# BConnection **Class of 2023 Special Edition**

A Publication of Byron Center Public Schools



**Helping Students Build Success Stories** 

www.bcpsk12.net

#### **Superintendent's Office**

8542 Byron Center Ave. SW Byron Center, MI 49315 616.878.6100

Superintendent: Kevin Macina, Ph.D. Asst. Superintendent: Jeff Wierzbicki Chief Financial Officer: Tamera Powers

#### **Board of Education**

President: Marty Phelan Vice President: Crystel Imperi Treasurer: Brenda Hondorp Secretary: Chuck Fedewa Trustees: Jason Pierson, Amber Swift, and Thalia Tilma

#### 2023

#### **Board of Education Meetings**

August 10, 8:30am (Special Meeting at Haworth Center) August 21, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting) Sept 11, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting) Sept 25, 5:15pm (Special Meeting) Oct 9, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting) Oct 23, 5:15pm (Special Meeting) Nov 6, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting) Nov 20, 5:15pm (Special Meeting) Dec 4, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting) Dec 18, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)

Check www.bcpsk12.net board page for meeting specifics and locations.

Work Sessions will be scheduled as needed.

Upon request at least ten (10) days prior to a meeting, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to attend and participate. Contact the Facilities Director at 616.878.6100.

There is a time for public participation during a meeting as indicated in the agenda.

Official minutes are available and stored at the administration office.



# The Class of 2023



This special edition of BConnection is dedicated to the Class of 2023. Congratulations, seniors, you did it! Your diplomas show off your hard work as you move into the future. Graduating from BCHS is a great achievement for which you should feel proud. Quite a few of you earned this diploma while participating in extracurricular activities, working part-time jobs, having family obligations, and volunteering for worthy causes in the community.

Many of you plan to pursue higher education, some graduates will jump right into the workforce, and a handful of brave men and women will join the military. Wherever you are going, I want you to know that Byron Center will always be a place you can call home. The Byron Center Public Schools community, which has nurtured and challenged you, is cheering for you as you journey forward. Before you take the next step, I hope you will take a few minutes to reflect on those people who helped you get to where you are today--maybe it's a teacher or staff member, a friend, or even a family member. No one achieves success on their own, and though none of these people would ask for recognition, I'm sure they would appreciate knowing they are a part of your success.

I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing what your future holds!

Kevin Macina, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

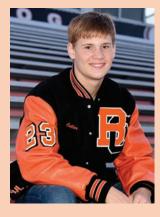
# **TOP SENIOR PROFILES**

# Byron Center High School proudly recognizes the Class of 2023 Top Seniors!

These students have achieved the highest academic standings amongst their peers. They have succeeded with college-level courses through Advanced Placement classes at the high school or Dual Enrollment classes through a local college.

# **Congratulations to the 2023 Top Two Grads!**

# Valedictorian



LOGAN COLLER is one of the 2023 BCHS Co-Valedictorians. He is the son of Dale and Jodie Coller. Logan is a member of the National Honor Society and the Eagle Scouts. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction. He wrestled, played football for four years, and was an Academic All-State Individual for both. He also played two years of baseball and two

years of track and field. Logan is planning to attend Kalamazoo College to study Chemistry and play football. He has been awarded the Lux Esto Scholarship and the Kalamazoo Alumni Scholarship.

## Valedictorian



**RYAN WALL** is one of the 2023 BCHS Co-Valedictorians. He is the son of Michael and Theresa Wall. Ryan was a member of the National Honor Society and a Senior Class Representative. He was a four-year band member and was a marching band section leader. Ryan also played two years of JV Tennis. Ryan is an AP Scholar with Distinction and last fall, he was

named a National Merit Finalist. It was just announced in June that he is a winner! He will use that scholarship to pursue a computer science degree at the University of Alabama.



OWEN FLANNERY is the son of

Lee and Erica Flannery. Owen was in band all four years of high school as part of the wind ensemble. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Commended Scholar. Owen will be attending the University of Michigan to pursue a mathematics degree.



**KALYNN DEPPE** is the daughter of Mark and Sharon Deppe. Kalynn was a part of the Science Olympiad team and took 3rd place with her partner at the state competition. She was recognized for her artwork, including three Gold Keys and two Honorable Mentions from the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Kalynn is an AP Scholar with Distinction and has been offered several scholarships; she will use the WPI Presidential Scholarship to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study an area of STEM.



MATTHEW BROUGHAM is the son of Garrett and Jennifer Brougham. He played varsity hockey and was All-Conference and 2nd All-State. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Matthew plans to continue playing hockey for a few more years and then will attend college to study chemical engineering.



**MAKENNA CRANDELL** is the daughter of Jared and Ronda Crandell. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a Class Representative, a Pride Pack member, and is part of the Byron Center Revival Seekers, Makenna played tennis and basketball for four years and was named All-Conference and All-State multiple times. She was named the West MI Officials Association's Girls Basketball Plaver of the Year. She also ran cross country and played volleyball for two years. Makenna is an AP Scholar with Honor and recently earned the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy and was awarded the Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. She will be attending Hope College to study special education and elementary education.



SERENITY METZGER is the daughter of Daniel and LaTori Metzger. She was the Science Olympiad team captain, a class officer, treasurer in the Knitting and Crocheting Club, and a Color Guard. Serenity has done two years of sideline and competitive varsity cheer. She has received College **Board National African American Recognition and College Board** National Rural and Small Town Recognition. She is an AP Scholar with Honor and a National Merit Commended Scholar. Serenity will be using the Gates Scholarship, the U of M Hail Scholarship, and the Regents Merit Scholarship to attend the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in computer science.



