

Together, inspiring students to think, learn, achieve and care in a global community.

Shamrock Connection

BACK TO SCHOOL

2022-2023 Newsletter Volume 12, Issue 1

Berrien Springs Public Schools



RIBBON CUTTING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER: The new Arts and Athletic Center at Berrien Springs High School has been completed with the district receiving approval for occupancy. Pictured above celebrating its completion in the gymnasium are Athletic Trainer Andre Hitt, Athletics Secretary Melissa Collier, and Athletics Director Joe Stephens.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

District's goals include improving student achievement in *Reading, Math, and Social Studies* over the next three years

By David Eichberg
Superintendent

Greetings to our staff, students, parents, and community as the school district prepares for the start of a new school year. The summer months have been filled with activities designed to prepare for an exceptional school year. It is our belief that all students be given the opportunity to learn and experience success at school. The district's vision statement: *"Together inspiring students to think, learn, achieve and care in a global community,"* personifies that belief. Our district's goals also support our desire to create opportunities for Berrien Springs students to excel in and out of the classroom.

Our current district goals are

to improve student achievement, specifically in state testing. The targeted areas are Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, the district aims to significantly reduce the number of students with multiple major disciplinary infractions. To make progress toward improving in these areas, the administrative staff identified three strategies for the 2022-23 school year: 1). Reduce chronic student attendance, 2). Improve student achievement, and 3). Improve student engagement in learning. A considerable amount of time and effort will be invested in our work toward achieving the district's goals within the next three years. Throughout the school year, the

district will provide updates designed to improve awareness and communicate progress related to the district's goals.

There are staffing changes in the classroom and district leadership for the 2022-23 school year. These new staff are creating a renewed excitement and energy within the school district. In spite of these changes, one thing will remain the same--the district's continued commitment to meeting the needs of all student learners by personalizing learning for each student. This is one example of the *"Shamrock Way."* Thank you for your continued support of Berrien Springs Public Schools. We look forward to serving our students, parents, and community



David Eichberg

throughout the 2022-23 school year. **Go Shamrocks!**



Pictured left, art teacher, Jen Cook, turned Desmond Daily, into a pirate through face painting at the Focus Camp celebratory event: right, teacher Mica Borden instructs students in fractions during summer learning camp.

Sylvester Elementary School's Focus Camp instructors assisted students with advancing their *Math, Reading and Writing* skills

Sylvester Elementary School's Focus Camp was a HUGE success. With just over 100 Sylvester Scholars participating this school year, students left summer camp feeling better prepared to succeed on Math, Reading, and Writing essential standards in the upcoming school year. Focus Camp culminated with a well-attended celebratory event. The crowd enjoyed food, art work, performances, face painting, and fun times together celebrating all of our scholars' accomplishments.

School district outlines its 2022-23 Integrated Pest Management program

Berrien Springs Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the district's efforts to reduce pesticide use. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, this program does not rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pests from becoming a problem.

As required by Michigan Law, you will receive advance notice of non-emergency application of a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide), other than bait or gel formulation, which is made to the school, school grounds, or buildings. This advance notice of a pesticide application will be given 48 hours before the application by the following two methods: 1. Posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are the main entrance at each building where you would enter to go to the Principal's office. 2. Posting in the common area located by the main office of the

school.

Please note that notification is not given for use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or antimicrobial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be promptly notified following any such application, via the two posting methods identified above.

Parents may review our Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request by contacting Maintenance Coordinator Ron Bartz at 269-473-0681 or rbartz@homeoftheshamrocks.org.

Parents or guardians of children attending the school are also entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class U.S. mail postmarked at least three days before the application, if they so request. Those who would like to be notified by mail, please contact the Operations Office at 269-473-0681. Please leave your name, mailing address and what

school(s) your child or children name on the advance notification attend and they will put your by U.S. Mail list.



a place to

LEARN PLAY GROW

a place to
**BE A
KID!**



After & Before School Programs

on-site at **BSPS.**

Right At School is your community's trusted provider of after school enrichment.

Our mission is to inspire a love of learning in kids, support schools, and give parents (like you!) peace of mind.

