



# VIKING VOICE

*Bronson Community Schools Newsletter • 2018 Volume 5 Issue 2*



## THE NEW SINKING FUND

Bronson Community Schools appreciates the support shown by voters in the 2014 passing of the sinking fund. This fund has allowed the Board of Education to address areas of critical needs for our facilities over the last four years providing substantial upgrades. Our roofs, boilers, entries and phone systems are now up to date and function in ways that support an appropriate learning environment. Thank you Bronson, for showing how much our kids mean to you!!

On November 6, a new sinking fund is on the ballot to address further needs in our schools; primarily in the areas of SAFETY, SECURITY and TECHNOLOGY. This new fund will access the current, updated language from the State of Michigan that allows for projects in these areas. The GREAT NEWS is that the new fund will levy the same 2 mills as the current fund. It is NOT AN INCREASE from what is currently being collected. The ballot language will read that the sinking fund is an "increase;" however, because there are now additional projects that can be completed with sinking fund dollars.

Support for the sinking fund on November 6 will generate approximately \$2 million over 5 years (about \$400,000 annually). Potential projects include upgrades to security through redesigned entry points, bullet-proof window film, increased camera surveillance, plus added technology routers and switches to support more learning devices. The fund would also allow the board to complete some of the final "wish list" items left unfinished from the first sinking fund.

Please remember to vote on November 6 and thank you for all of your support!!

Mr. Hilderley  
Superintendent

## IN THIS ISSUE

P1 -

The New Sinking Fund

P2 -

Leader in Me Habits 4,5,6

P3 -

Welcome New Staff,  
Upcoming Events,  
Band Uniforms

P4 -

Sinking Fund FAQs

## 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**



More economical lighting, upgraded fire alarm systems, new roofing, and updated entrances have all been completed with the current sinking fund.

# LEADER IN ME - HABITS 4, 5, & 6

Ryan and Anderson Elementary Schools are in their 3rd year of being “Leader in Me” schools. The program is based on Franklin Covey’s “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” Leader in Me is a whole-school improvement process based on the idea that everyone can be a leader. This evidence-based approach empowers students with the leadership and life-skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. By developing the WHOLE-child; socially, emotionally, academically and ethically, we will foster a school climate that promotes greatness!

## Habit 4: Think Win-Win®

“I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. When conflicts arise, I look for a win-win solution.”

What this habit teaches our students:

1. Use unique talents and abilities to the fullest; value others’ talents and abilities.
2. Develop flexibility and adaptability.
3. Be open-minded and nonjudgmental when considering the views of others.
4. Demonstrate attentive listening skills.
5. Cultivate a spirit of cooperation to live in an interdependent community and world.

## Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood®

“I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoint. I listen to others without interrupting. I listen with my ears, my eyes, and my heart. I am confident voicing my ideas.” What Habit 5 teaches students:

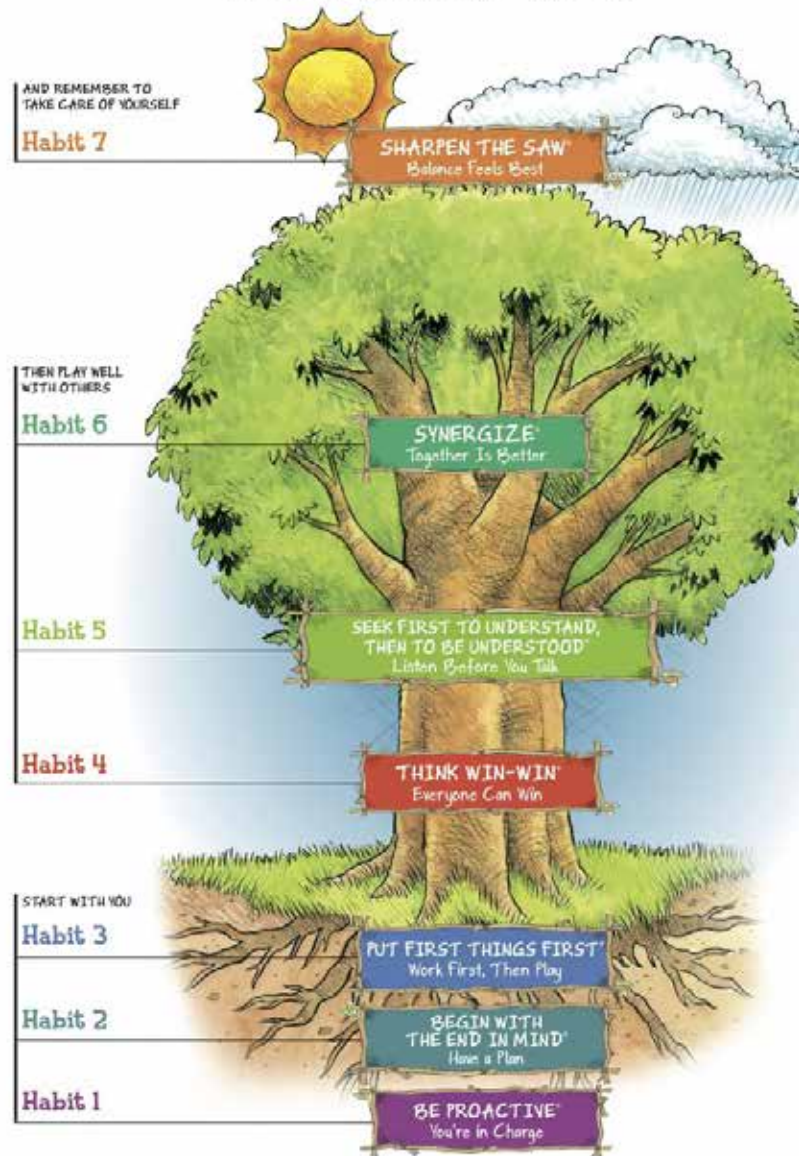
1. Demonstrate attentive listening skills to build and maintain healthy relationships.
2. Cultivate good social and communication skills.
3. Show compassion toward others, share, and put others first.
4. Appreciate different relationships.
5. Learn to relate to people who are alike as well as different, and work effectively in group settings.

