



Viking Voice

Bronson Community Schools Newsletter
2017-18 Volume 4, Issue 1

Observations

Life has changed a great deal for my family and me over the last few months. Settling here in Bronson has provided some challenges for us; however, it already feels like home and we are happy to be a part of this friendly and supportive community.



Within the school, I have enjoyed getting to know names and faces and beginning the process of building relationships. Establishing a motto of **Every Student, Every Day** has been a simple task because our staff has shown how student focused they truly are. Working with this group of people is going to be very rewarding, I can tell. Here are a few of the things I have observed over the first several weeks here that I feel everyone should know:

- I heard a teacher explain excitedly to a colleague that her planning time wrapped around student lunch and that would allow her to work with kids who needed help during the day.
- Sitting in classrooms so far, I see a great deal of focus on literacy.
- Teachers make a daily effort to greet students at the door of their classrooms.
- While riding the bus routes, I see that drivers know students by name.
- Staff members attend athletic events to support kids.
- Teachers have focused conversations with each other about instructional delivery.
- Building administrators are in classrooms daily.
- Community members speak highly of our school system.
- People who grew up here return to teach here.

This is an incomplete list, but these points make it clear to me that I found the right place for me. People are dedicated, loyal and focused on the needs of all students. I am grateful to be a part of Bronson Community Schools!

Mr. Hilderley
Superintendent

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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

EVERY STUDENT *Every Day*

Students Benefit from College Classes

When asked if their Ancient History class pushes them, students in Bronson Jr/Sr High School's dual enrollment program enthusiastically responded with a, "Yes!" Students went on to state that they read A LOT for their history class. Students in the dual enrollment program take between 1-3 classes per term. The class of 2018 will have 11 students who will graduate with 30 college credits. At many colleges and universities, this is equivalent to one year which means students in the dual enrollment program can enter college as sophomores.

There are many benefits to this program. Ashton Wronikowski, junior, commented, "I like the classes and feel like they help to teach us to be responsible and in charge of our own classes. No one is reminding us when we have work due. We have to stay on top of deadlines." Joci McMichael, senior, added to this when she said, "It is great to get so many of our general education requirements out of the way. These classes will help us get into our major classes sooner." Ancient History Professor, Steve Watson, continued with, "This is almost a year of college free of charge--that's a lot of cash." Bronson's dual enrollment program provides kids with not only the chance to earn college credit for free but also the chance to prove that they can be successful in college classes.

Principal Wes McCrea reports the graduating class of 2017 earned 184 credits. "This is just a phenomenal opportunity for our kids. I am so proud of the program and all of the work the kids have done to make this so successful," stated McCrea. Since the beginning of this program Bronson has offered at least 3 dual enrollment college classes per semester. This year, through the partnership with Glen Oaks Community College, Bronson High School is offering two computer classes, a history class, an English class, a statistics class, and a humanities class.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place later this week at Bronson Community Schools. It is important to remember that parent-teacher conferences can play a very important role in a student's development and academic success. Unfortunately, this relationship is often overlooked, ignored or undervalued.

The truth is, teachers and parents often see different aspects of a student's personality. Only by maintaining an open dialogue and comparing notes on the student's achievements or behavior can these perspectives be useful for both.

When parents take advantage of parent-teacher conferences and other opportunities to speak with teachers, it often allows parents to learn of any challenges — academic or otherwise — their child might be having.

By the same token, parents can let the teacher know of any special circumstances at home that might have some bearing on the student's performance or behavior.

Let's face it; kids today face a lot of pressure in school. When parents and teachers work together to try and provide the best environment for learning, the child stands to benefit the most.

Content provided by Oakland University.

The Conferences Structure

Each year we are asked about the structure of Parent-Teacher Conferences at the Junior/Senior High School level. The question we get most often is "Why can't the conferences be by appointment like at the elementary level?" Our teachers at the Junior/Senior High School have well over 100 students throughout their classes (that's 3 times as many students as an elementary teacher). Scheduling appointments would allow for a 4 minute meeting with each student's parents or guardians.

Having the conferences structured similar to an open house allows parents to meet with the teachers they need to or simply stop to say a quick hello. It also creates a convenience of not having to make several trips to the school throughout the conference schedule for appointments with different teachers.