- ✔ To register for the program, you must be enrolled at Mars Elementary, Sylvester Elementary and the Middle School.
- ✔ Registration is now open.
- ✔ You can register at <https://bit.ly/30oLEpZ>
- ✔ For more information, please contact Central Office at (269) 471-2891.

Follow us: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#)

www.rightatschool.com



Director Kelly Rosselit shows off the senior members of her marching band: Andre Brown, bari saxophone, and Avery Taylor, Drum Major; second row: Lilly Moore, clarinet; Molly Shepler, clarinet; Anizbeth Contreras-Ramirez, clarinet; Ethan Bortz, pit percussion; Klay Raschke, Drum Major; Tabitha Dubs, Color Guard; and Calab Burch, symbols; third row: Collin Craig, trumpet; Anthony Ibanez, bass clarinet; Aubrie Demler, trombone; Andrew Salliotte, tenor saxophone; Brianna Wylie, clarinet; and Yadira Delacruz, trombone; and back row: Tyler Burnside, trombone; Jon Clough, tenor saxophone; Luke Morrison, trumpet; Dan Moler, alto saxophone; and Kayla Sue Machemer, alto saxophone.

“Hiraeth” is theme of season for BSHS Marching Band

By Kelly Rosselit
BSHS Band Director

The 2022 Berrien Springs High School Shamrock Marching Band has been working hard this summer, preparing for their upcoming season. The 2022 show is entitled “Hiraeth” (Hee-rye-th). “Hiraeth” is a Welsh word that means “the feeling of nostalgia one’s childhood home brings - and the sadness that the home of the past cannot be recreated in the same way.” The story features a

color guard soloist, senior Tabitha Dubs, as she leaves home and travels to the big city. There, she gets lost in the hustle and bustle of the busy crowds and longs for home. Eventually, she finds her way and creates a place in the city that she can call home.

The marching band will perform “Fool for the City” by the 70’s rock group Foghat, a selection of *Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin, “Largo” from New World Symphony by Dvorak, and the show

will finish with American Idol winner Phillip Phillips’ anthem “Home.”

The band is 88 members strong this year and includes 20 seniors. Leading the band are Drum Majors Klay Raschke (senior), Avery Taylor (senior), and Kameron Autry (junior). Instrumental soloists include Jonathan Orlando (junior) on flugelhorn and trumpet, Aubrie Demler (senior) on trombone, and Aiden Geates (junior) on mellophone.

Berrien Springs and the Shamrock Marching Band will host this year’s MSBOA marching band festival on Tuesday, October 11th. Bands from around the tri-county area will perform that afternoon and evening at Sylvester Stadium. In addition to all home football games, the Shamrocks will perform on September 24th at Portage Central High School and October 15th at Lakeshore High School.

Go Shamrocks!

District’s Asbestos Policy in place; no significant findings

In compliance with the 1989 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), we have routinely performed six month periodic surveillance of each of our school buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. The records and the asbestos management plans are on file in each school and

the administrative office.

Villa Environmental Consultants, Inc., which is licensed by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and the EPA, has been performing the inspections of all asbestos containing building materials as per the AHERA law. The last six month periodic inspection was in January of 2022 and the last three-

year inspection was conducted in July of 2022.

There were no significant findings during the most recent periodic surveillance or the re-inspection for the district. The asbestos materials in this district are currently in good condition and we will continue to manage them in place, as recommended by our accredited asbestos manage-

ment planner. We are not planning asbestos removal during this fiscal year.

The results of the re-inspection are on file in the management plan manual in the school administrative offices. The public is welcome to view these during normal school hours Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Summer Staff Learning: Professional Development**BSMS teacher walks the hallowed ground of Gettysburg to gain an entirely different appreciation of Pickett's Charge**

By John Hannon
BSMS 8th Grade
History Teacher

This June, Berrien Springs Middle School eighth grade history teacher John Hannon attended a week-long program at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania as a Summer Scholar. The program, *"On Hallowed Ground: Gettysburg in History & Memory,"* hosted by Gettysburg College was sponsored by the National Endowment of the Humanities under its Landmarks of History program. Participants took part in classroom sessions and battlefield tours with leading scholars of the Civil War.

