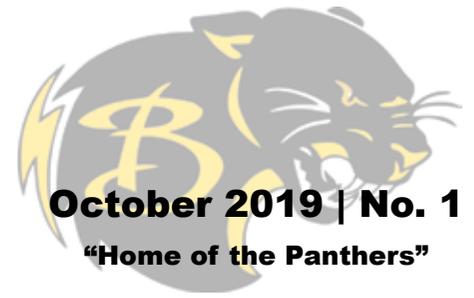


# Baldwin

## COMMUNICATOR



Baldwin Community Schools  
525 Fourth St.  
Baldwin, Mich. 49304

Preparing Students for the Promise of Tomorrow

# Preparing today's students for tomorrow's world ...

At Baldwin Community Schools, our mission is "Preparing Students for the Promise of Tomorrow." The staff strives to develop students for the world they will enter when they graduate from Baldwin High School.

According to researchers, most of today's students will have several careers — not jobs, careers! — in their lifetime. At BCS, we understand that research suggests today's students enter a global world when they graduate.

We are proud to have a calendar that puts a focus on student learning opportunities as well as a partnership with the Baldwin Promise Authority to help our students with post-high school options.

On the November 5 ballot, Baldwin Community Schools will have a proposal. The school district is proposing to build a new Baldwin Junior-Senior High School, upgrade the elementary school, enhance technology, and upgrade the athletic complex, among other improvements.

The current junior high building was built as an elementary school in 1954. The current high school wing was built as a junior-senior high in 1959-60. The buildings have served this community well.

The secondary-level school buildings have structural problems, as well as infra-structural problems. Moreover, the classrooms are built for students in a different time in education. Many of our classrooms are "too small" by current standards and lead to overcrowding in classrooms.

On November 5, the ballot language will ask voters to consider whether upgrades are necessary. The District will be offering tours and providing information to help ensure that all of the community is aware of the proposal. If you have any questions, you can contact Superintendent Heitmeyer at (231) 745-4791 or via email at [rheimeyer@bcsdmi.com](mailto:rheimeyer@bcsdmi.com).



A rendering of a possible new Baldwin Jr.-Sr. High School to be built to the west of the current building.

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**POSTAL PATRON**

## It's time to "Focus" on learning in our classrooms

Last summer, just before the end of the 2018–2019 school year, Dr. Michael Schmoker met with our teachers and discussed the idea of "focus." He could be considered an expert on "focus," because he has written two editions of a book with that very name as well as a follow-up that focused on leadership for focus. His main message revolved around the idea of simplifying what we do in the classroom, how we do what we do, and bringing those two ideas together.

The "what" involves instructing the curriculum and the "how" involves all of the pieces that go into developing an effective lesson. The process includes developing curriculum and assessments in order to prepare our students for success. Moreover, the process provides time to develop effective instructional techniques.

You might say that I am believer in the idea of "focus," so I don't intend to bring a lot of new "programs" on board. We are a MiExcel Blueprint District, which means we will be systemically installing the Blueprint. The Blueprint will allow us to implement school improvement in a way that will ensure it will continue. The Blueprint allows us to focus on culture, social and emotional growth of students, as well as academics (the curriculum and instruction I previously mentioned). We also believe that unless we make sure the social and emotional needs of our students are met, they may struggle in the classroom academically.

In addition to the implementation of the Blueprint, we will also be looking at other ways to improve out school. One important area has included a focus on our facilities. We will continue to invite the community for input on what we need to do to improve the buildings and grounds. We are seeking a bond on November 5. If you would like to have input, please consider taking part. Thank you once again for choosing Baldwin Community Schools? **GO PANTHERS!**

■ By Mr. Rick Heitmeyer, Superintendent



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BCS

Top Left — Baldwin Junior and Senior High School have a new mathematics series. The program, Big Ideas, is also used at other neighboring school districts. Big Ideas aims to allow traditional mathematics learning along with hands-on opportunities as well as technology components that allow students to "re-learn" or even advance.

Middle — BCS teachers have time to work together every day to improve instruction and learning in the classroom. At left, the elementary teachers are working together.

Bottom Left — The football team has shown improvement on the field this year, but more importantly, teachers have commented that the players' attitudes have improved, as well.

Thank you for taking the time to support Baldwin Community Schools. It's a great time to be a Baldwin Panther!

# BALDWIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

525 Fourth Street | Baldwin, Michigan 49304

## Baldwin Communicator

Published by BCS

Superintendent: Rick Heitmeyer

*Communicator* is published quarterly during the school year. If you have any suggestions, or questions, please contact the office at (231)745-3261 between the hours of 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

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## School district continues work on the Blueprint process to improve BCS

Baldwin Jr. High School was identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement School (CSI) in March 2018. This led to Baldwin Community Schools entering into a Partnership Agreement with the State of Michigan.

State assessment scores and other factors at the middle school level caused the school to be identified. Former Superintendent Dr. Stiles Simmons appealed the finding, and ultimately, BCS agreed to be identified as a Partnership District. Overall, district leadership is aware that improvement needs to happen, and rapidly, and one of the options as a Partnership District is to work with the Michigan Department of Education as a MiExcel Blueprint District.

The MiExcel Blueprint work began in June 2018 and has continued. Bruce Mangum is the facilitator. A group of staff members, administrators, board members, and other stakeholders met regularly throughout last year. That team, the District Network Team (DNT), met on Mondays to work on Blueprint implementation. In May, BCS received a score of 17/18 on its initial Fidelity Appraisal of progress, good for a rating of Highest Fidelity.

“Essentially, when you do the Blueprint, you are implementing school improvement work that will finally last.

We have all been a part of great improvement processes that fail because we don’t implement, check the implementation, and continue forth with additional work,” Heitmeyer said.

Throughout the process, there will be data checks to see if the work being done leads to improved student scores on the state’s assessments, currently the MSTEP and PSAT. BCS also uses NWEA and other assessments to measure how students are doing in “real time.”

“The effort put forth by the members of the DNT will help to ensure that we implement the Blueprint and the components become a part of who we are as a school district,” Heitmeyer said.

“...you are implementing school improvement work that will finally last. We have all been a part of great improvement process that fail because we don’t implement, check the implementation, and continue forth with additional work.”

## Project Focus returns to BCS this fall

The Project FOCUS out-of-school time program is being offered at Baldwin Elementary School and Baldwin Middle School for the 2019–2020 academic year and beyond.

A federally-funded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant has been awarded to TrueNorth Community Services in partnership with Baldwin Community Schools and the Michigan Department of Education. This opportunity to serve children, parents, and the community in Baldwin is for the next five years, and includes after-school and summer programs for youth.

Project FOCUS (For Our Children’s Ultimate Success) will operate Monday through Thursday afternoons after school at Baldwin Elementary School and Baldwin Middle School. The program will provide an environment in which expanded academic learning and community experiences are the norm. Students will engage in activities that include mentoring, civic engagement, career and college preparation,

social and emotional learning, high adventures and academic enrichment.

Enrollment in Project FOCUS is on a first-come, first-served basis. Acceptance is based on need, and there is no charge for the program. For a child to be considered for the program, an application form must be submitted. If a child is accepted for Project FOCUS, they will receive an acceptance letter for the program listing the start date, times and a parent handbook.

TrueNorth operates Project FOCUS in Baldwin as well as in Hart, Holton, Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, and Walkerville.

If you need more details on Project FOCUS, have other questions or would like an application form, please contact Brenda Obrinski (Baldwin Elementary Site Coordinator) at (231) 794-7508 or Michelle Pirie (Baldwin Middle School Site Coordinator) at (586) 690-9675.



■ By Mr. Todd Graham, Project Focus

# Meet the newest staff members at the elementary school

As the new school year arrived, Baldwin Elementary School had some new faces in new places. So, now, we have several new staff members in our classrooms. Baldwin Elementary School is thrilled to welcome new team members to our staff.

## Ms. Erica Austin

My name is Erica Austin. I grew up in the Grand Rapids area and am the youngest of five children. I graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2018 with a degree in Elementary Education and English. I love to read, teach, travel, spend time with friends and family, and play with my dog, Mya. Before moving to Baldwin I taught as an interventionist in Kentwood, Michigan. This is my first full-time teaching position.



## Miss Becca Brink

My name is Becca Brink and I am from Franklin, Pennsylvania. I graduated with my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education (2016) and graduate degree in Reading Specialist (2018) from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. When I am not teaching, I enjoy coaching and playing volleyball, spending time with my dog Sullivan, exploring new places, and reading a good book. I am so excited to be a part of the Baldwin team this year!



