

BRYAN

City Schools

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

December 2020

WE ARE #BRYANBUILT



Mark Rairigh,
Superintendent

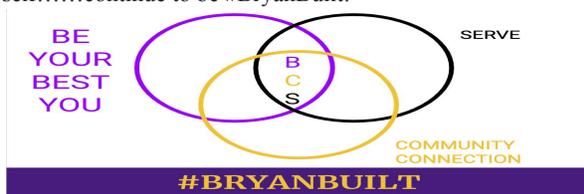
#BRYANBUILT

Happy holidays! It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2020 and what a year it has been!

Although we all have experienced some challenging days over the course of the year, looking back at 2020 can also shed light on some extremely positive moments that we all should be proud of. For starters, let's look at the meaning of the word *grit*. *Grit* is defined as the "strength of character." There is no better way to describe how the students, staff, families, and the community have responded to the events of 2020.

Grit was displayed by our class of 2020 as they concluded their school careers in the most unique of ways; *Grit* is evident as our student-athletes and their supporters play through seasons that look and feel a bit different; *Grit* is on display when our students perform concerts, theater, and ensembles in virtual or small session manner; *Grit* is happening in the classrooms as we continue to teach and learn through an evolving educational atmosphere; *Grit* is showcased as we continue to prepare for the unknown; and finally, *Grit* is shown as we all work together to beat this virus, return to "normal," and move forward better than we were before.

I have said it before, I will continue to hang my hat on this.....The best is yet to come! With that, let's plan for the greatest calendar year ahead and make the most of every opportunity! Be your BEST self, engage with each other to help make great things happen, and place service above self.....continue to be #BryanBuilt!



IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

- December 18** - Early Release at 1:15pm-ALL Students
- December 18** - MS/HS End of 1st Semester/2nd Q
- December 21-January 1** - Winter Break
- January 4** - School Resumes after Winter Break
- January 18** - No School - MLK Day
- January 19** - No School for Students - Staff Inservice
- February 12** - No School for Students - Staff Inservice
- February 15** - No School - Presidents' Day

EARLY RELEASE - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

New this school year are two early release dates on the school calendar. In an effort to keep consistency for families across the district during the days leading up to Winter Break and the end of the school year students will be released at 1:15pm to help with unique building schedules that are in place.

Please mark your calendar for an early release on these dates:

- Early Release - Friday, December 18, 2020 - 1:15pm**
- Early Release - Thursday, May 27, 2021 - 1:15pm**

School transportation will follow the early release time on these dates.

SCHOOL RESUMES MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 AFTER WINTER BREAK

We look forward to returning to in-person learning on Monday, January 4, 2021 after our Winter Break. You will not receive any communications from BCS during Winter Break unless it is of very high priority. Enjoy the break ahead and STAY SAFE!!!

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Bryan City Schools was nothing short of AMAZING this year as students, staff, and a few anonymous donors participated in the Christmas for Kids campaign led by Mix 98.1. **As a district BCS raised \$7,303.69 for Christmas For Kids!!**

All of the donated funds stay local and assist families in need during the holiday season.

Since 2012 BCS has donated \$52,384.82!! #BryanBuilt



COVID DATA TRACKING DURING WINTER BREAK

Over our Winter Break (during the dates of December 19, 2020 - January 3, 2021) we recognize that students may be placed into quarantine if they happen to test positive for COVID-19 or are deemed a close contact to a positive case.

To help our BCS staff prepare for absences that may take place during our return to school on January 4, and beyond, we ask that you please complete the below form over winter break if your student is ordered to quarantine.

Having this information will allow BCS staff to appropriately prepare for student attendance and absent work for our students upon our return to school on January 4, 2021.

To complete this short form please click [HERE](#).

FINANCIAL CORNER

In the recent weeks a state funding model known as the Fair Funding proposal, House Bill 305, was seeking approval through both the House and the Senate. The House overwhelmingly approved the bill, which would have supported an estimated \$4 million in state funding to our district over the course of the next 6 years. However, the Senate decided not to take action on the bill, and therefore the proposal has stalled. As BCS continues to monitor our finances and is working through reduced state funding levels of \$0.80 on the dollar, we remain hopeful that the next state biennium budget will support a more balanced model that provides our district the necessary financial means to appropriately support student learning. Until then we will continue to remain fiscally conservative and do our part to help offset projected budget deficits.

COVID-19 DATA

COVID continues to be heavily monitored by Bryan City Schools. Continuing with in-person learning and giving our students the opportunity to participate in our extra-curricular activities remains the focus each and every day. We will continue to send district wide COVID updates when applicable and we encourage you to do your part in the community to help keep our students and community safe. Check out this [VIDEO](#) our students made to help remind us to practice safety! **Click [HERE](#) to view BCS COVID data. **Click [HERE](#) to reference County COVID data and relevant information.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We wish our outgoing Superintendent Diana Savage all the best as she is officially set to retire on December 31! Mrs. Savage has led Bryan City Schools through an amazing transformation over the last decade, including a complete facilities upgrade for Bryan City Schools. We cannot thank her enough for her support and dedication to the district! She will always be welcome back to Golden Bear country!! Thank you and congrats!