**OLIVIA PITSCH** is the daughter of Joseph and Emily Pitsch. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Be NICE, Tutoring Club, Girl Scouts, and is a community and church volunteer. Olivia won several art and film awards, including Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Medal, Meijer Great Choices Finalist, KDL Film Festival Popular Vote, and Best Soundtrack, just to name a few. She ran cross country and played tennis for four years. She is an AP Scholar with Honor, received College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition, and has been offered numerous scholarships, including the GVSU Merit Scholarship, which she will be using to attend GVSU to major in film & production with a minor in Spanish.



JADA O'NEILL is the daughter of Walter and Felisa O'Neill. She is a volunteer musician with the Grand Rapids Symphonette. She was a section leader in our Chamber Orchestra and was on the Marching Band Leadership Team and the Color Guard Leadership Team. She played tennis and was on the dance team for one year. Jada received College Board

National African American Recognition, College Board National Rural and Small Town Recognition, and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. She will use the U of M Alumni Association LEAD Scholarship to pursue a nursing degree at the University of Michigan.



#### **CATHERINE MORELL** is the

daughter of Patrick and Carol Morell. Catie was a Class Representative, founder of the Knitting Club, and a member of the AUA & GSA groups. She was on the Principal's Advisory Board and volunteers in the community. Catie did one year of choir and basketball, three years of cross country, and four years of soccer. She recently received

the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy and is an AP Scholar with Honor. Catie is planning to continue her education at the University of Michigan.

## 2023 Senior Class Motto

# **SENIOR Scholarships & Awards**

Ali Abu-Awad - GVSU GV Faculty Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

#### Madison Abuelhawa - GRCC-GVSU

Jacob Anderson - MSU 1st division solo rating at state solo & ensemble, MSU Jazz Trumpet Scholarship

#### Shelby Asbeck - GVSU

Alex Awrey - CMU CMU Maroon and Gold Award, BCHS Applied Arts Award

Brianna Bagley - Air Force

Finnegan Banks - MSU Michigan Resident Scholarship

**Riley Bares** - Cornerstone University Pastoral Scholarship, Chancellors Scholarship, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

**Dominic Batraville** - FSU BCHS North Star Academy Award

**Rylee Baumbach** - WMU WMU Bronco Merit Scholarship

Kaylee Bazuin - Calvin University Calvin Trustee's Scholarship, BCHS Math Award

Haylee Beek - NMC BCHS North Star Academy Award

**Olivia Beld** - University of Northwestern Ohio BCHS Service Award

Ashlee Benkert - GRCC

Bennett Birtles - Coast Guard

Kyle Bishop - GRCC

#### Amelia Bodinaku - WMU

WMU Scholarship, Scholastic Art And Writing: Silver key and honorable mention, Kelsey Auto Law Scholarship, Joseph T. and Dorothy P. Permoda Journalism Scholarship

Josh Boersma - Aquinas College M.R. Bissell Memorial Scholarship

Seth Boettger - Davenport University

Avery Booth - University of South Carolina National Honor Society

Jackson Bossenbroek - U of M

Elijah Bostelaar - Michigan Technological University National Honor Society, MTU Distinguished Leader Award, MTU Excellence Award, MTU Presidential Silver Scholars

Jeffrey Bowling - WMU Brown and Gold Scholarship

Mackenzie Bowling - NMU BCHS Physical Education Award

Loren Brehm - Northwood Academic Scholarship

Brady Breit - Hope College

Austin Briggs - Electrical

Amber Bright - Calvin University Calvin Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society

Camryn Broekhuizen - CMU Maroon and Gold Merit Scholarship, BCHS Physical Education Award

#### Matthew Brougham

BCHS Science Award, 2023 Hockey All-Conference, 2023 Hockey 2nd team all-state

Aaleah Brubaker - FSU Ferris Provost Scholarship, Ferris Bulldog Bonus Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Tanis Brummel - FSU Bulldog Bonus Scholarship, Ferris Forward Scholarship

Austin Buckley - Calvin University

Aaron Burgess - GVSU Academic All State for football and wrestling, BCHS Physical Education Award, National Honor Society, GVSU Award for Excellence, Buist Foundation Scholarship

Zach Bush - GRCC Sparty Cup Winner, Golf Scholarship

Logan Carmer - WMU WMU 3.00

Ben Chase - Air Force

Kayne Clark - LCC Code Red Robotics Team Award

**Tim Clay** - Hope College Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship

Logan Coller - Kalamazoo College Co-Valedictorian, BCHS Science Award, National Honor Society, Eagle Scout, Academic All State in Football, Lux Esto Scholarship, Kalamazoo Alumni Scholarship

Abi Collier - MSU Michigan Resident Scholarship

Mal Corwith Certified Green Industry Professional Certificate (KCTC)

**Cassidy Coval** - The Salon Professional Academy National Honor Society, Blood Donor

Makenna Crandell - Hope College West Michigan Officials Association Girls Basketball Player of the Year, BCHS Social Studies Award, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, Hope College Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Jackson Crittendon - Aquinas College Cristi Curtis Memorial Academic Scholarship, Aquinas Baseball Scholarship

Max de La Pena - GVSU Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS ESL Award, The Thompson Working Family Scholarship Alexa Deising - Davenport University 1st Place Regional HOSA Competition Community Awareness

#### Audrey Denhof - GVSU

National Service Award, National Honor Society, GVSU Award for Excellence, BBB Trust Scholarship, GRBS Perseverance Scholarship, United Bank Scholarship, EVERFLY Financial Literacy BEE Scholarship, Honor Award from the Michigan Community Service Commission

Kalynn Deppe - Worcester Polytechnic Institute BCHS ELA and Math Award, BC Pride Award for Discovery, Science Olympiad Regionals Award, Martha Bayard Stevens Scholarship, WPI Henry T. Heald Scholarship

Karen Diaz - CMU Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Dinara Domeier - FSU

Ferris State Founders Scholarship, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Spanish Award, National Honor Society

**Sophia Eckart** - Indiana Wesleyan University Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, IWU John Welsey Scholarship

