



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Winter  
2022

## Reflecting Excellence in Blissfield Community Schools



Scott Riley  
Superintendent

It's hard to believe that we are in the final stretch of the school year, but as I reflect upon the past year, I am reminded of the many wonderful things that have taken place since the start of the school year back in August.

As a district, we continued our focus on our mission to provide the programming, culture, and climate necessary to create well-rounded, creative, critical thinkers. Our District Improvement Team and School Improvement Teams worked diligently to integrate our goals, such as Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

and Restorative Practices both in the classrooms and throughout our buildings. Also, through the guidance and leadership of our Literacy Coach, Robyn Francis, we continue to implement a culture of literacy in each of our buildings. Through innovative programs like One School One Book, all of our students are learning to appreciate the importance of literacy in our society.

BCS will continue to successfully navigate through the transition from the pandemic to an endemic. During this transition, it is important to remember what made us succeed through these challenging times: teamwork, communication, and resiliency. These characteristics were displayed by all stakeholders, especially by our BCS students. Also, during this time, one of our main goals was to find ways to thrive and everyone certainly worked hard to make this a reality. Some additions we made during the pandemic were:

- Dual enrollment classes at BHS,
- A land lab and a greenhouse which puts our program at the next level,
- An eSports club at BHS that has already competed,
- A math interventionist at BMS,
- A school psychologist to serve students in all three buildings,
- Trying to level the facilities playing field for our students by adding a potential bond to the August 2022 ballot. We are in the final stages of this process.

As has been in the past, and continues to be, student groups and teams continued to represent us well on the stage, field of competition, and in the classroom. Individual students and teams have made us proud during their appearances in the Michigan High School Athletic Association state tournaments. This year's concerts, musicals, and plays were outstanding and were finally able to be performed in front of live audiences in all three buildings. Students at every grade level raised funds for multiple charities and families in need in order to make Blissfield a better

place to live, learn, and work.

There are many opportunities to attend games and student performances this spring. You are cordially invited to come out and support your student athletes and performers. Schedules and calendars can be found online at [www.blissfieldschools.us](http://www.blissfieldschools.us) and in this publication.

Thank you for your continued support and for making Blissfield Community Schools a Destination District!

Go Royals!

Scott Riley, Superintendent

### District Calendar

Mar 10	MS 8th Grade Science Fair
Mar 10-11	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM HS Musical - "Shrek the Musical"
Mar 12	3:00 PM and 7 :00 PM HS Musical - "Shrek the Musical"
Mar 14 - Mar 16	ES 5th Grade Camp Storer
Mar 15	ES Kindergarten Roundup
Mar 19	HS Band State Solo & Ensemble
Mar 21	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Board of Education Meeting
Mar 24	11:00 AM to 8:00 PM ES Fundraiser Pick-up Day
Mar 24-25	12:30 PM to 3:30 PM 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mar 30	NHS Blood Drive
Mar 30	6:00 PM to 8:30 PM 1st and 4th Music Programs
Mar 31	ES 5th Grade Wax Museum
Apr 4 - Apr 8	Spring Recess - No School
Apr 11 - May 6	MSTEP grades 5, 8, 11
Apr 12	PSAT Testing for grades 8-10
Apr 12	SAT for HS Juniors
Apr 13	WorkKeys for HS Juniors
Apr 14	ES - Heritage Day
Apr 15	No School - Good Friday
Apr 18	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Board of Education Meeting
Apr 23	MS Band Solo & Ensemble Festival
Apr 27	Administrative Assistants' Day
Apr 29	ES Royal Walk
Apr 29	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM HS Summa Cum Laude Senior Luncheon
Apr 11 - May 6	MSTEP grades 5, 8, 11
May 2 - May 27	ES Purple and Gold Month, grades 3-5
May 2 - May 27	MSTEP Grades 3, 4, 6, 7



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

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# March is reading month

Reading Month packets went home with students on Monday, February 28 and included activities that students can participate in to be entered into a prize raffle. The One School One Book event where each student can read the same book together will feature “The Wild Robot,” with companion recordings of the chapters posted on our website.