## Habit 6: Synergize®

“I value other people’s strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people’s ideas because I know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than any one of us can alone. I look for Third Alternatives.” Students practicing Habit 6 learn to:

1. Express and present information and ideas clearly in oral, visual, and written forms.
2. Use unique talents and abilities to the fullest; value others’ talents and abilities.
3. Cultivate the ability to inspire, motivate, and draw out the best in others.
4. Communicate and work as a team in a multicultural and interdependent world.
5. Show initiative and entrepreneurialism

## The 7 Habits® Tree





# WELCOME NEW STAFF!

We have several new staff members at Bronson Community Schools this fall. Please join us in welcoming them to our school district and community!

**Hailey Schmidt** is teaching second grade at Anderson Elementary.

**John Curry** is teaching art at Bronson Jr/Sr High School and at Ryan Elementary.

**Damien Loveless** is teaching math at Bronson Jr/Sr High School.

**Sarah Bell** is a history teacher at Bronson Jr/Sr High School.

**Amanda May** is an elementary counselor at both Anderson and Ryan Elementary.



## MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

Last spring, the Board of Education approved funding to replace the marching band uniforms after many, many years of use. The new uniforms were delivered over the summer, and band members came in to help unload and organize.

The new uniforms (and raincoats!) have been put to good use this fall at football games and other marching band events.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

- 22 No School for Students / Professional Development
- 23 Family Math Night - Anderson Elementary
- 31 Happy Halloween!

### November

- 5 Board of Education 6:30 pm
- 8 Parent Involvement Night - Ryan Elementary
- 8-11 Fall Play
- 21 Half Day of School
- 22 Thanksgiving - No School
- 23 No School

### December

- 1 Sno-Ball
- 3 Board of Education 6:30 pm
- 7 Half Day of School
- 21 Last Day of School before Christmas Break

Looking for athletic events? Visit the Schedule Star link on our website under Athletics [www.BronsonSchools.org](http://www.BronsonSchools.org)



You can now find us on Facebook and Instagram!



Get the latest news and updates! Search for **BronsonRocks!**



# SINKING FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **Who is voting?**

Registered voters within the Bronson Community Schools District

## **What is being voted on?**

Vote on a proposal to establish a Sinking Fund for Building Repairs, Safety, Security, and Technology

## **When is the vote taking place?**

Tuesday, November, 6, 2018

## **Where do I vote?**

At your regular polling place for all elections: city, township, etc. (You can visit [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote) for this information and more)

## **What does the ballot language say?**

The ballot reads:

*"Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Bronson Community School District, Branch and St. Joseph Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 2 mills (\$2.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 5 years, 2019 to 2023, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2019 is approximately \$400,000?"*

## **Don't we already have a sinking fund? Why does the ballot say "increase" instead of "renewal"?**

When the 2014 sinking fund was passed, expenses could include building repairs and safety. The State of Michigan now also allows sinking funds to cover security and technology. The Board of Education chose to expand the scope of the sinking fund to include security and technology. It is because of this the wording must say "increase" instead of "renewal." However, it is the same 2 mills as the current fund YOU WILL PAY NO INCREASE.

## **What are the advantages of a sinking fund?**

There are many advantages to a sinking fund. Sinking funds have limited uses, are pay as you go with no interest, have a limited time to spend the money (it cannot be used as a savings account), provide funds for improvements for five years, would alleviate stress on the general fund and help us keep programs and teachers, sinking fund projects do not require prevailing wages be paid, and the school could begin projects sooner.

## **How will these funds be used?**

If voters choose to pass the sinking fund proposal this November, the improvements listed below will be possible:

- New routers and switches in all buildings to increase student access to technology
- Add more security cameras to ALL district buildings
- Redesign to the Bronson Jr/Sr High School office suite for additional entrance security
- Add security to Anderson and Ryan Elementary entrances
- Install bullet-proof window film on internal and external glass for added safety and security
- Complete items unfinished from the current fund

# November 6, 2018