Taking advantage of the Gettysburg National Military Park for learning, teachers were able to appreciate the battle in a way far beyond reading, in a setting preserved and protected by the generosity of the American people. Teachers learned about the fighting over the three days of the battle, stories of soldiers and civilians, and how the battle and

the Civil War are remembered.

More than 50,000 soldiers died in the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil. Today, the Gettysburg National Military Park, is a National Park Service-run memorial to the lives lost during those 3 fateful days of the American Civil War. The Gettysburg battlefield draws those who come to learn about this landmark event.

Additionally, during their off time, teachers had the opportunity to share teaching techniques and resources with a wide variety of colleagues from all grades, subjects, and diverse school districts from across the country.

"I thought I had a good understanding of the battle, but walking the field of Pickett's Charge, gave me an entirely different appreciation of that event, one I hope to share with my students," Mr. Hannon said.

Berrien Springs Middle School teacher, John Hannon, is the 8th grade history teacher.



Berrien Springs Public Schools presents a synopsis of its "Nondiscrimination and Retaliation" policy

Series 3000: Operations, Finance, and Property 3100 General Operations

3115 Nondiscrimination and Retaliation

The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), marital status, disability, or any other legally prohibited basis in admission or access to District programs and activities.

A. Employee complaints of unlawful discrimination (including harassment) and unlawful retaliation are governed by Policy 4104. Employee complaints of Title IX sexual harassment are governed by Policy 3118.

B. Student complaints of unlaw-

ful discrimination (including harassment) and unlawful retaliation are governed by Policy 5202. Student complaints of Title IX sexual harassment are governed by Policy 3118

C. A contractor, volunteer, visitor, employee acting outside the scope of employment, or other non-student who believes he or she has been the subject of, or is otherwise aware of, unlawful discrimination (including harassment) or unlawful retaliation must timely file a good faith complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (including harassment) or unlawful retaliation using Form 4104-F with the Superintendent or, if a complaint is against the Superintendent, with the Board President. A complaint of unlawful discrimination

(including harassment) or unlawful retaliation will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. The Superintendent or Board President will forward the complaint to one of the following, as applicable:

1. Title IX Coordinator;
2. Section 504 Coordinator; or
3. Civil Rights Coordinator.

D. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education ("OCR"), by email at OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov, by telephone at (216) 522-4970, or by fax at (216) 522-2573 regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, or any other applicable laws for which OCR has jurisdiction.

E. Contractor and its subcontractors are not to discriminate

against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), age, height, weight, and marital status.

Legal authority: 20 USC 1681 et seq.; 29 USC 701 et seq.; 38 USC 4301-4335; 42 USC § 2000d et seq., 42 USC 12101 et seq.; Const 1963, art 1, § 26; MCL37.1101 et seq., 37.2101 et seq., 37.2209

For more information, please contact Chelsea Pollyea, the district's Title IX and 504 Coordinator, at (269) 471-2891.



GO SHAMROCKS! Coach Eliot Uzelac and his staff have been practicing with their football players on Sylvester Field in preparation for the upcoming season. Pictured above with Coach Uzelac are, front row: seniors Curtis Davis, Kyran Conley, Tre Porter, CJ Gordon, Allan Chole, Kole Blasko, and Langston Hughes; and back row: seniors Jared Wilburn, Ben Eising, Nolan Haygood, Garrett Brewer, Karl Krause, Desmond Clark, and Quimari Haskins.

Shamrock athletes are back in action this fall!

**By Joe Stephens
Athletic Director**

If you have been around our campus this summer, you wouldn't be able to help but notice the work that our athletes have been putting in to prepare for their 2022 fall seasons. As school quickly approaches, our athletic teams are eager to get into regular season competition, and this is certainly shaping up to be an exciting start to the athletic year.

High school teams began their official practices on August 8th, and are looking forward to their first interscholastic competitions.

Our volleyball program looks forward to its debut in the new Arts and Athletic Center. Below are the opening HOME dates for some of our junior and varsity teams. We would love to see you out supporting our teams this school year!