The Scholastic Book Fair, March 7 to March 11, will permit students to shop in person with the help of parent volunteers. **There will also be an online option available for families to shop.** The media center’s new book fund receives 50% back for in school purchases, and 25% for items purchased online.

Our marquee Family Reading Night event, March 9, will feature a pancake supper and offer parents the opportunity to shop in person with their students from 5:00 - 7:00 that night in the media center. Information about this month’s reading events can be found on the media center page of the elementary section at [blissfieldschools.us](http://blissfieldschools.us).

Thanks again to each parent and staff person who has helped to make this event another great experience for the students.



*The elementary building has a Super Mario theme for this year’s reading emphasis, with Mario worlds taking over the school hallways for decorations. “Power Up with a Super Book!”*

**Tuesday  
March 15**

**Kindergarten  
Registration**

**8:00 - 2:30**  
**5:00 - 7:00**

**BY APPOINTMENT**

May 2	12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	HS AP Chemistry Exam
May 3	8:00 AM to 8:00 PM	HS Lenawee County Fine Arts Festival
May 4	8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	HS AP English Lit. and Comp. Exam
May 6	Progress Reports Available Online for MS & HS	
May 6 - May 10	Teacher Appreciation Week	
May 7	8:00 PM to 11:00 PM	HS Prom
May 9	8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	HS AP Calculus Exam
May 11	6:00 PM HS Spring Choir Concert 7:00 PM HS Spring Band Concert	
May 12	HS Seniors’ Last Day	
May 12	8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	HS AP World History Exam
May 12	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	MS Picnic Lunch
May 12	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	ES Kindergarten Music Program
May 12	7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	ES 5th Grade Music & Band Program
May 13	1/2 Day School / Staff In-service	
May 13	MS Hoops for Heart	
May 15	1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	HS Senior Parade
May 16 - May 19	ES 3rd Grade to Victorsville	
May 17	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	HS Picnic Lunch
May 18	ES Art Show	
May 19	6:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Senior Baccalaureate & Honors Night

## Bus drivers needed

Our district remains challenged in the number of available drivers for our bus fleet. This is not unusual for Michigan districts at this time, but our transportation team wants to be sure that we are reaching out in every direction with the message. Scott Abbott, Operations Director, says that the state training and certification process is expedited through our district.



Thank you, families for your patience with our needs and several essential adjustments that have been made:

- Added substitute drivers
- Eliminated a bus route
- Moved kids to different buses
- Students at the designated stop 10 minutes prior to pick up

Lastly, with the weather changing, our maintenance crews will be out and about more. We are filling potholes and making the grounds look nice with tree trimming and lawn mowing. Thank you for making caution and reducing vehicle speeds a family priority.



# Elementary STEM Club

Interested 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are part our first elementary STEM Clubs. For each of the first two sessions, students chose 3-Dimensional design and robotics as their focus. Students learn to create unique projects which go beyond what they will get in their regular STEM classes.

Sphero Bolt robots are programmed using block coding to configure a collision program which will, in turn, determine which Bot will reign supreme in exciting competitions.

Club members choose to give up one recess per week to learn more about their developing STEM passion. Originally, the three grade level groups were capped at fifteen students, but when the second session started in mid-January, there was such a demand that club adviser, Mrs. Hojnacki, added an additional third grade club section. The last session starts in late March.

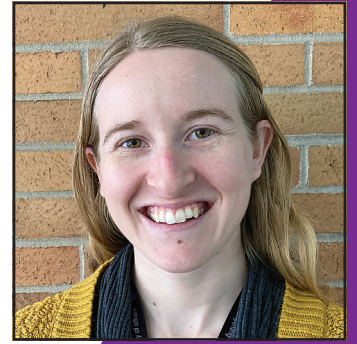


*Pictured are Mason Cole and Micah Hiatt coding a Sphero robot. Third graders, Harper Kudlac, Everly Ricker and Mariella Gilbert getting ready to battle. Austin Shirey watches.*

# NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

## Second Grade

After teaching fourth and fifth grades in the Toledo area, Tia McNamee joins BES and our 2nd grade team! She received her teaching degree from the University of Toledo. She particularly enjoys the outdoors; running and going for walks. She also loves to read and spend time with her family. She looks forward to an exciting, fun experience in 2nd grade.



