

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

WHAT'S NEW AT BLUE RIDGE

#br_u_knighted

October 2020 brings change to our learning models at Blue Ridge. After beginning the year in a hybrid model and spending two weeks in remote learning due to the impact of COVID-19, we are ready to move to four days of on campus learning for both Blue and Silver learners. The administration has carefully monitored the COVID-19 cases per 100K, the positivity rates, and the change in positivity rates between the two most current weeks of data across DeWitt, McLean, and Piatt Counties. Mitigation strategies have and will continue to be practiced on a regular basis within the schools and on our buses.

The upcoming week will be spent preparing for increased enrollment. Furniture that has been removed from classrooms in August will be brought back. Bus routes, arrival procedures, cafeteria routines will all be considered and modified as needed. Monday, November 2 will be a remote learning planning day, with no student attendance, to make the final revisions to our learning spaces. Tuesday, November 3 is Election Day and

schools are closed. On Wednesday, November 4 we will welcome our Blue and Silver learners to their first day together at school this year!

I personally want to thank each staff member for their flexibility, patience, and cooperation during what is the most unique year of our careers. To our families, I also want to thank you for your patience as we've moved between hybrid learning, remote learning, and now as we enter four days of on campus learning. No one answer meets the widely varied perspectives on how to respond to the virus. Thank you for responding to our surveys and thank you for your understanding both when your perspective agrees with our plan and even when it doesn't.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 27 and 29 Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- November 2 Remote Learning Planning Day, No Student Attendance
- November 3 Election Day, No Student Attendance
- November 4 Blue and Silver Return On Campus
- November 11 Veterans' Day
- November 13 Quarter Two Progress Reports
- November 25-27 Thanksgiving Break, No Student Attendance

PARTIAL ACTION FROM THE OCTOBER BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Chad Acree was hired as the BRHS Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach and Brandon Shaw will be the Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach.

Schneider Elementary is pleased to welcome Luci Mink as a paraprofessional and BRIJHS welcomes paraprofessional Kyle Puckett. Transportation welcomes driver Lisa Olsen. We're pleased to have each of you on the team!

Happy Principal Appreciation Month!

October is Principal Appreciation Month. Blue Ridge is proud to have excellent leadership in each school building. Thank you for giving your all each day for the sake of our students and staff. You are appreciated!

Mr. Ryan Peyton, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary School

Mrs. Katie Nichols, Blue Ridge Intermediate and Junior High School

Mrs. Lois Dowling, Blue Ridge High School Interim Director of Student Services

Mrs. Mary Diener, Blue Ridge High School Interim Principal



FROM BRHS



Celebrations:

Kallee Steinkamp is the inaugural Exemplary Knight from BRHS. Congratulations, Kallee!

Mrs. Lori Friel was selected as an Exemplary Knight. Thanks for all you do for students!

FFA Ag Sales Team placed 2nd overall in our section and qualified for districts in November.

Morgan Droz and Jatou Shafer both placed 2nd in each of their sales rooms.

Lindsey Quinn is writing for the News Gazette in the High School Confidential section. Be on the lookout for her write-ups.

Athletics:

Girls Golf is the Lincoln Prairie Conference Champions!

- Ashlyn Voyles, medalist; Abby Trimble, runner-up; Neveah Burris, 4th; Phoebe Reynolds, 7th; Courtney Shane, 12th

Boys Golf-One golfer, Wyatt Summers, advanced from regional play to sectional play.

Basketball is getting geared up for their season to start on November 16.

Some things we are working on:

- Makeup work and improving student grades
- Still trying to get technology working in a few areas
- Getting ready to try livestreaming and recording lessons

Attendance:

Current enrollment at Blue Ridge High School is 203. The average daily attendance is 185 which is 91% for September.



STAY CONNECTED! DO YOU HAVE THE BLUE RIDGE #18, IL APP? ONCE YOU GET THE FREE APP, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TURN ON THE NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT AND YOUR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS.



FROM BRIJHS

We celebrate our Exemplary Knights!

Mrs. Andrea Weedman, Technology Teacher/Technology Coordinator

4th grade Kayla Meeker

5th grade Thomas Vanderspool

6th grade Caleb Chrispen

7th grade Apollo Gannaway

8th grade Lillian Enger

Safety drills are underway for Blue and Silver learners.

Institute Day included work in the following areas: safety, next steps in instructional planning, collective teacher efficacy, and technology training.

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FROM SCHNEIDER ELEMENTARY

This school year Schneider Elementary will receive \$30,000 from ISBE for the 1003a School Improvement grant. We are using these funds to continue two main programs which we implemented this summer, Summer Reading and Kindergarten Jumpstart. Other purchases include AimswebPlus and Fountas and Pinnell Shared Reading Kits.

We will not have our annual Halloween parade this year. Our school leadership team discussed this and decided that it was important to maximize our in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible.

We celebrate our inaugural Exemplary Knight winners:

Mrs. Emily Weiler- art/music teacher

Grace Christie- Kindergarten

Paloma Atkins- 1st grade

We are still ticket free. Limited class sizes and social distancing measures have created less opportunities for negative interactions and an increased ability to supervise and prevent most inappropriate behaviors.

Our Schneider Family recently suffered a huge loss with the passing of Mrs. Janet Bullinger. Janet was a great paraprofessional and an even better person. I wanted to thank the members of our CARE Team and Tri-County Special Education Cooperative for the planning which went into supporting our students and staff during this difficult time.



FROM THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Tech Tasks Completed:

Teachers were trained on Quizlet, Quizizz, and Nearpod.

Teachers are now experimenting with streaming lessons through Google Meets and ViewSonic Live Streaming.

146 closed help tickets

Received State Farm In-Kind laptop and desktop donations

Continued work on remote desktop client for specialized classes at BRHS

Server and desktop updates

Eliminated several virus attacks and a phishing attack



Upcoming:

Install and configure new print management software

Install new grant purchased hardware at BRHS

Prepare State Farm donated equipment for deployment

Redistributing extra WiFi access points at Schneider and BRHS

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