As noted above, the relationship between teachers and parents is an important one, and Bronson Community Schools wants to make certain we are doing everything possible to foster those relationships.

Upcoming Events:

October

- 11 Picture Day -
Ryan Elementary
Parent Teacher Conferences
5:30 to 7:30 pm
- 12 Parent Teacher Conferences
5:30 to 7:30 pm
- 13 1/2 Day of School
Parent Teacher Conferences
12:30 to 3:30 pm
- 16 No School - Professional
Development Day
- 22 Fall Band Concert 3 pm
- 23 Elementary PTO Meeting
- 25 Family Literacy Night
- 26 Fall Choir Concert 7 pm

November

- 6 Board of Education
Meeting
- 9-12 Thespians Present "Ramona
Quimby"
- 14 Spelling Bee
- 17 Picture Retake Day
- Ryan Elementary
- 22 1/2 Day of School
- 23 No School - Thanksgiving
- 24 No School - Thanksgiving
- 27 Elementary PTO Meeting

December

- 4 Board of Education
Meeting
- 10 Winter Band Concert 3 pm
- 14 Winter Choir Concert 7 pm
- 18 Elementary PTO Meeting
- 22 1/2 Day of School
Winter Break Begins

January

- 8 Students Return to School
Board of Education
Meeting
- 13 PTO Mother/Son Dance
- 15 No School - Professional
Development Day
- 22 Elementary PTO Meeting
- 23 McTeacher Night
- 24 Family Math Night -
Anderson Elementary
- 26 Geography Bee
(Grades 3 & 4)

Check our Facebook page - Bronson Rocks! or www.BronsonSchools.org for weekly calendars!

Leader in Me Creates Positive Lifelong Habits

In the fall of 2016, both Ryan and Anderson Elementary Schools became "Leader in Me" schools. The program is based on Franklin Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." We featured the history and basics of the program in an earlier newsletter that can be read [here](#). Over the next few editions, we will be sharing those seven habits as they are presented to our students so our parents, friends, and community members can recognize the impact this positive program is having on our students and encourage the habits at home and throughout the community. As Habit 2 indicates, "Begin with the End in Mind," this program supports Bronson Community Schools' Vision statement of "Dedication to Excellence - Preparation for the Future." We believe this program will create positive lifelong habits for our students.

Habit 1 - Be Proactive

- I have a "can-do" attitude and always try my best at everything I do.
- I follow directions and do the right things without being asked, even if no one is looking.
- I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods, and don't blame others for my wrongdoing.



Habit 2 - Begin with the End in Mind

- I plan ahead and set goals for myself.
- I am prepared at all times.
- I think about how the choices I make now will affect my future.
- I think about the positive or negative consequences of my actions before I act.

Habit 3 - Put First Things First

- I do the things I HAVE to do before I get to do the things I WANT to do.
- I stay focused on what I'm doing and try to minimize distractions if I get off task.
- I spend my time on things that are most important.

Bronson Thespians Bring A Classic to Life

Unpredictable. Exasperating. Boisterous and independent. That's Ramona Quimby for you. Always aggravating her older sister, Beezus, constantly getting into trouble and sometimes "making a big, noisy fuss" when things don't go her way.

As narrator, Beezus (Beatrice Quimby) introduces the Quimby family and friends and thereby sets the scene for the collection of vignettes that trace Ramona's tumultuous passage through third grade and through her family relationships.

At school, she throws a tantrum when provoked by a classmate and is sent home in disgrace. The teacher's wrath, an important family wedding, persistent sibling bickering and Mr. Quimby's attempts to give up smoking are part of the fabric that shape a humorous, loving family portrait.

The characters and the material, adapted by Obie Award-winning playwright Len Jenkin, are

as "today" as the morning newspaper. The problems facing the Quimbys, a middle-class Oregon family, are problems common to most families, and the family's togetherness in tackling the sacrifices and adjustments required when the father is unexpectedly fired from his job is a clear statement of traditional family values. Along with the discovery that life is not always fair, eventually Ramona and Beezus come to realize that sisters may not always agree, but they can be good to have around.

Come see Beverly Cleary's classic come to life November 9 through 12 at the Bronson Community Theater!

