



VIKING VOICE

Bronson Community Schools Newsletter • 2019 Volume 5 Issue 2

CELEBRATING BRONSON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



The end of another school-year means that it is time to look back over the list of things to celebrate at Bronson Community Schools! One statistic that really shows the direction we are headed is 70% of this year's graduates exceeded their expected growth goal on the SAT test. That means that our students took advantage of their learning opportunities and showed enormous growth during their high school career. We saw similar growth from our K-2 and 3-5 students at Anderson and Ryan.

Our staff works hard to instill a love of learning and a

goal-driven mindset and these statistics give us positive feedback on the progress so far.

The choir and band program continues to flourish, as well! The holiday performance by Anderson and the Spring musical by Ryan show the strong foundation established at the elementary level. On the upper end, our choir and band both performed well at the district and state levels. Also, the Bronson Thespians drama club kept their string of strong productions in tact with two more delightful shows this year. In the visual arts, two Bronson students were awarded at the state level for pieces of work created in our programs.

In athletics, many of our teams and individuals had strong seasons. Topping the list was the 4th consecutive state title for the volleyball team and the double state championship in men's and women's bowling!! Bronson wrestling won a conference and district title and produced an individual state title at 112 lbs. for Ben Modert.

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NUMBERS TO KNOW

Anderson Elementary
517.369.3234

Ryan Elementary
517.369.3254

Bronson Jr/Sr
High School
517.369.3230

Administration
517.369.3260

**SEPT
1**

It is recommended that you register your child for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old by September 1st

Required documents for registration:

- Certified birth certificate (not the hospital copy)
- Immunization records (immunizations need to be complete prior to the start of the school year)
- Proof of residency (driver's license, rental agreement, utility bill)
- Any court documents for any legal/custody issues for your child



Kindergarten Registration

Call 517-369-3234

COMING SOON!

Bronson Community Schools will be launching an app with helpful information and news. Watch for more this summer!



INTRODUCING NEW ELE

At the May 13 Meeting of the Board of Education, the hiring Ka face to Bronson Community Schools, having spent 10 years at and has most recently been teaching in Kalamazoo. We're exc educators to our administrative team!



Bronson Community Schools

Principal Profile

Kate Wall
Anderson Elementary Principal



Education:

I earned my Master of Arts in K-12 Educational Administration and Supervision from Ball State University in Muncie, IN. I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree from Ball State, as well.

Experience/Background:

I was born and raised in Wabash, IN. After graduating from Ball State, my first teaching position was in Elkhart, IN teaching Kindergarten. In the following years, I taught 5th and 6th grades there. From Elkhart, my life brought me to Sturgis, MI and I was offered a teaching position at Anderson Elementary School in Bronson. I taught first grade at Anderson for 5 years, was the K-5 Math Interventionist for 1 year and then returned to first grade for another 3 years. In the Fall of 2017, I was offered the Elementary Principal position in Mendon, where I have served for the last 2 years.

Family:

My husband Brian and I live on a family farm outside of Burr Oak. We have a sweet dog, Oliver, and we love spending time with our parents, siblings, niece, and nephews.

Hobbies:

We love camping and make every effort to camp in the late spring through early fall as much as we are able. I also love to read and learn more about education and leadership!

What drew you to Bronson Community Schools?

I spent nearly 10 years of my teaching career here. This community and district hold a very special place in my heart. My experiences in Bronson have shaped me into the educator that I am today and for that, I am forever grateful and excited to return!

I am most excited about...

...returning to the community, district, and building that means so much to me. I am very passionate about early learning and am excited to return to and lead Anderson Elementary School! I am eager to reconnect with members of the community and do the work to keep Bronson Community Schools moving forward!

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We continue to offer a hefty dual-enrollment program at BHS. We have joined an agreement to offer an Early College program though Kellogg Community College for next year and we continue to provide opportunities at the Branch Area Career Center for many of our

students. The K-5 program embraces the Leader in Me program which has impact on behaviors and habits to develop character to last a lifetime. Overall, enrollment is up, attendance is up and the financial stability of our schools is strong. In November, voters passed a new sinking fund that will continue to address the basic needs of our facilities for the next 5 years!

It is a good time to be a part of Bronson Community Schools! Thank you families and enjoy your summer!

Richard Hilderley
Superintendent

MENTARY PRINCIPALS!

ate Wall and Ed Dickenson was approved. Mrs. Wall is a familiar
Anderson Elementary. Mr. Dickenson grew up in White Pigeon,
cited to welcome both of these forward-thinking, energetic

Bronson Community Schools



Principal Profile

Ed Dickenson
Ryan Elementary Principal

Education:

BA in English/Elementary Education - Adrian College & M. Ed. in
Educational Leadership from GVSU.