#### Payton Farrow

Brink Wood Products Scholarship

**Chloe Feather** - University of Alabama Academic All-State for Cheer, Michigan Leader for Life (blood drive), BCHS Math Award, National Honor Society, Lake Michigan Competitive Cheer Officials Association Scholarship, GreenStone Farm Credit Services Scholarship, D.K. Sprauge Scholarship, University of Alabama Competitive Scholarship, BBB Trust Scholarship, Atlas Molded Products Scholarship, Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship

#### Alissa Fedewa - MSU

Individual All-State Academic for Volleyball, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Social Studies and Spanish Award, National Honor Society, BC Pride Award for Respect, Maroon and Gold Merit Recognition Award, Byron Center Education Association Scholarship

Hannah Felan - Life EMS

**Anna Feldpausch** - Aquinas College Ignation Award, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society

**McKenna Ferguson** - Wayne State University First Team All Conference for basketball, BCAM Academic All State, BCAM Division 1 All State, Academic and Athletic Full Ride Scholarship

**Owen Flannery** - U of M AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation, BCHS Math Award

Cade Fortier - FSU Ferris State Founders Scholarship

Jackson Garbarek - U.S. Navy

**Ben Gilpin** - Hope College BCHS Performing Arts Award for Band, Academic and Athletic Full Ride Scholarship

Madeline Glerum - MSU Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Josiah Gonzalez - FSU Ferris Deans Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, BCHS Service Award

Joshua Hager BCHS Art Award

Haarika Hebbur - GVSU 1st place at HOSA (Health Occupation Student of America Competition) Regionals, 3rd place at HOSA State, Science Olympiad Regionals Award, BC Pride Award for Excellence, National Honor Society, BCHS Service Award

Ashton Hendges - GRCC-MSU National Honor Society

**Juan Herrera-Raymundo** Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

**Jocelyn Heyboer** - GRCC GRCC Academic Scholarship

Riley House - MSU AP Scholar Award, Michigan Resident Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Adriana Howland - MSU Honor Roll

Shayla Humphrey - Marine Corps

Judzia Irwin - GRCC President's list for both fall and winter semesters at GRCC, Most Encouraging Award from BCHS Theatre

Hailee Jarchow - GVSU GVSU Academic Scholarship

Zachary Jeruzal - GVSU National Honor Society, GVSU Academic Scholarship, Chick-fil-A Scholarship

Kennedy Johnson 1st Place Regional HOSA competition, Community Awareness

**Evan Kaiser** - FSU National Honor Society

Lauren Kenney - Cornerstone University CU Partners For Success, CU Influence Grant, MI Achievement Scholarship, BCHS Service Award

Jayda Kerns - Aquinas College Aquinas Merit and Golf Scholarships, Aquinas Spectrum of Scholarships competition award, BCHS ELA Award

Paul Kimball - Video Editing Sutton Foster Award Nomination, BCHS A/V Award, 3rd Place at Courageous Persuaders National Competition

Landyn Kooiker - GRCC BCHS Service Award, West Michigan Official Association Student Athlete of the Year, West

Association Student Athlete of the Year, west Michigan Official Association Scholarship Austin Krauss - MSU

OK Conference Scholar Athlete, Sports Boosters Scholarship, Bulldog Power Award Adam Lee - U of M BCHS Applied Arts Award, Buist Foundation Scholarship

**Chloe Lee** - Cornerstone University Chancellors Scholarship, Cornerstone University Pastors Scholarship, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, BCHS Service Award

Kara Lein - Hope College Science Olympiad Regionals Award

Brody Lenger - Byron Center Fire Department

**Evelyn Looman** - GVSU Unsung Hero/Outstanding Musician/Outstanding Leader-Byron Center Marching Band, GVSU Faculty Scholarship, Thompson Working Family Scholarship

Jessica Lukins - Calvin University ChoiceOne Bank Scholarship, Brink Wood Products Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Calvin Trustee's Scholarship, MI Achievement Scholarship, BCHS Math and Science Awards, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation

**Cora Malinski** - GRCC GVSU Academic Scholarship

Gabrielle Martin - GRCC Honor Roll

Jennifer Martinez - MSU Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Spanish Award, Michigan Resident Scholarship

**Colton Mathiesen** - GRCC Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Anataya Matthews BCHS Performing Arts Award for Choir

Aspen Matthews BC Pride Award for Integrity, BCHS Learning Strategies Award

Eli Maxwell - Air Force Honor Roll

Kylee McConnell - Davenport University Davenport University Scholarships

Jocelyn Metcalf - Ingredients Dance Company BCHS Performing Arts Award for Orchestra, BCHS Service Award, Van Singel Fine Arts Scholarship, GVSU Laker Scholarship for Academics

Serenity Metzger - U of M Science Olympiad Regionals Awards, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation, U of M Hail Scholarship, The Gates Scholarship, U of M LEAD Scholarship, Regents Merit Scholarship

Gabe Miheve - MSU National Honor Society, Bowling Academic All-State, MSU Academic Scholarships, MSU Michigan Resident Scholarship

Turner Miles - NMU

NMU Art and Design Incoming Freshman Scholarship, Chick-fil-A Remarkable Futures Scholarship, DeHaan Tile and Flooring Sponsored Scholarship, 1st Div. Rating at State and Regional Solo and Ensemble for a Solo, MAEA State Recognition for Art, All-State Performance for an Ensemble at Solo and Ensemble

Hudson Miltner - MSU Michigan Residential Scholarship **Noah Mitran** - WMU WMU solo recognition, Honor Roll, Bronco

WMU solo recognition, Honor Roll, Bronco Merit Scholarship, Haworth College of Business Scholarship

**Catie Morell** - U of M Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Social Studies Award

**Avery Mouw** - GVSU Scholastic Gold Key Award, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Pastors Scholarship, GV Award for Excellence

Ashleigh Nelson - Ohio Northern University Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, All-Conference Athlete, Ohio Northern University Academic Scholarship