Tia McNamee  
Second Grade

## Great Start Program

Tara Fisher graduated from Adrian College where she studied Human Services and Early Childhood Development and has joined the GSRP team. Before joining BES she taught preschool at Summerfield Schools for many years and has over 20 years experience working in early childhood education. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 daughters, along with running and reading.



Tara Fisher  
Elementary GSRP

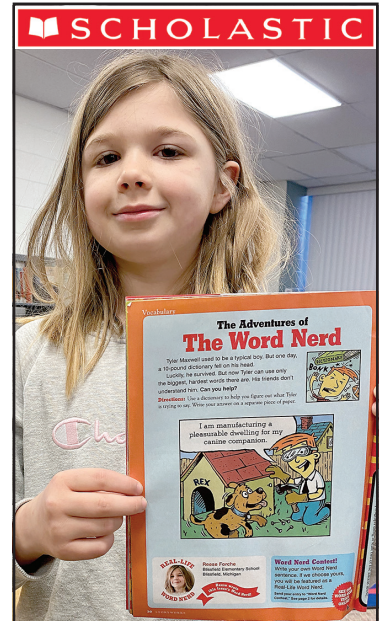
**March 9**  
**5:00 to 7:00 pm**

*Family Reading Night  
& Pancake  
Supper*



**Families - \$20.00**  
**Individuals - \$5.00**

**Menu - Pancakes,  
sausage and milk**



*Scholastic chose Reese Forche's article for their March - April Word Nerd page in Storyworks*

# SHARE THESE CONTACTS!

Someone recently asked, "When things start getting better, will it be better for my family too?" Their reference was clearly to traces of the COVID-19 era which continue to affect our homes and families. As a counseling staff, we are concerned about the social and emotional needs that would not reach our desks or phones. Because we know that you care, too, we are sharing ten resources with you, hoping that someone in your network will benefit when you choose to pass these services along to them.



Kerri Judkins

These are resources that we use and trust. They present methods and choices that are often easy to understand and put into practice. It is great that some of these resources are here in Lenawee County.

Through our school counseling efforts, these community programs and with your informed help, students and families may find the support and resources they need! Thank you for taking time to pass these contacts along!

## HOUSING HELP OF LENAWEЕ

[www.h2lenawee.org](http://www.h2lenawee.org)

H2Lenawee offers government funded programs to assist local families with financial issues and appropriate housing. The goal is to help supply Lenawee County with the resources to support a safe and secure home for individuals and their families.

If you know of anyone who is currently in a rental unit and struggling to make ends meet, they would be welcome to apply to the CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) program. Applications are available online at [ceraapp.michigan.gov](http://ceraapp.michigan.gov) or paper applications are available in the Adrian lobby at 307 E. Church St. during regular business hours, as well as 24/7 in our drop box.

This program has been approved through the 2022 year! Currently there is no program for homeowners, but some helpful information exists. New information is regularly posted on the website.

Finally, programs that can assist with emergency shelter



situations and those needing financial assistance to obtain a rental unit are also in place. All programs have specific requirements and different eligibility criteria to be met for approval.