Experience/Background:

I've taught a variety of elementary grades in White Pigeon and served in
Hartford as the K-2 principal at Red Arrow Elementary for 5 years and the K-5
principal at Redwood Elementary for 1.5 years. I've been teaching 2nd grade in
Kalamazoo since January.

Family:

I'm single but a proud uncle
of 2 high school graduating
seniors this month.

Hobbies:

I enjoy photography and
road trips - love spending
time along Route 66.
Also spend time reading,
searching for rusty treasures
as I antique, and do a little
geocaching.



What drew you to Bronson Community Schools?

Having grown up in a small, rural community myself (White Pigeon) I feel
that I can connect better with students and families who have similar
experiences. I also know that Bronson is a district and community that is
working hard to continue to grow and improve and I want to be part of a
forward thinking group of people serving kids and their community. Finally,
when I drove around Bronson to look around at the town, the schools, etc.,
and as I met with the building teams during interviews - it had a feeling of
home about it and a place that I wanted to be.

I am most excited about...

....this new opportunity. Working with the kids, staff, and families of Ryan
Elementary - having the privilege of leading learning and continuing the
great work already being done. I look forward to building new connections
and relationships and becoming part of the community.

ALUMNI BANQUET
SATURDAY,
JUNE 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 23 Commencement 7pm
- 24 Kindergarten Graduation
- 27 Memorial Day - NO School
- 31 Last Day of School - 1/2 Day

Looking for athletic events?
Visit the Schedule Star link on our
website under Athletics



**SCHEDULE
STAR**

June

- 15 Alumni Banquet
- 24 Board of Education Meeting

July

- 8 Board of Education Meeting

August

- 12 Board of Education Meeting
- 19 Open Houses
- 20 First Day of School
- 30 No School - Friday before
Labor Day Holiday

September

- 2 No School - Labor Day

You can now find
us on Facebook
and Instagram!



Get the latest
news and
updates!
Search for
BronsonRocks!



Bronson Jr/Sr High 5th to 6th Grade Transition FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The transition from 5th to 6th Grade is a big one. Over the years we've developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help with the transition. There will be a meeting for parents held during open houses this fall. Below are a few of the common questions we receive. A full list can be found on our website at www.BronsonSchools.org

Q: What kind of communication can I expect from the school?

Answer: Middle school is different than our elementary buildings. You will no longer receive a weekly folder home; however, we do send home a Middle School newsletter on a monthly basis, provide information through the School Messenger system, post updates on the BronsonRocks! Facebook page, Instagram, and post our daily bulletin on the Bronson Community Schools website (see the junior/senior high building). Some teachers may also use tools like the Remind App or email newsletters to keep parents updated. The school district also publishes a newsletter, the Viking Voice, 4 times per year.

Q: What if my child is sick or going to be absent from school?

Answer: We require parents and guardians to contact the school attendance office at least 24 hours in advance for an appointment or by 9:30 am in case of illness (517.369.3231) to let us know a student will be absent.

Q: Which door do I use when I drop off my child before school?

Answer: Please use door #2 (on the north side of the building)

Q: What is Skyward? How do I get access?

Answer: Skyward is the online student information system we use. It includes everything from your child's grades, foodservice activity and balance, attendance, discipline, and more! You can request access through the Parent Resources menu on the website.

Q: How do lunches work?

Answer: We will send an account code with the beginning of the school year packet. Your student will need to enter the account code in the cafeteria at the end of the lunch line. There are a few lunch options, \$ 2.50 for the regular menu; \$ 3.85 for ready-set-deli (which includes menu options like: made to order sandwiches and salads); and the "concession stand" which is ala carte and has additional choices of chips, baked fries, fruit snacks and cookies.

Q: Will my 6th grader be mixed into classes with high school students?

Answer: No. We have a separate wing of the school reserved for our 6th grade classrooms for their English, Social Studies, and Science classes. When your child goes to classes outside their classroom, there may be other middle school students (7th and 8th grade) enrolled.

Q: When will I know what classes my child is taking?

Answer: Your student's schedule will be sent home at the beginning of August, along with teacher/classroom placement, and additional information including the daily time schedule, map of the school, computer user agreement, medication form, picture packet, and a free and reduced lunch application.

Q: Will my child still have recess?

Answer: Our 6th grade students do get time during their lunch period to play in the gym or out on the practice football field, weather permitting.

Q: What if I have more questions?

Answer: The Bronson Junior/Senior High School staff is always happy to help answer your questions or direct you to the right resources! 517-369-3230