**Logan Nickolaus** - Wisconsin Windigo of the NAHL Honor Roll, 1st team all state, All Conference, and Mr. Hockey Finalist

Abigail Noel - GRCC BCHS Service Award

Mary O'Neal - FSU Ferris State University Merit Scholarship, Ferris Bulldog Bonus

Jada O'Neill - U of M U of M Lead Scholarship

Jessica O'Neill Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship, Beating the Odds Scholarship

Thomas Oegema - WMU Alumni Scholarship, Merit Scholarship

**Seth Paddinge** - WMU WMU Bronco Merit Scholarship

Lucas Parker - GVSU Atlas Molded Products Scholarship

Ashanty Perez - GRCC Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Jackson Perez - GVSU BCHS Physical Education Award, BC Pride Award for Perseverance, GVSU Award for Excellence,

Stephen Perez - Michigan Career Technical Institute

#### Aleiah Peterson

Certified Green Industry Professional Certificate (KCTC)

Laiken Pettit - MSU Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Rachel Phelan - MSU

National Honor Society, Michigan Seal of Billiteracy, BCHS Spanish Award, Bulldog Power Award, Positive Coaching Alliance Triple Threat Competitor Scholarship, Chamber of Commerce Rod Korhorn Scholarship, MSU MI Resident Scholarship, Northwest Hardwoods Scholarship, United Bank Community Dedication Scholarship, Bite Cancer Foundation Scholarship, BC Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Joshua Philo - Calvin University Calvin University Scholarship, Rick Deneweth Memorial North South Showcase, National Honor Society, BCHS Applied Arts Award, BCHS Service Award

Allyson Pitsch - MSU Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Michigan Resident Scholarship

#### Olivia Pitsch - GVSU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Rural and Small Town Recognition, Honorable Mention in Scholastic Region, KDL Film Fest Most Original Concept, BCHS Spanish and Art Awards, National Honor Society, BCHS Service Award, Finalist at the Courageous Persuaders National Competition, GVSU Merit Scholarship, GVSU Zukaitis Honors Scholarship

#### Aidan Pollock - U of M

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, National Honor Society, All-District Soccer Player, University of Michigan Alumni Club of Grand Rapids Scholarship

#### Emmie Pratt - FSU

Ferris NEXT Scholarship, Ferris Merit Scholarship, BCHS Service Award

Keaton Premo - Firefighting and Pressure Washing

#### Hannah Reda - GVSU

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Honorable Mention, Top 50 in the MAEA regional show, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS ELA Award, Gaines Township Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Provosts Scholarship, Brink Wood Products Scholarship

#### Paloma Krystal Reyes Ibarra

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

#### Katie Richards - MSU

Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, BCHS Social Studies Award, National Honor Society

Luis Rosado Rosario Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Giavanna Rossi - CMU Central Michigan Merit and Gold Scholarship

Jacob Russell - GVSU National Hispanic Recognition, Grand Valley Merit Scholarship, Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Mallory Sanderson - FSU Robert H. Skutt Scholarship, Byron Center Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Ferris State Merit Scholarship

Brayden Sandholm - WMU National Honor Society

Carmenlinda Santiago-Saez - U.S. Army

Sophie Schans - Hope College Heritage Award Hunter Schichtel - Taylor University BCHS Business Award for Accounting and Finance, 2x All-Conference Football, All-Region Football, Grand Rapids Dream Team Football, Honorable Mention All-Conference Bowling, Honorable Mention All-Conference Baseball, Football Scholarship

#### Elijah Schneider - U of M

National Honor Society, State Solo and Ensemble outstanding rating, Western Michigan Jazz Festival honorable mention soloist, BCHS Math Award

Ethan Schut - GVSU GVSU Faculty Scholarship

Shayden Shaffer - GVSU Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Esabella Siersma - GVSU BCHS Business Award for Marketing, GV Excellence Academic Scholarship

#### Jazzy Singh

Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Award for Excellence Scholarship

**Caydence Sparpana** - Davenport University Davenport University Academic Scholarship, Going Pro Recognition at KCTC

Chloe Steffen - GVSU GVSU Scholarship

Mackenzie Stubblefield - Calvin University Teachers Academy Scholarship, Calvin Academic Scholarship, BCHS Principal's Award, National Honor Society, Kent Career Tech Center Teachers Academy PRO of the Month, BCHS Service Award

**Payton Stuck** - The Salon Professional Academy BCHS Service Award

#### Nya Susan - CMU

Lizzy Szymaniak - Michigan Technological University

1st place at HOSA regionals for Pharmacy Science, 2nd place at HOSA state for Pharmacy science

Grace Taylor - MSU Honor roll

Megan TenHarkel - Trine University Trine University President's Scholarship

Shannon Tessmer - Saint Mary's College National Honor Society, Saint Mary's College Le Mans Award

**Brianna TeWinkel** - Cedarville University Cedarville University President's Scholar Award, Cedarville University's Early Start Scholarship, BCHS German Award, BCHS Service Award **Drew Thomas** - GVSU GVSU Academic Scholarship

**Bryanna Tromp** - GVSU GVSU Award for Excellence, Brink Wood Products Scholarship

Ethan Trout - GVSU

Mckenna Turnbull - GVSU Advanced Chemical Concepts Business Athlete Scholarship

Brady Unthank - Grace Christian Baseball Scholarship

Allison VanderSloot - GVSU BCHS ELA Award, BCHS Photography Award, Two National Silver Medals in Writing, Four Regional Gold Medals in Art and Writing

**Ryleigh VanderTuin** - GRCC Academic, Athletic, and Merit Scholarships

**Ryan Wall** - University of Alabama National Merit Finalist, Co-Valedictorian, BCHS Math Award, National Honor Society, National Merit Finalist Scholarship, Collegeboard National Small Town and Rural Scholarship

Jonathan Wallace - GVSU GVSU Athletic Scholarships

Katherine Wells - GVSU National Honor Society, GVSU Award for Excellence Scholarship