**EMERGENCY  
MOTEL  
ASSISTANCE**  
517-438-3059



## Healing from sexual abuse



Parkside Family Counseling  
Teen and Young Women:  
Survivors of Sexual Assault Group  
517-266-8880

## Substance abuse



Lenawee Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
<http://www.drugpreventionlenawee.com>



Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority  
1040 S. Winter St. • Adrian, MI 49221  
517-263-8905  
<http://www.lcmha.org>



Dawn Farm  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-485-8725 and 734-669-8265  
<http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs>

## Boys and Girls Club

**"The future depends on  
what we do in the present"**



The Transitions program provides teens with important skills in personal self-management, general social skills, time and money management and drug resistance skills. Through this program, participants gain strategies for decision-making and management of stress and anger. Transitions also enables teens to strengthen their communication skills and build healthy relationships. Participants will be empowered to understand the consequences of substance use and risk-taking. This program is meant to set teens up for success when making transitions into the workforce, college and other significant transitions we all experience in life.

340 E Church St Suite A • Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 266-9775 ext. 2708  
[aolguin@bgclenawee.org](mailto:aolguin@bgclenawee.org)

# Automatic and Coping Thoughts

Automatic thoughts pop up in response to a situation or event, usually without us realizing we are having them. They can be positive, negative, or even neutral. When we experience strong emotions, these thoughts can often be negative or unhelpful. We don't have to believe our automatic thoughts! We can practice developing more accurate or more helpful thoughts called coping thoughts. To better understand automatic negative thoughts and coping thoughts, check out the examples below.

Automatic Negative Thoughts	Coping Thoughts
I'm going to fail.	I probably won't get an A, but maybe I'll do okay.
I'm not prepared at all.	Next time, I'll try to be more organized and start studying earlier.
Why didn't I study more?	Given how much I had on my plate, I studied as much as I could have. I had to choose between sleeping and studying, and I chose sleeping. That's an okay choice to make, even if it means I'm less prepared.
My GPA is going to go way down.	I'll have to work really hard to get my grades back up, but I can do it.
My teacher is going to think I'm a slacker.	I can go talk to my teacher about the test.
My parents are going to be so upset.	I don't know how my family will react, but all I can do is try my best. Hopefully they will be happy with my best performance.
Why should I even bother taking the test? I should just skip class.	I can do this! I've been stressed before, and I'm generally a good student. I can at least ask the teacher if I can reschedule the test.
This school is too hard. This class is too hard for me. I can't do this.	I'm at a demanding school – expectations are high, but I know I'm getting an amazing education.
Everyone else gets this stuff. I'm such an idiot. I bet I'm not even in the top 10% of my class. I can't ever do anything right.	I have strengths other than being the highest achieving student at school.
I'm never going to get into a good college.	One test probably won't ruin everything. I just need to make a plan about next steps to make sure I remain competitive for college applications.  If I went to Harvard, college probably wouldn't be much fun anyway – I'd constantly be stressed about the work. I'd rather have a good balance of working hard and enjoying my time.

## Youth Start Program

The goal of the Youth Start Program is to provide at risk/homeless youth immediate access to paid work experiences and individualized job and self-sufficiency skills which will help them remain in and graduate from high school.



The outcomes that Goodwill currently tracks with the program are:

- Homeless youth that participate will improve achievement in school while improving work performance.
- The homeless youth will develop an increased level of job and sufficiency skills while valuing school and work.
- The homeless youth to become financially stable
- The number of youth that graduate high school
- The youth number of youth that pursue post-secondary training or educational options.

Since the program's inception in 2009, 99% of homeless youth served have graduated from high school. Youth start applies a holistic approach that incorporates real paid work experiences, close collaboration with school personnel, and intensive coaching to increase the potential that youth graduate high school, seek post-secondary credentialing and continuing education while acquiring the tools and knowledge to achieve financial stability as adults.

**Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Michigan**

Youth Start Program

Christal Albig

517-263-21365 ext. 249

calbig@goodwillsemi.org

## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

### Alert! – The Lifeline and 988

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States starting on July 16, 2022.

### Crisis Text Line

By texting  
the keyword

**RESTORE**

to

**741741**

Michigan residents  
can have a  
confidential  
text conversation  
with a crisis  
counselor.