## Mr. Mark Cooke

Mark Cooke joins us as the new physical education teacher at the elementary. Mr. Cooke grew up in Muskegon and has done disaster relief work. He went back to school and reinstated his teaching certificate to finish his master's degree. He loves being a teacher because if there's anything he can give to a kid that will help him later in life, he will.



## Ms. Theresa Emington

Mrs. Theresa Emington is delighted to join Baldwin Elementary as the social studies and ELA teacher on the fifth grade team. She has a bachelor's degree in European history from Adrian College and a master's degree in Near Eastern and North African studies from the University of Michigan. The Emingtons have raised five children.



Mrs. Emington's hobbies are reading, swimming, biking, and quality time with family.

## Miss Allison Umbreit

Hi! My name is Miss Allison Umbreit. I am from Tustin and have been working with students in after-school programs for the past three years. This is my first year teaching and I am excited to be a part of Baldwin Community Schools. I have a Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood Special Education and Elementary Education from Baker College. I would like to so further my education and teach high school, specializing in English or history and social studies.



## Ms. Susan Verrett

My name is Susan Verrett. I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Aquinas College and completed my Master's Degree in Administration through Central Michigan University. I have taught Early Childhood Education for the past 11 years. I am currently teaching first grade and am excited to be a part of the teaching team at Baldwin Community Schools. I love spending time with my husband, step children, our dog and friends and family. I love going camping and drag racing on the weekends.



# Baldwin Pride

# Say “hello” to the newest staff members at the secondary level

all is always a fun, yet busy time for most schools. With the beginning of a new school year, you're automatically enthusiastic about the new opportunities to “prepare students for the promise of tomorrow!” This year, I am grateful to introduce to the Baldwin Community, the new staff members at the secondary school. They each bring a new set of skills and value to the team. Let's get a closer look at our new Panthers.

## Ms. Nikki Bergman

Nikki Bergman joins us at the junior –senior high as our new physical education and health teacher. She is also going to be coaching middle school volleyball and varsity girls basketball. Ms. Bergman comes to us from Hammond, Indiana, where she taught middle school health and physical education for the last 11 years. Ms. Bergman is a graduate of Tri-County Area Schools and of Trine University where she earned a Bachelors of Science in Physical Education and played college basketball. In her free time, Ms. Bergman enjoys being active and outside where she enjoys hiking, biking, boating, kayaking, golfing and reading. She also enjoys traveling, especially to the mountains or the beach. She is a sports fan and likes watching and attending a variety of events. Her parents have recently retired and moved to Baldwin and she has three younger siblings (Amber, Kelsey and Kyle) who live in Newaygo and Greenville. After living in Indiana for the past 18 years, Ms. Bergman is excited to be back in Michigan and a new Baldwin resident. She is looking forward to meeting her students, players and the rest of the Panther family.



## Mr. Garth Cornwell

Mr. Garth Cornwell joins Baldwin Community Schools as the junior–senior high school principal. Prior to Baldwin, Mr. Cornwell taught middle school science, technology and careers courses for 17 years in Portland, Michigan, and was the Clare Primary School principal in Clare, Michigan, for two years. Mr. Cornwell and his wife of 16 years, Amanda, have two children, Calder (12) and Seneca (11). Mr. Cornwell attended Rudyard High School and graduated from Alma College with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and History and from Grand Valley State University with a Masters of Education. Currently, he is working on his Education Specialist degree at Central Michigan



University. In his time away from school, Mr. Cornwell enjoys time with family and friends, being active outdoors, and doing home improvement projects.

## Mr. Jason Eads

Mr. Jason Eads joins us this year as our new high school English teacher and varsity boys basketball coach. Prior to joining us at Baldwin Mr. Eads has worked at Dowagiac Union High School, Crossroads Charter Academy of Big Rapids and Reed City High School. Mr. Eads is an alumni of Reed City and of Ferris State University where he earned a degree in English and in social studies. When he isn't at school, Mr. Eads enjoys golf, spending time with family and friends and watching sports of all levels. He and his wife of six years, Chasity, have three children: Morgan, Easton and Kellen. Mr. Eads brings to Baldwin 17 years of teaching and administrative experience as well as 25 years of basketball coaching experience.