Avery Wilson - WMU National Honor Society, WMU Scholarship

#### Kira Wilson - GVSU

BCHS Service Award, 2nd Place Science Olympiad Medal, 6th Place Science Olympiad Medal, BCHS A/V Award, Finalist at the Courageous Persuaders national competition

Colin Woniewski - WMU

BCHS Performing Arts Award for Band, Outstanding soloist winner in class "A" at CMU Jazz Festival, Soloist recognition at WMU Jazz Festival, Overall outstanding soloist for big band at WMU Jazz Festival, WMU Bronco Honors Scholarship, Jazz Area Award, MCBA Scholarship, VSFAC Scholarship

**Ethan Wood** - GRCC/GVSU OK Conference Scholar Athlete, 2023 Male Athlete of the Year

Alexis Zimmer - FSU FSU Academic Scholarship

**Olivia Zoulek** - Coastal Carolina University Merit Scholarship



# **BC PRIDE Awards**

These students exemplify the Five Pillars of Character that **BC Pride represents. Congratulations to these seniors!** 



Jackson Perez Perseverance



Alissa Fedewa Respect



We wish to honor the following 2023 graduates who have enlisted into the Armed Services. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve!



**Brianna Bagley** Air Force





**Benjamin Chase** Air Force





Kalynn Deppe

Aspen Matthews

Integrity





Shayla Humphrey Marines





Haarika Hebbur Excellence

# North Star Academy

Congratulations to the 23 seniors who graduated from our North Star Academy this year! This was our 15th graduating class. The North Star Academy staff, along with Byron Center Public Schools, is dedicated to model leadership through passion, relevance, relationships, and high standards while seeking an alternative teaching approach. They are committed to providing appropriate support while building students of character who can excel in critical thinking, social awareness, problem-solving, and employability skills.



CarmenLinda Santiago-Saez Armv



The personalized, blended-education program at Byron Center is designed to prepare students for their individual plan after high school while completing BCHS graduation requirements and receiving a BCPS diploma.

# Kent Career Tech Center

Kent Career Tech Center offers education focusing on career exploration, career preparation, and continuing education leading to successful employment. Students who participate in a one or two year program receive high school credits, and in some cases, students may earn college credit.

These 32 BCHS seniors have earned industry-recognized certifications in the KCTC program. Some of these students will go on to receive additional training, while others are ready to enter the workforce. Congratulations, seniors!

Jason Barrix - Advanced Auto Tech - Engines Olivia Beld - Diesel & Equipment Tech Bennett Birtles - Auto Collision Repair Kayne Clark - Aviation Maintenance Tech Mal Corwith - Agriscience for Plants and Animals Alexa Deising - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech Kierstyn Dykema - Teacher Academy Alyssa Dykstra - Teacher Academy Hannah Felan - Health-Emergency Medical Services Jakeb Godt - Advanced Auto Tech - Electrical Haarika Hebbur - Health-Diagnostic/FSU Jayda Johnson - Hospitality-Advanced Pastry Kennedy Johnson - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech Lauren Kenney - Teacher Academy Brody Lenger - Health-Emergency Medical Services Kylee McConnell - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech Hunter Mckenna - Heating Ventilation AC and Refrig Mahrle Miller - Welding Aleiah Peterson - Agriscience for Plants and Animals Anthony Pitsch - Advanced Auto Tech - Engines Keaton Premo - Hospitality Intro Mallory Sanderson - Engineering & Architectural Design Logan Shaw - Aviation Maintenance Tech Caydence Sparpana - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech Mackenzie Stubblefield - Teacher Academy Carson Stutes - Diesel & Equipment Tech Alysa Szymaniak - Health-Pharmacy Technician Shannon Tessmer - Nurse Tech/Patient Care Tech Bryce Thompson - Welding Aliah Trevino - Health-Emergency Medical Services Kendal Vandermolen - Agriscience for Plants and Animals Isaac Wheaton - Auto Collision Repair

# **Senior Class Motto**

"We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Andre Gide

# Senior Class Flower

Orange Dahlia

# Senior Class Song

"I Lived" by One Republic

### **Class Officers:**

Chloe Feather Serenity Metzger Adriana Howland Makenna Crandell

## **Class Advisors:**

Mrs. Madison Cove Mrs. Christy Tripp-Arkema

# **Our Exchange Students**

Nika Banovic - Bosnia Maleen Borrman - Germany Leonie Carbon - France Natalia Castro Alcalde - Brazil Marta Fernandez Gonzalez - Spain Emily Istenes - Germany Helina Jirka - Austria Hsing An Ku - Taiwan Maina Soumare - France Javier Ubis Muras - Spain

# **CELEBRATING** Fine Arts

# To all our visual artists, actors, dancers, singers, and musicians: Well done!

We hope you continue developing and using your creative talents as you go from here. The world needs more beauty and inspiration that the arts provide! The Byron Center Fine Arts program desires the best for our graduating seniors!

# **Byron Center Theatre**

# FALL PLAY: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Cast size: 35 students, five elementary students & four violinists Crew size: 20 students

## SPRING MUSICAL: CINDERELLA

Cast size: 50 students Crew size: 20 students Tech was completely student-run

Sutton Foster Awards Nominations: Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role, BCHS Junior Indigo Umlor as The Fairy Godmother, and BCHS Senior Paul Kimball as Prince Christopher

# Band, Choir, and Orchestra

## BAND

Marching Band placed 3rd in the State District Solo and Ensemble: 55 First Division

Ratings & 21 Second Division Ratings **State Solo and Ensemble:** 29 First Division Ratings, 17 Second Division Ratings & All-State Performance - Clarinet Choir

Western Michigan University Jazz Festival: 18 Students Awarded Outstanding Performance & Jazz Band Named Outstanding Ensemble

## **JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award 1st Place at CMU Jazz Festival 1st Place at WMU Jazz Festival Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival placed Top 15 in the country



