

# Birmingham Covington School

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Dear BCS Parents and-Guardians,

I am writing this letter with great excitement and anticipation as we embark on another learning adventure here at BCS! I usually begin my welcome back letters with a sentence that starts something similar to this, "The 2011-2012 school year...", however, this year I want to be more intentional in building on a culture of learning that is not defined by such things as a year or a month. Our staff and students continue to be creative and show how learning can take place outside of the walls of BCS and outside of the traditional "school" day. BCS is a hub for learning, not a final destination to learn! Our families, school community members, local and global partnerships, and individuals make us a true global learning hub. BCS students arrive each day to not just learn, but to reflect, analyze, and collaborate as they learn. We are excited to continue our quest to work with you in providing opportunities for your child to grow as a learner and as a citizen in an ever changing world.

Last year proved to be an exciting year as our 3rd-8th grade learners were engaged in global learning. G.E.E.K.ed (Global Education Engaging Kids) was developed with three key areas in mind: Inquiry based learning (global perspectives), technology integration (with a purpose), and global awareness (to build competencies). This year we will continue to grow as an organization and as a community to provide the best opportunities for your child to learn in their own customized way. Our staff will continue to take risks, conduct research, and tweak their lessons to become more rigorous and relevant to meet our students' challenges head on. We will continue to be G.E.E.K.ed about learning and G.E.E.K.ed to lead the way in transforming into a global learning hub to meet the present and future needs of every BCS learner.

## **BCS: G.E.E.K.ed about Leading with Integrity**

BCS is dedicated to stay the course as a national school of character. Our moral compass points to three areas that help us build on a foundation of ethics and integrity. The three E's, Education, Environment, and Each Other, blend together to create an atmosphere of good character, positive attitudes, honesty, respect, kindness, responsibility and accountability. We are committed to lead the way by always keeping the three E's as an integral part of our culture.

The BCS team is committed to teaching, facilitating, and learning alongside your child as we move further into the 21st century and embrace the changes we have seen in technology, education, and the "real" world. These changes are not separate changes but rather work hand in hand in preparing our students to be competent, well rounded individuals. I have included a few articles on the parent wiki page <http://geekedmindsetforparents.wikispaces.com/Articles> . Please take time to read them and leave any comments and/or reflections on the discussion page.

I want to personally thank you for sending your child to us each day and for supporting our efforts to build on our strengths and work on our areas of improvements! Please take five minutes to complete this short parent survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PQD8GS6> . As principal, it is essential for me to gain feedback from the most important members of the BCS community, you!

Welcome back to Covington, or if you are a new family, welcome to a great place to be! I hope your summer was relaxing and fun and that you are as excited about the first day of school as I am! Please read below for updates on personnel and communications at BCS.

G.E.E.K.ed about Leading,  
Adam

### **Communication at BCS**

My open door policy remains, however, I have made minor changes. I now find it important to have a walk out the door policy. In today's world of digital communication, it is important to not wait for you to walk in my door but rather provide communication portals that will find you!

Please get connected with BCS on as many communication tools that you use.

BCS has a new facebook page! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/BCS/181749138514777>

BCS is on twitter: #bcscovington

Principal Adam Hartley's School Blog: <http://www.adamhartleybcs.blogspot.com/>

Parent created and maintained website: [www.bcsonline.info](http://www.bcsonline.info)

Birmingham Public Schools website:

<http://bcs.birmingham.k12.mi.us/?sessionid=85b501222db1a086d255911526ad822a&t>

Sign up for enews: <http://bpsenews.birmingham.k12.mi.us/mailout/>

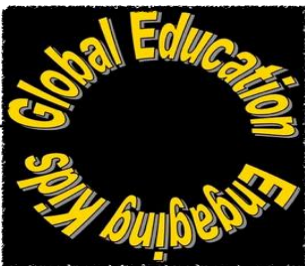
\*BCS no longer uses alert now

### **New Personnel Changes at BCS**

Jennifer Brown was hired last spring to fill the position of office assistant after Donna Feldmaier retired. Jennifer comes to us with a very impressive resume and is excited to begin her first fall with the BCS team! She will be working in front with our parent volunteers and handling the phones. She will also be scheduling choice hour classes for all students. Nancy Best will move to a separate office and will be taking on other responsibilities that include internal accounting and various other important tasks. We are very fortunate to have the office staff we do with Mary Baughman, Nancy Best and now Jennifer Brown!

Jennifer Kron will be teaching 4th grade Spanish. Katie Kelly has taken a full time elementary position within the school district. Jennifer comes to us from the University of Michigan and is eager to begin working with the BCS students and their families. Jennifer was hired after impressing the interview committee with her patience, technology experience and caring demeanor. Her ability to speak Spanish helped too!

Erin Little will be teaching Orchestra as Tony Krempa has moved to Chicago. Erin is no stranger to BCS as she worked as Tony's assistant all of last year. We are very excited for her to join us and she is elated to remain a part of the BCS team.



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