HOME OPENERS

Varsity Football: Friday, September 9th, Shamrocks vs. Allegan, 7:00 p.m. Other home games are September 16 against Dowagiac, which is Alumni Night; October 14 against Brandywine, which is Homecoming; and October 21 against Portland High School, Senior Night.

Cross Country: Tuesday, August 30 at the BCYFairgrounds, 5:00 p.m., Shamrock Invitational.

JV/Varsity Volleyball: Thursday, September 15, Shamrocks vs. Brandywine, 5:00 p.m. /6:00 p.m., first volleyball game at the Arts and Athletic Center.

Boys Tennis, Monday, August 22, Shamrocks vs. Niles, 4:30 p.m. Boys Soccer, Friday August 26, Shamrocks vs. New Buffalo, 5:00 p.m.

EVENTS

The defending regional champion Shamrock boys tennis team is hosting some great competition at the Rick Fedoruk Invitational

on Friday, August 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers sought for Volleyball Invitational

The JV and varsity volleyball teams are hosting the first Shamrock Invitational in the Arts and Athletic Center on Saturday, October 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The athletic department will need loads of volunteers to host 16 teams on four nets in the AAC. If you are interested in being involved in a great day, please reach out to the BSHS Athletic Director Joe Stephens at jstephens@homeoftheshamrocks.org.

2022-23 School Year Calendar

180 Student Days/185 Teacher Days

August 22	M	Work Day for Teachers (Full Day)
August 23	T	Full Day of Professional Development (PD) for Teachers
August 24	W	Full Day of PD for Teachers/PM Open Houses
August 25	Th	District Welcome Back Meeting (AM)/Half Day of PD for Teachers
August 29	M	First Day of School Classes Begin: Half Day for Mars & Sylvester Full Day for Middle & High School
September 2 & 5	F, M	Labor Day Holiday, No School
October 19	W	Half Day for Students, Afternoon DPPD for Staff
October 28	F	End of 1 st Marking Period
November 2	W	Full Day, PM Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 3	Th	Half Day for Students, Afternoon & PM Conferences
November 4	F	Half Day for Students & Staff
November 23-25	W (1/2 Day), TH-F	Thanksgiving Holiday, No School
December 14	W	Half Day for Students, Afternoon DPPD for Staff
December 26-Jan 6	M-F	Winter Holiday Break, No School
January 9	M	Classes Resume
January 16	M	No School for Students, Professional Development Day for Staff
January 19	Th	Half Days for MS/HS Students for Exams, Teacher Record Day
January 20	F	Half Day All Students, Virtual Teacher Records Day End of 2 nd Marking Period, End of 1 st Semester
February 20	M	President's Day, No School
March 9	Th	Half Day for IRIPS (Virtual unless parents requests face to face) Exhibition Night (Secondary)
March 20 – 24	M-F	Spring Break, No School
March 31	F	End of the 3 rd Marking Period
April 7	F	Good Friday, No School
April 26	W	Half Day for Students, Afternoon DPPD for Staff
May 29	M	Memorial Day, No School
June 5	M	Half Days for Students, MS/HS Semester Exams
June 6	T	Half Days for Students, MS/HS Semester Exams
June 7	W	Last day of School, End of 4 th Marking Period End of 2 nd Semester Half Day All Students



2022-2023 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

- July 21, 2022
- August 11, 2022
- August 25, 2022
- September 8, 2022
- September 22, 2022
- October 6, 2022
- October 20, 2022
- November 3, 2022
- November 17, 2022
- December 15, 2022
- January 19, 2023
- February 2, 2023
- February 16, 2023
- March 16, 2023
- April 6, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- May 4, 2023
- May 18, 2023
- June 1, 2023
- June 8, 2023
- June 15, 2023
- July 20, 2023

Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 Mars Community Center
 Virtual Academy
 Sylvester Elementary
 Virtual Academy
 Middle School
 Virtual Academy
 High School
 Virtual Academy
 Virtual Academy
 (Regular Board Meeting & Closed Session for Supt. Evaluation)
STEM Central Conference Room
 (Special Board Meeting – Supt. Evaluation)
Virtual Academy (8:00 AM Board Retreat,
 2:00 PM Budget Hearing & 2:30 PM Board Meeting)
 Virtual Academy



Berrien Springs Board of Education President Paul Toliver, left, recently thanked Berrien Springs-Oronoko Township Community and School Resource Police Officer Rick Smiedendorf for serving the school district since 2015 and serving at the police department since 2010. Chief Toliver expressed his deep appreciation to Smiedendorf for his services to the community and school, and stated his knowledge and experience will be missed, but he will also be missed as a friend and fellow officer.