Fall Play: A Christmas Carol

Spring Musical: *Cinderella* 

Thomas Oegema plays in the Marching Band



Marching Band performs in the State Competition at Ford Field



### **CHOIR**

- Regional High School Honors Choir: Three Students Selected
- **District 10 Solo and Ensemble:** 15 First Division Ratings & Six Second Division Ratings
- **District 10 Choral Festival:** Bella Voce First Division Ratings & Vocal Expressions -First Division Rating
- **State Solo and Ensemble:** 10 First Division Ratings **State Choral Festival:** Bella Voce - First Division Rating & Vocal Expressions - First Division Rating

### **ORCHESTRA**

- **District Orchestra Festival:** First Division Ratings **State Orchestra Festival:** First Time Attending for Chamber Orchestra - First Division Rating
- **District 10 Solo and Ensemble:** 11 First Division Ratings & 10 Second Division Ratings
- State 10 Solo and Ensemble: Five First Division Ratings & One Second Division Rating

# **Visual Arts**

### **KDL TEEN FILM FESTIVAL**

Olivia Pitsch & Kalynn Deppe won "Best Original Concept" for their submission "Serenity."

### SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL WINNERS

High School - 131 Awards

### SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL WINNER

Allison Vandersloot won Two Silver Medal Awards in Writing for Novel Writing & Flash Fiction.

#### **SILVER MEDAL OF HONOR**

Annoying Things Kids Do - Kira Wilson & Paul Kimball

### **GOLD MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE**

Drinking and Driving Don't Mix - Paul Kimball The Coffee Shop - Kira Wilson & Paul Kimball The Haunted Condo - Paul Kimball The Story of the Hicks Family - Kira Wilson & Paul Kimball You're Not You When You're Hungry - Kira Wilson, Paul Kimball. Olivia Pitsch

#### **BEST OF SHOW - STATE CHAMPIONS!**

Serenity - Olivia Pitsch & Kalynn Deppe Drinking is a Dumb Way to Drive - Kira Wilson, Paul Kimball, Olivia Pitsch



Vocal Expressions perform at Artastic



Jazz Orchestra practicing for performance



Allison VanderSloot





Colin Woniewski performs at Essentially Ellington

Kalynn Deppe, Kira Wilson, and Olivia Pitsch win Best of Show at the Michigan Student Film Festival. Not included in photo: Paul Kimball

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# **INSPIRING** Athletes

# **OK Conference Scholar Athletes**

**Finnegan Banks Rylee Baumbach** Avery Booth Elijah Bostelaar Mackenzie Bowling Loren Brehm Aaron Burgess **Timothy Clay** Logan Coller Abisola Collier Makenna Crandell Audrey Denhof **Dinara Domeier** Ellie Dunn Sophia Eckart **Chloe Feather** Alissa Fedewa McKenna Ferguson Jackson Garbarek Madeline Glerum Ashton Hendges

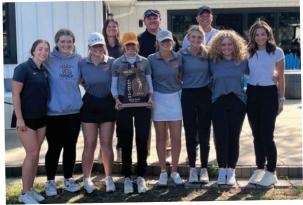
Zachary Jeruzal Jayda Kerns Paul Kimball Austin Krauss Devon Lay **Drew Leatherman** Adam Lee Jessica Lukins **Gabrielle Martin** Jennifer Martinez Elijah Maxwell **Gabriel Miheve** Catherine Morell Avery Mouw Logan Nickolaus **Thomas Oegema Jackson Perez** Laiken Pettit **Rachel Phelan** Joshua Philo **Allyson Pitsch** 

Madelyn Pitsch Olivia Pitsch Aidan Pollock Katie Richards Giavanna Rossi Mallory Sanderson Brayden Sandholm Hunter Schichtel Esabella Siersma Chloe Steffen Mackenzie

Stubblefield Grace Taylor Shannon Tessmer Andrew Thomas Matt Truong Katherine Wells Avery Wilson Cameron Wolters Ethan Wood Olivia Zoulek



Boys Golf



# **Senior Athlete Awards**





McKenna Ferguson

**Ethan Wood** 

Sports Boosters Scholarship Jayda Kerns Austin Krauss Robert L. Nickels Scholarship Tim Clay Rachel Phelan Cristi Curtis Memorial Scholarship Alissa Fedewa

Advanced Chemical Concepts Business Athlete Scholarship McKenna Turnbull Carter Patrick Payton Stuck Blake Hoppe

# **Triple Threat Award**

Brady Breit - FB, Hockey, Lacrosse Logan Coller - FB, Wrestling, Baseball, Track Makenna Crandell - XC, VB, Basketball, Tennis Dinara Domeier - XC, Bowling, Soccer, Tennis Austin Krauss - Tennis, Basketball, Baseball Hunter Schichtel - FB, Basketball, Bowling, Baseball



**Conference Boys Track** 

# **All-Conference Athletes**

#### FALL

Jayda Kerns, Golf Macie Elzinga, Golf Brady Pettit, Tennis Sydney Law, XC Levi Green, XC Caroline Baker, Volleyball Bri Whitfield, Volleyball Makenzi Bennett, Vollevball (HM) Hunter Schichtel, FB Tim Clay, FB Isaac Lee, FB Blake Ottow, FB Jason Sevigny, FB Luke Laska, FB Brady Breit, FB Joel Perez, FB (HM) Landon Tungate, FB (HM) Collin Ford, FB (HM) Josh Philo, Soccer AJ Dykstra, Soccer Carlos Castro, Soccer (HM) Ashleigh Nelson, Swim Brooklyn Beauch, Swim Jillian Vanderhorst, Equestrian, All District