## Portable sound



*Kaleb Stutzman, 7th grader, uses a new portable sound system – speakers, speaker stands, mics, mic stands, cables and sound board. This sound system has proven to be very beneficial and will continue to be for many years to come! We are very grateful for the Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence Mini Grant, another grant source and their supporters for this asset.*



## MS Science Fair Open House March 10

*Elliot Cramer, Nathan Cole, Emma Gunter and classmates were working in the media center to complete science fair project boards the week before the Middle School event. Faculty, staff and administration were coaching, proof reading and assisting as needed in a very busy room!!*

## Mid Winter break



*Our students had winter fun on mid-winter break! Approximately 120 students and staff went to Mt. Brighton for a day of skiing and snowboarding. Mr. Mike Novak managed and coordinated this trip with unselfish support from other faculty and staff as well that gave up a vacation day to help chaperone this trip. Blissfield Middle School has an amazing team that is student centered!*



# NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

## Sixth ELA

Maddie (Madeline) Nicholas comes to our district from South Lyon, MI and Adrian College where she studied English and history. Her encounter with BCS began with student teaching last fall at the high school. In her free time, Maddie enjoys reading, playing video games, keeping her lacrosse skills sharp, and spending quality time with her family and friends, including her two large rescue dogs.



Maddie Nicholas  
Sixth Grade English

## Student Success

Sara and Jon Yeager have four daughters who are attending or have graduated from Blissfield schools. They are known for finding and camping at great locations around Michigan. In 2021 Sara coached her youngest daughters through virtual learning and came back this year as an aide at the elementary building until the student success position at the Middle School was announced. Her bachelor's in business administration is from Siena Heights.



Sara Yeager  
Middle School Success

## Office Aide

Heather Walentowski joins the Middle School staff in the main office area. Heather and her husband Ryan, have two boys, Landen and Brayden. After many years in professional dentistry, she became #1 sports fan for the Walentowski boys.



Heather Walentowski  
Middle School Office

Lenawee District Library Announces

OCEANS OF  
POSSIBILITIES

2022 All-County Bookmark Design Contest



Entry form and complete information at this online address

[lenawee.lib.mi.us/bookmarkcontest](http://lenawee.lib.mi.us/bookmarkcontest)

## May 4<sup>th</sup> – First annual flower sale!

In nine short, demanding and exciting weeks an abundance of spring flowers from our greenhouse will be offered to the public by our Ag Science program! This inaugural fund raising event will launch an annual funding activity to underwrite a portion of the department's Greenhouse Management unit each year.

The students from 2021 and 2022 were fortunate to be at the ground level of setting the goals and executing a development plan that would establish a new support building, a small agri-business plan and offer the hands on experience of building many of the physical components that will remain in place for the years to come. These students voted to approve their research based plan and present it to the district board for validation. That validation came when the Board of Education provided \$25,000 in matching funds and authorized the students to seek funds from state and local entities.

The *Michigan Ag Science Career and Technical Education Standards* establish a framework of crop science, soil science and horticulture concepts for the high school classroom. During the balance of this academic year, most classes will be held in the greenhouse which is located between the high school and elementary buildings. The huge challenge will be to methodically complete each of the many startup details and align those steps with the Ag Science curriculum.



*Pictured - Assembling the hanging baskets, auditing the shipping list, prepping plant starts and framing benches: All possible from personal donations and commitments from the Maurice and Dorothy Stubnitz Foundation, Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence, Blissfield Rotary Club, Michigan FFA Foundation, Blissfield State Bank and the Lenawee Youth Council Grant. Students from 2021 and 2022 say, "Thank you!"*

## NEW HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

### Interim HS Principal

The high school is fortunate to have recruited Michael Bader to step into the principal position for the balance of the 21-22 school year. In August, when he joined BCS, we noted that his experience includes multiple degrees from the University of Toledo in education. For the past 22 years he has served as a building principal and assistant principal with the Sylvania Schools District.



Mike Bader  
High School Principal

### Online Learning

Laurel Hammis is a Saginaw, MI native with Blissfield roots and a graduate of Adrian College. In her free time, Laurel serves as Miss River Raisin Festival, loves to read and is happy she found a position where she can be surrounded by books all day! In addition to that, Laurel also loves dogs and singing. She is grateful to be working in Blissfield with such great kids.