SHOW YOUR SHAMROCK SPIRIT!

Show your Shamrock spirit and cheer on our Shamrock football team!
 We are planning on the following events at our Home football games:

SEPTEMBER 9 - FIRST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON
 VS. ALLEGAN

SEPTEMBER 16 - ALUMNI NIGHT
 (CALLING ALL ALUMNI TO JOIN US)
 VS. DOWAGIAC

OCTOBER 14 - HOMECOMING
 VS. BRANDYWINE

OCTOBER 21 - SENIOR NIGHT
 VS. PORTLAND HS

GAME TIME: 7:00PM AT SYLVESTER FIELD

GO SHAMROCKS!



Community and School Resource Officer Rick Smiedendorf was often present at school activities such as Field Day to interact with students and staff.

Berrien Springs Public Schools
One Sylvester Avenue
Post Office Box 130
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MARANA GROUP

ECRWSS
Residential Customers

HOME OF THE SHAMROCKS

New Staff Members Join the District as Shamrocks for 2022-2023 School Year

Please welcome the following new administrators, teachers, and staff to Berrien Springs Public School District. They are looking forward to meeting students, parents, and the community in the upcoming school year!

Stacey DeMaio was recently hired to be the new high school principal. She was raised in Benton Harbor, and graduated from Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. She attended Central

Michigan University and earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and earned her Masters degree in Educational Technology from Walden University. She has over 25 years of experience in education. She taught middle school for a number of years, but most of her teaching career has been at the high school level. She has spent the last 19 years serving the Buchanan community as a teacher, the last eight of which

were as the high school principal.

Other staff joining the high school are Larry Jackson, CTE Construction Trades Teacher; Daniel Roberts, Math Teacher; Jayneee Shamenda, ESL Teacher; Trent Smith, Math Interventionist Teacher; Lindsay Stuckey, Counseling Office Secretary; Bob Taylor, Athletic Performance Trainer; Melinda Wolf, School Social Worker; Michelle Vogt-Schuller, English Teacher; David Tripp, Business Teacher; and Dan Maxon, AAC Supervisor.

Jake Skelly was hired as the new Middle School Principal. Joining Mr. Skelly is Micah Lambert who will be the new Assistant Principal. Other staff joining the middle school are David Boven, 7th grade Integrated Studies Teacher; Rita Perez, 8th Grade Resource Room Teacher; and Steven Spenner, Paraprofessional.

At Sylvester Elementary, we welcome Wendolyn Badeau, 4th Grade Teacher; Sarabeth Horton, EL Teacher; Michelle Maier, 3rd Grade Teacher; Melissa McNeely, 3rd Grade Teacher; and Lisa Wanless, 3rd Grade Teacher.

At Mars Elementary, the following staff have been hired: Debra Burkhard, 1st Grade Teacher; Josselyn Cervantes, DHH Paraprofessional; Taylor Chapman, DHH Paraprofessional; Christi Eppard-Mangold, Kindergarten Teacher; Emily Hudson, Kindergarten Teacher; Deanne-Adele Sanchez, Dean of Students; and Rachel Williams, Kindergarten Teacher.

At the Virtual Academy, we welcome Hannah Krager as the new Lab Monitor.

Joining the district staff, we welcome James Betty, Transportation Driver; Nigel Bradford, Technology; Olivia Brewer, Human Resources Assistant; David Kellyn, Transportation Driver; Blaze Silverthron, Transportation Driver; and Gordon Wenger, Technology.

Like us on Facebook



Berrien Springs
Public Schools

Like us on Twitter



@BspSchools

For more information Visit our website at:
www.homeoftheshamrocks.org
or contact us at (269) 471-2891