#### WINTER

Austin Coleman. Wresting Ethan Wood, Wrestling Gracie Pepper, Comp Cheer Chloe Feather, Comp Cheer Emma Carlson, Comp Cheer Hanna Pulawski, Comp Cheer Paige Huizenga, Comp Cheer (HM) Addison Yerkes, Comp Cheer (HM) Dom Batraville, Bowling Matt Boersma, Bowling Josh Boersma, Bowling Layla Batraville, Bowling Hunter Schichtel, Bowling (HM) Vincent Batraville, Bowling (HM) Dinara Domeier, Bowling (HM) Alyssa Dykstra, Bowling (HM) Audrey Bilot, Bowling (HM) Sharley Bilot, Bowling Austin Buckley, Boys BB Camden Karel, Boys BB (HM) Austin Briggs, Swimming Jack Olivier, Diving Colton Standorf, Swimming Lily Zeinstra, GBB McKenna Ferguson, GBB Makenna Crandell, GBB Mattie Sandholm, GBB (HM) Avery DePagter, GBB (HM) Brady Breit, Hockey Matthew Brougham, Hockey Eli Kamminga (S. Christian), Hockey (HM) Gage Pietenpol (S. Christian), Hockey (HM) Bryce Permoda (S. Christian), Hockey (HM) Jackson Frovsland, Hockey Carson MacKenzie (Wayland), Hockey Logan Nickolaus, Hockey Josh Philo, Hockey Cade Pratt, Hockey

## SPRING

Calena Foster. Track Natalie Formsma. Track Lauren Milward, Track Chloe Feather, Track Madison Leifer, Track Aidan Pollock, Track Brody Leyendecker, Track Elijah Maxwell, Track Ethan Trout, Track Jackson Perez, Track Jayden Brock, Track Jonathon Lennon, Track Owen LaTour, Track Parker Holford, Track Xavier McCallum, Track Makenna Crandell, Tennis Addison Devos, Tennis Katie Richards, Tennis Brady Breit, Lax Tobin Brems, Lax Josiah Karnehm, Lax Connor Ferguson, Lax (HM) Claire VanZanten. Soccer Rachel Phelan, Soccer Avery Wilson, Soccer Laiken Pettit. Soccer Jordan Kerns, Soccer (HM) Isabella Kalbfleisch, Girls Lax (HM) Kellen Pavne. Baseball Luke Laska. Baseball Jack Crittendon. Baseball Hunter Schichtel. Baseball (HM) McKenna Ferguson, SB Sophie Holverstott, SB Mattie Sandholm, SB Addy Streelman, SB Ellory Dykstra, SB Jessie Lukins, SB (HM) Lexi Struble, SB (HM) Drew Leatherman, Golf (HM)



Hockey Conference Champs



Austin Briggs





Makenna Crandell Bulldog Award

Jackson Perez Bulldog Award

# **Individual State Qualifiers**

## FALL

Macie Elzinga, Golf, Overall State Champion Div 2

Sydney Law, XC

- Eli Maxwell, Ethan Trout, Parker Holford and Jackson Perez, Track, 4X 100 and 4 X 200
- JJ Brock, Track, 8th Place Long Jump
- Brody Leyendecker, Track, 400M Dash
- Natlaie Formsma, Track, High Jump
- **Brooklyn Beauch,** Swim, 200 Medley Relay, 200 IM, 100 Butterfly, 200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay

Maleen Borrmann, Swim, 200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 100 Backstroke, 400 Freestyle Relay

## WINTER

Ethan Wood, Wrestling Blake Ottow, Wrestling Austin Briggs, Swim, 50 Freestyle (1st), 100 Breaststroke Ike Devries, Swim, Diving Andrew Hill, Swim, 500 Freestyle Cole Mitchell, Swim, 100 Backstroke Carter Nelson, Swim, 500 Freestyle Jack Olivier, Swim, 500 Freestyle Jack Olivier, Swim, 100 Backstroke Colton Standorf, Swim, 200 IM, 100 Fly Jonathan Wallace, Swim, Diving Cole Mitchell, Austin Briggs, Colton Standorf, Cam Wolters, Swim, 200 Medley Relay

Austin Briggs, Aaron Petroelje, Colton Standorf, Cam Wolters, Swim, 200 Free Relay

Aaron Petroelje, Lucas Ritsema, Andrew Hill, Eli Bostelaar, Swim, 400 Free Relay

## **SPRING**

**Eli Maxwell, Ethan Trout, Parker Holford, and Jackson Perez,** Track, 4 X 100 and 4 X 200

**JJ Brock,** Long Jump and High Jump, 8th Place Long Jump

Brody Leyendecker, Track 400M Dash

Natalie Formsma, High Jump

**Chayse Campbell,** Swim, 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay, 100 Breaststroke, 400 Freestyle Relay

- Addison Deppe, Swim, 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle
- Lili McAvoy, Swim, 200 Freestyle, 500 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay
- Ashleigh Nelson, Swim, 200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay
- **Ella Peters,** Swim, 200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay

# 2022-2023 Championship Teams

Girls Bowling: Conference Champs Coach Walt Dyer

Boys Bowling: 5th Place - Coach Walt Dyer

Boys Golf: State Qualifier - Coach Jeff Krauss

Boys Swim: 11th Place - Coach Sam Hoekstra

Girls Basketball: Conference & District Champs Coach Jen Slot

Hockey: Conference & Regional Champs, State Runner-Up - Coach Jordan Steger

> Softball: Conference Champs Coach Crystal Laska

Boys Track & Field: Conference Champs First In School History Coach Colin Hunter



Girls Bowling



**Boys Bowling** 



#### Macie Elzinga



# **MESSAGES** to Our Graduates

Congratulations, Class of 2023! You will always have a special place in my heart as you are my first class of graduates since I started teaching in BC. I remember your 3rd grade faces well! Always remember you are special and full of potential. I know you will do AMAZING things! I wish you all the best!

## Mrs. Koenig

Countryside 3rd grade

Congratulations, Class of 2023! Do all that you can to travel; it will change your life!

