



Viking Voice

Bronson Community Schools Newsletter
2016-17 Volume 3, Issue 1

Leader in Me

This fall when students returned to Ryan and Anderson Elementary Schools they became a part of the first group of students to participate in Bronson Schools' "Leader in Me" program. The Leader in Me is FranklinCovey's whole school transformation process. It teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

History of Leader in Me

In an effort to turn around her failing school, Muriel Summers, Principal of AB Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, NC, identified leadership as her school magnet theme based on community feedback. She approached FranklinCovey as a partner in designing, developing and implementing a leadership model for her school, which drew on The 7 Habits and also incorporated Baldrige quality tools and other educational best practices.

Within a few years, AB Combs experienced what they viewed as a complete turnaround, ultimately being named #1 Magnet School in the US, twice.

21st Century Leadership and Life Skills

When Principal Muriel Summers asked parents and business leaders what they wanted in their schools, what she heard reinforced what most people believe—that our schools should not merely be focused on improving test scores, but should provide opportunities for students to develop their full potential. The following life skills are integrated into Leader in Me:

- Leadership
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Problem Solving
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Creativity
- Cross-Cultural Skills
- Teamwork

Best Practices and Universal Principles

The Leader in Me is aligned with best-in-class content and concepts practiced by global education thought leaders. (Continued on page 2)

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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



Congratulations Viking Volleyball - 2016 Class C State Champions!

Leader in Me (continued from page 1)

It provides a logical, sequential and balanced process to help schools pro-actively design the culture that reflects their vision of the ideal school.

Content from The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is a key component of the overall The Leader in Me process. The 7 Habits is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures.

The Leader in Me is also aligned to many national and state academic standards. The process teaches students the skills needed for academic success in any setting. These skills include critical thinking, goal setting, listening and speaking, self-directed learning, presentation-making and the ability to work in groups.

A New Mindset

Instead of seeing children through the lens of a normal distribution curve—some kids are naturally smart and others are not—The Leader in Me paradigm sees that every child is capable, every child is a leader. This paradigm changes everything.

Since its official launch in 2009, over 3,000 public, private, charter and magnet schools across 50 countries have adopted The Leader in Me process.

“We only get one chance to prepare children for a world none of us can possibly predict, what are we going to do with that one chance?”

- Principal Muriel Summers, A.B. Combs Elementary



Pre Labor Day School Start

Dear Families,

Beginning the 2016 - 2017 school year, schools are required to provide a mandatory 180 days in the school calendar. This is an increase of 5 days from what was state mandated for the 2015-2016 school year. State law also requires districts to start after Labor Day, unless there is a waiver in place that allows for an earlier start date. This means our schools get out later in June.

Branch County is approved for a waiver to start school sometime around August 24th, pending additional paperwork requirements. This would provide alignment with our college partners so students could have a seamless transition into dual enrollment classes. It would also get all students out earlier in June.

As a county, it is important to run a common calendar to ensure shared services are provided for all students. Therefore, the waiver must be honored at the county level and all schools within the ISD must agree with board action on an earlier start date in order to make this change. We wanted to get this out to you as soon as possible as some of you may begin to make or consider vacation plans for next summer as well.

We believe in transparency and wanted to bring this potential change to our communities before any final decisions are made as a county. Stakeholder input is also an important part of making these decisions. We want to do what is best for the collective group.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read and reflect on this issue. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or input you have on this topic. All input will be forwarded to the Board of Education. My email address is belotet@bronsonschools.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Teresa Belote
Superintendent
Bronson Community Schools



Upcoming Events:

January

- 3 School Resumes
- 9 Board of Education 6:30pm
Elementary PTO 6:30pm
- 16 No School - Professional
Development Day
Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 22 PTO Mother Son Bowling

February

- 6 Board of Education 6:30pm
- 11 PTO Daddy Daughter Dance
- 13 Elementary PTO 6:30pm
Band Concert TBA
- 20 No School - Professional
Development Day
Presidents' Day
- 27 Choral Concert TBA

Looking for athletic events?
Visit the Schedule Star link on our
website under
www.BronsonSchools.org/Athletics



Thank You!

Thank you to retiring school board member Kris Sobeski for her time and dedication to Bronson Community Schools and students!



Snow Days and Weather Related Closings

With winter weather upon us, we thought it would be a good reminder to share the process of determining weather-related closings.

There are many considerations for making this decision. School hours may be changed due to snow, freezing rain, icy conditions, fog, blowing and drifting, temperatures and wind chills, and occasionally for heating or electrical issues in our buildings. Rest assured we do not make the decision to close based on the number of days we have missed or how it might impact athletics or costs involved. For questionable weather conditions, forecasts and current conditions are taken into consideration as well as phone conversations with other individuals and agencies, and reports from driving district roads. The timing of an event also plays a major role. We do not have a written rule regarding wind chills. Generally, -20 degrees, depending on other conditions, is a guideline for considering cancellation.

Ultimately, the Superintendent is responsible for making the decision. However, you may choose to keep your student(s) home on any day you feel it is not wise for them to travel to school either by bus, walking, or by private vehicle. Before making the decision, Dr. Belote utilizes input from our transportation director, other transportation directors in the county, the local superintendents, the road commission, local media for weather information, and law enforcement agencies. This review often begins as early as 4:00 a.m. Because the Branch Area Careers Center remains open if 2 of the 3 local districts are open there is also strong consideration for consistency across the county. That may not happen in every instance as conditions may differ. Ideally, we like to inform parents as far ahead as possible (like the night before). Sometimes conditions can change drastically in a short time. We must have time to react. We make every attempt to make sure students are safe and parents know where the students will be if not in school. Your notice about changes in Bronson may be timed differently than those of Coldwater and Quincy due to the order we notify media or the time we schedule the School Messenger call. While we do try to post the information on Facebook, please use local radio and television stations as the most reliable source of information for weather-based closings.

In regard to athletics, we do not have a policy of "no games or practices" if school is closed. However, many times the conditions dictate such. Practices and games are sometimes allowed, again depending on conditions. Practices called on such days may not be mandatory.

We try to make the best decision based on the information that we have at the time a decision has to be made. Safety is the priority in making these decisions. We hope this provides a better understanding of the process!

2016 Hall of Fame Induction

On Friday, December 9, five members were inducted into the Bronson High School Hall of Fame: Anthony Allsbury, Rod Hathaway, Harry Laws, D. Lynn Mayer, and Al Sosinski. The honorees were inducted in the following categories: Contributions to Community/Society, Performance in School-Related Activities (Athletics/Academics), and Contributions to Bronson Junior/Senior High School.

Congratulations to our honorees!



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