority of the girls have had to "play up" all season. Coach Cleyman is very proud of the strides the young team has made this season. Going into this season, Coach Cleyman made a decision to worry less about wins and losses, and more about building the confidence of each girl and to focus on getting better every single day. From the first day of basketball to today, the girls look like different athletes. The captains from day one led with their voices and by example. The Eagles will continue to get better everyday, because their effort is always where it should be.

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FROM THE BAS FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT



Samantha Marks
Food Service Director
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Elementary grades DK-5:
Breakfast is in the cafeteria from 8:45-9am. Lunch times vary by grade, and are served in the cafeteria, following recess.

Middle School grades 6-8:
Breakfast will be Grab & Go via a breakfast cart that is available in the gym lobby from 7:15am - 7:30am. Lunch will be in the cafeteria for all grades at 11am.

High School grades 9-12:
Breakfast will be in the cafeteria or Grab & Go from 7:15am- 7:30am. Lunch will be in the cafeteria for all grades at 10:25am.

Our district is again enrolled in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). This means that all students eat breakfast and lunch for free. The Educational Benefits Form should be filled out by each family. The form collects information needed to ensure the school receives state and federal funding for educational purposes. This provides not only free meals, but also allows students and families to access additional support programs that they are entitled to. A paper copy is available in each building office or online. Return the completed form to the office.

Scan for Byron Lunch Menu

Menus are available on the main page of the Byron website or in your students building office.

The Food Service Department looks forward to serving your students this school year! Please email the Director of Food Services, Samantha Marks at marks@byron.k12.mi.us with any questions or concerns.

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

HIGH SCHOOL FFA

June 8-11: 22 members traveled to Nashville on a reward trip.
July 13-15: FFA officers attended leadership training in Bay City.
August 9-15: 12 members exhibited animals at the Shiawassee County Fair.
September 18: About 70 members attended our first FFA meeting.
September 21: Senior Officers presented the Program of Activities to the Board of Education.
September 22: 11 members volunteered at Project RED through the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau.
September 25: FFA Alumni hosted our annual Homecoming BBQ.
September 28: Fisheries and Wildlife students sampled macroinvertebrates in the Shiawassee River with Friends of the Shiawassee.
September 30: 15 members attended Regional Recreation at Perry High School. Members also began raising broiler chickens for the FFA broiler contest.
October 2: Horticulture students visited Ritter Farms to learn about flowers and floral arrangements.
October 3: Brice Honke placed 3rd in Regional Tractor Driving, and Claire Mountain placed 4th in the Regional FFA Discussion Meet. About 30 students also visited Tomac Farms Corn Maze.
October 5: 22 students visited MSU to explore agricultural programs and tour campus and farms.
Upcoming
October 7-8: 6 students will attend Fall Leadership Conference in Lansing. Melissa Whetstone will compete in the state Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources contest.
October 9-November 3: Annual Jam and Nut fundraiser. Orders distributed November 23-24.
October 20-24: 6 seniors will attend National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.
November 5: Members will compete in the Broiler Contest in Fowlerville.
November 6: Donkey Basketball, 7 p.m. at the Elementary gym, featuring Byron, Perry, and Laingsburg FFA and Burns Township Fire Department.
November 11: Members will attend Regional Leadership Night in Corunna.
November 14: FFA and Antrim Burns 4-H will host a leaf-raking event at Union Plains Cemetery, 9 a.m.-noon.
November 18: Greenhand and Chapter Degrees will be awarded at our annual degree ceremony.
December 13, 18 & 19: Annual Doe-Nation Doe Pole with the FFA Alumni. Deer donations will be collected December 13, 9 a.m.-noon; December 18, 6-8 p.m.; and December 19, 6-9 p.m., with prizes, food, and awards on December 19.



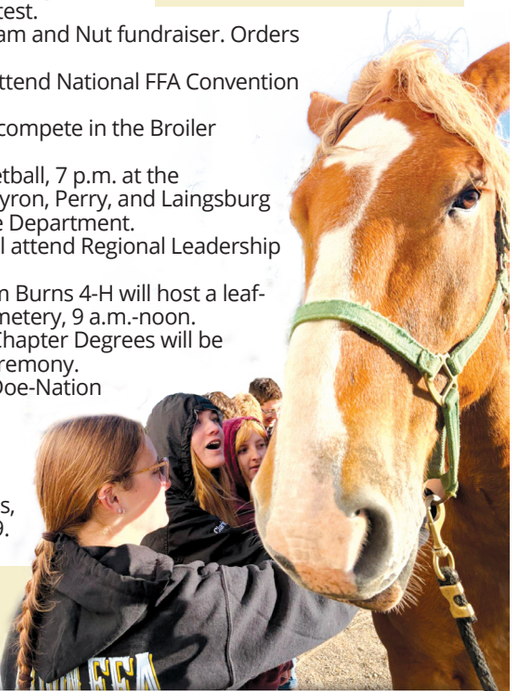
Jason L'Esperance, Brayden Steele, and Kyan Roberts collecting samples from the river.



Officers presenting at the Board Meeting.



Ella Williams helping weigh broiler chickens in the FFA barn.



Students petting a draft horse at the MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center.



Patrick Conlen, Ben Sherwood, and Vanessa James with their lambs at the fair.



Horticulture students with the flower arrangements they prepared from Ritter Farms.