### Mrs. Tripp

WMS and BCHS ESL

Congratulations, Class of 2023! You did it! What a great accomplishment. So proud of each and every one of you! Celebrate this moment and get ready for your next big adventure, whether it is college, military, or entering the workforce. Seize the Day!!

### Mrs. Thomas

Nickels 6th Grade

Herzlichen Glückwunsch!! I hope that you all enjoy this special time and look back on your high school time with fond memories (despite the weird start with Covid). I hope that whatever path you are going on next is filled with success, happiness, and fulfillment!

#### Frau Finkbeiner BCHS German

**Class of 2023, huge congrats to you!** I am so proud of you all. Thank you for making this a place I love to be every day. Thank you for all of the laughs, kindness, grace, and strength you have shown. Wishing you the absolute best in this next chapter, be big out there!

#### Mrs. Merritt BCHS Math

Congratulations, Class of 2023! Making it through high school is no small achievement! You all have made an impact on your school and community, and I have no doubt that you will continue to achieve and make an impact in your lives after graduation!

#### Mr. Kransberger **BCHS Social Studies**

Class of 2023 - you did it! Way to go! It has been so fun watching you all grow up and discover what makes you, YOU! Go out and change the world.

> Miss VanEngen Countryside 1st grade

You all are overcomers! Your High School experience was drastically different due to COVID, but you all came out stronger and more equipped to handle adversity in your future. My advice: travel the world, learn about others, and show empathy, kindness, and compassion. ¡Buena suerte!

## Sra. Sibalwa

WMS & BCHS Spanish

**I** have wonderful memories of working with you in the WMS choir room! I wish you blessings and courage as you graduate and go on to do great things. A big shoutout to our first grandson, Brody Lenger- we love you and are so very proud of you!

## **Mrs. Lenger**

WMS Choir Accompanist

We are really proud of our Class of 2023, and we cannot wait to see all your accomplishments in the next chapter. All of your hard work and perseverance have led you to this proud moment in your lives. Know that you will ALWAYS have a home with BC! Best wishes on your next adventure!

#### Mrs. Wagner

**BCHS** Theatre Director & **Brown Elementary Music Teacher** 

Fistamos orgullosos de Uds.! We look forward to hearing about all of the positive ways that you change the world. ;Buena suerte en el futuro!

#### Sra. Showers **BCHS Spanish**

Seniors, we have made such a beautiful family in our classroom. I wish you all so many blessings in your next adventure. Please remember to be kind and enjoy your moments. You all deserve that. Congrats, seniors.

## Mrs. Owens

**BCHS Marketing** Pottery

**I** have some really great memories of this class while you were here as a part of the Nickels Nation! I have appreciated the times that I have seen many of you since your time here at Nickels. Always stay positive, encourage others, and take advantage of the opportunities that life presents you!

## Mr. Amo

Nickels Intermediate Physical Education

<sup>6</sup> ¡Muchas Felicidades, Clase de 2023 - Congratulations! ¡Lo hiciste - you did it! It has been a pleasure working with all of you! Remember to experience World Travel & appreciate everyone who has guided you all these years. Be kind to others! Continue to set goals & realize that life throws challenges at all of us. Be flexible & willing to adapt. Stay strong & strive to carry that Bulldog Pride & the Spirit of Resilience in your Hearts. ¡Qué Viva La Clase de 2023! ¡Estamos en contacto, Amigos - Stay in touch! "Mi salón de clase es su salón de clase.

#### Sr. Domeier

HS Spanish, JV Girls Tennis & Driver's Ed

Class of 2023....WOW! When you were at Nickels 6-7 years ago, 2023 seemed like the very distant future. It is now here, and hard to believe how quickly that time has passed. Although time moves forward at the same speed throughout your life, you'll find that it seems to move faster as you get older. Be intentional about taking the time to appreciate the important things while balancing hard work with play. Congratulations, Class of 2023...we are proud of you!

#### Mr. Trout

Nickels Intermediate, Principal

Congratulations, Class of 2023, YOU DID IT!!!! Know that we're all proud of you. Wishing you all the best as you move on to the next chapter; enjoy every moment.

#### Mrs. Abbott

Countryside (4th Grade) PE Teacher

Way to go, Class of 2023! Wishing you all the very best in your next adventures! Go out and change the world for the better! You've got this!!

#### Mrs. Takens

Marshall School Counselor

Congratulations, Class of 2023! You are destined for great things. Go into the world and spread your kindness. Wishing you the best!

#### Mrs. Corey Brown 3rd Grade

**I'**m very proud of the adults that you are becoming! It's been fun to see what you've already accomplished, and I'm hopeful for what's to come. Congratulations! **J** 

# Mr. Volkers

Countryside 4th Grade

Way to go, Class of 2023! You were such a special group of 3rd graders, and I will never forget you. High five and hugs....You did it!

## Mrs. Clausen

Marshall 3rd Grade





Generatulations, Class of 2023!! You were my first group to teach at Byron Center, and I can't believe we made it to your graduation already. I hope you thrive in this next stage of your life!

#### Mrs. Klopfenstein (Kladder) BCHS Math SL&L

Congratulations, Class of 2023!! Wishing you the very best for a bright and successful future. I am hopeful for all the greatness you will contribute to the world.

# Mrs. Caldwell

Marshall 3rd Grade

Congratulations to you all! I have enjoyed making music with you for the past five years. Your leadership, wit, and sass will be missed. Best wishes in your future endeavors!

Ms. Peters NIS & HS Orchestra



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# A Note from Mr. Joseph



Dear Graduating Class of 2023,

You have persevered, shown respect and integrity, furthered your path of discovery, and reached for excellence these past four years. Your dedication and heart for others are honorable, and you have acted together with class. As you head into your next

journey, may you remember the lessons you have learned, thank the people that have helped you, and may you live with an attitude of gratitude as you make us all proud watching you continue to build your success story! Congratulations, Class of 2023!

Scott Joseph BC High School

Principal