Laurel Hammis  
Online Learning

### Athletics and Office Aide

Becky Ricker has moved from the Middle School to the High School office as athletics and office assistant. She has worked for the district for 4 years. She has two daughters that attend and three children that have graduated from Blissfield. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and cheering on her daughters at their sporting events.



Becky Ricker  
Athletics Assistant



**March 18**

- AM Classes
- PM Tailgate

**PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR. DEVELOP A POSITIVE CULTURE. BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY.**

## BLOOD DRIVE - MARCH 30

The next Blissfield High School Blood Drive is less than a month away. Healthy people who are 16 years of age or more and weigh at least 110 pounds are usually eligible to donate. A single donation can help as many as three people.

This drive will be open to students and staff of Blissfield Community Schools and will not be open to members of the community.

*Consent Form Required*

Students who are 16, must have a consent form signed by a parent or guardian in order to sign up for an appointment. Students can print the consent form from Google Classroom or get a form from Mrs. Breitner.

Students can sign up using the link in **Google Classroom** (grade level).



## Spring sports update

All spring sports offered at Blissfield High School are able to officially begin practice on March 14 in accordance with MHSAA rules. Preseason conditioning and work is taking place now. Contact your coach or see the athletic office for more details.

Reminder: You must have a physical dated no earlier than April 15, 2021 to participate in tryouts, practices, scrimmages, and games.

Schedules for all sports are on the Blissfield Athletics website ([www.blissfieldathletics.com](http://www.blissfieldathletics.com)). Follow the Sports Schedules Link, under Quick Links, located at the bottom of the Home Page in the middle. These are constantly being updated as weather cancellations and other unforeseen obstacles arise. Please be sure to check before you go. GO ROYALS!!!



### Winter Honors

#### *Boys Basketball*

Owen Smith – 1st Team All-League  
Nick Ostas – Honorable Mention All-League

#### *Girls Basketball*

Avery Collins – 1st Team All-League  
Julia White – 2nd Team All-League  
June Miller – Honorable Mention All-League

#### *Wrestling*

Colin Eggleston – 2nd Team All-League

#### *Bowling*

Ethan Vergote – 1st Team All-League  
Rylie Mallory – 2nd Team All-League  
Cooper Rodriguez – Honorable Mention All-League  
AJ Schwartz – Honorable Mention All-League

#### *Competitive Cheer*

Michaiah Franklin – 1st Team All-League  
Kacie Wright – Honorable Mention All-League



# SHREK The MUSICAL

MARCH 10 AND 11 AT 7:00 PM  
MARCH 12 AT 3:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

The Blissfield Fine Arts Department is presenting the hilarious Shrek the Musical. There are four great performances.

Tickets prices for all shows are: \$10 for adults, \$8 for students/senior citizens and \$6 for children five and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door or ahead of time through a cast or crew member or by calling/emailing Mrs. Finnegan. Leave a detailed message with your name, what type of ticket you need and what show you would like to see. [mfinnegan@blissfieldschools.us](mailto:mfinnegan@blissfieldschools.us) or 486-2148 ext. 326



## ESPORTS CLUB

This spring, Blissfield High School has begun participating in e-sports at the regional and state levels through a PlayVs/ MASSP partnership. BHS currently has a Rocket League team and a Super Smash Brothers Ultimate team. Between the two teams, nine students are participating.

Rocket League is similar to soccer but played with small vehicles. Smash Ultimate is a Nintendo fighting game which uses classic Nintendo characters. Matches are played on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The regular season runs through mid-April, when the playoffs start.

This is a great beginning for e-Sports at BHS and will hopefully build into a strong fall season next year.



## GO ROYALS!

THE  
COMMUNICATOR

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49228

\*\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*\*\*

[wwwPostalPatron](http://wwwPostalPatron)