## Mr. Jim Eriksen

Mr. Jim Eriksen joins us this year as our new English teacher for 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Before joining us at Baldwin, Mr. Eriksen has worked at Brethren High School, Mason County Central High School, and at Columbia High School in North Carolina. Mr. Eriksen is an alumnus of Michigan State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master's Degree in teaching and curriculum. He and his wife, Teresa, have been married 10 years. They have two children, Axel and Iris. Mr. Eriksen enjoys being outdoors hiking, kayaking, and traveling to new places with his family. Mr. Eriksen brings more than 10 years of teaching experience to Baldwin.



# The Panther Den

Baldwin's school store!

GO PANTHERS!

Located in Central Office. For more information, call (231) 745-4791

# Baldwin secondary cafeteria gets upgrade

During the past several years, Baldwin Community Schools has made several improvements to its food service program. Food Service was able to make some new changes to Cafe. We have painted our Panther logo on a wall with a “B” on opposite walls, bringing a proud atmosphere for our students.

We now have booths and high top tables and chairs for a more age appropriate setting, along with this we have new round tables with stools to replace the old long elementary style tables. The students love the new look. We also have made a sub sandwich food station available inside the cafeteria if they choose, this helps cut down on the congestion with the serving line.

We have purchased all new food holding equipment for the main line that gives a feeling of a more restaurant style setting. We are implementing new recipes all the time.



# Are you ready for your future? Yes? No? Maybe so...

College and Career Readiness is often viewed as being “smart” or knowledgeable enough to know how to do the work and duties. When one speaks of post-secondary education we speak of higher education, training, and skills development beyond the high school diploma. The post-secondary education includes two- and four-year college, military branches, trade schools, vocational pathways, and apprenticeships. A popular misconception is that true readiness is more than knowing the subject material. Every year 11<sup>th</sup> grade students across the state of Michigan take the SAT; which measures their college readiness ability. This test score accompanied with their cumulative grade point average, rigor of classes, and students social and non-academic groups assist in the process of admissions to colleges and universities throughout the nation. These processes and evaluation tools assist in seeing if the student is ready for college academically.

But college readiness is also enhanced by providing our students with rigorous courses, up-to date learning environments and laboratories, approved teaching and educational methodologies, support with homework and class work, increasing reading time, and increased reading levels and comprehension. Educational success is not only just what a student has learned and retained, but includes aspects of a student’s personal growth as well. Test scores are just one small portion of what is needed to get to college.

My personal experience: I graduated from Baldwin Community Schools in 2008, and then attended Ferris State University. I had a science course that required a laboratory component as many science courses do. When I arrived at the science lab I was required to use equipment that other school districts had access to, but I had not due to outdated equipment and facilities. For me to be successful in that class, I not only had to purchase books, but ask for extra services to learn how to use the equipment and tools

necessary to pass the course. Was I able to compete academically with the rest of the class? Yes! Was I ready to use the equipment or had the know how or experience...? No, not really. Could we do better for the next generation? Yes, we can! Preparing students for tomorrow, starts with getting them ready for a post-secondary education.

The Baldwin Promise Authority and the Baldwin Community Schools combined to have a College Access Center to help our students be ready not only academically for post-secondary institutions, but to prepare mentally and emotionally as well. Each student is an individual and must be seen through an individual lens. The College Access Center assesses each student to see if s/he can handle being away from home for a long period of time or adjust to a different culture and environment or be mentally ready for the classes and stressors that arise in the post-secondary education area of their choice...

The Baldwin College Access Center can help each student persevere and, ultimately, be successful. It helps them obtain additional financial aid (besides the up to \$20,000 offered by the Baldwin Promise over four years). It helps them fill out forms and learn about various institutions. It helps answer ALL their questions and work through situations that arise in many post-secondary institutions.

The Baldwin College Access Center was created to assist students, families, and individuals within Lake County and Baldwin Community School District area. If you would like to set up an appointment feel free to call or email me at robertsd@bcsdmi.com or via phone at (231) 745-1141.



■ By Duane Roberts, Baldwin Promise Coordinator

# Preparing our students for the *PROMISE* of *TOMORROW*



## **BCSD offers many opportunities for ALL of our learners**

- Your students will have options and opportunities all through school ... plus small class sizes
- Our students get a free breakfast and lunch at school every day
- Your child will be taught by caring staff members
- Your child will be educated in a safe environment

BCSD has created a school-year calendar aimed to help all students find success. The district also offers guaranteed money for college for *all* of our graduates. It's a great time to be a PANTHER!

## **What is the promise of tomorrow?**

We want to help you get your child started on his or her educational journey **TODAY** so we can all be certain that they are prepared for the world of **TOMORROW**.

BALDWIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
525 FOURTH STREET  
BALDWIN, MICHIGAN 49304

P – (231) 745-4791

# BALDWIN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2019 WINTER ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

## JV AND VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

12/10/19	TCC	[H]	Tuesday	6 p.m.
12/12/19	Pentwater	[H]	Thursday	6 p.m.
12/17/19	Marion	@	Tuesday	6 p.m.
12/19/19	MCC	@	Thursday	6 p.m.
01/07/20	CCA	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
01/09/20	Walkerville	@	Wednesday	6 p.m.
01/14/20	MCE	[H]	Tuesday	6 p.m.
01/16/20	Mesick	@	Thursday	6 p.m.
01/22/20	Brethren	@	Wednesday	6 p.m.
01/24/20	Bear Lake	@	Friday	6 p.m.
01/29/20	Pentwater	@	Wednesday	6 p.m.
01/31/20	Marion	[H]	Friday	6 p.m.
02/07/20	MCC	[H]	Friday	6 p.m.
02/10/20	C. Heston	[H]	Monday	4:30 p.m.
02/12/20	CCA	@	Wednesday	6 p.m.
02/14/20	Walkerville	[H]	Friday	6 p.m.
02/19/20	MCE	@	Wednesday	6 p.m.
02/21/20	Mesick	[H]	Friday	6 p.m.
02/28/20	Brethren	[H]	Friday	6:00 PM
03/05/20	Bear Lake	[H]	Thursday	6:00 PM

## JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

12/06/19	Pentwater	[H]	Friday	6 p.m.
12/11/19	Marion	@	Wednesday	6 p.m.
12/13/19	MCC	@	Friday	6 p.m.
12/18/19	CCA	[H]	Wednesday	6 p.m.
01/03/20	Walkerville	@	Friday	6 p.m.
01/08/20	MCE	[H]	Wednesday	6 p.m.
01/10/20	Mesick	@	Friday	6 p.m.
01/15/20	Brethren	[H]	Wednesday	6 p.m.
01/17/20	Bear Lake	[H]	Friday	6 p.m.
01/23/20	Pentwater	@	Thursday	6 p.m.
01/30/20	Marion	[H]	Thursday	6 p.m.
02/04/20	MCC	[H]	Tuesday	6 p.m.
02/06/20	CCA	@	Thursday	6 p.m.
02/10/20	C. Heston	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
02/11/20	Walkerville	[H]	Tuesday	6 p.m.
02/13/20	MCE	@	Thursday	6 p.m.
02/18/20	Mesick	[H]	Tuesday	6 p.m.
02/20/20	Brethren	@	Thursday	6:00 PM
02/27/20	Bear Lake	@	Thursday	6:00 PM

## MS BOYS BASKETBALL

11/02/19	Scrimmage	TBA	Saturday	9 a.m.
11/04/19	Marion	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
11/06/19	MCC	[H]	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
11/11/19	CCA	@	Monday	5:30 p.m.
11/13/19	Walkerville	[H]	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
11/16/19	Brethren	@	Saturday	9 a.m.
11/18/19	Mesick	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
11/20/19	MCE	@	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
11/23/19	Bear Lake	@	Saturday	9 a.m.
12/02/19	Pentwater	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
12/04/19	WMD Tourney	TBA	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
12/07/19	WMD Tourney	MCE	Saturday	9 a.m.

## MS GIRLS BASKETBALL

01/11/19	Scrimmage	TBA	Saturday	9 a.m.
01/13/20	Marion	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
01/15/20	MCC	[H]	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
01/22/20	CCA	@	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
01/27/20	Walkerville	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
01/29/20	MCE	@	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
02/01/20	Brethren	[H]	Saturday	9 a.m.
02/03/20	Mesick	[H]	Monday	5:30 p.m.
02/10/20	Bear Lake	@	Monday	5:30 p.m.
02/12/20	Pentwater	[H]	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
02/19/20	WMD Tourney	TBA	Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
02/22/19	WMD Tourney	MCE	Saturday	9 a.m.

**PREPARING STUDENTS FOR  
THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW.**



Schedule as of October 11, 2019. The schedule is subject to change.