

# The JUNIOR EAGLE

March 2021

Brown County Junior High School

Indiana Department of Education STEM Certified



## BCJHS Staff Members

**Math:** Mr. Bruce Koopman  
**Math:** Ms. Kaitlyn Christie  
**Math:** Mr. Tim Hebert  
**Science:** Ms. Hannah Davis  
**Science:** Mrs. Sarah Hale  
**Science:** Mr. Kevin Roush  
**English:** Mrs. Jane Phillips  
**English:** Mrs. Julie Miller  
**English:** Mrs. Cindy Stark  
**Social Studies:** Mr. Michael Potts  
**Social Studies:** Mr. Justin Schwenk  
**Social Studies:** Mr. Kyle McGaha  
**Health & Fitness:** Mr. Mike Harmon  
**Health & Fitness:** Mrs. Cheryl Wyman  
**Art:** Mrs. Laurette Roales  
**Vocal Music:** Mr. Daniel Lyng  
**Instrumental Music:** Mr. Matt Finley  
**Resource:** Mrs. Cortney Hitchcock  
**Resource:** Mrs. Debi Sumner  
**Foreign Lang:** Mr. Pedro De Leon  
**Engineering/Tech:** Mr. Dan Lewellen  
**NIET Master Teacher:** Mrs. Alyssa Stanley  
**Health Asst:** Mrs. Sue Thompson  
**Centerstone:** Ms. Erinn Suiter

## Instructional Assistants:

Mrs. Sharon Snodgrass  
Mrs. Debra Arnold  
Mrs. Kelly McPheeters

## Secretarial Staff:

Mrs. Kelly Morse  
Mrs. Ronna Snyder

## Custodial Staff:

Mrs. Carla Brown  
Mrs. Penny McGuire

## Kitchen Staff:

Mrs. Linda Hawkins  
Mrs. Amanda Lasley  
Mr. Paul Barker

## BCJHS Administration

Mr. Brian Garman, Principal  
Mr. Greg Pagnard, Asst. Principal/AD  
Mrs. Terri Whitcomb, Guidance

## School Information:

[www.browncountyschools.com](http://www.browncountyschools.com)

## BCS Vision Statement

*World Class Opportunities. Small School Relationships. Lifelong Impact.*

## The Principal's Report

Parents:

With the start of the 3rd trimester, it is an excellent time to sit down with your child and review their academic progress over the first two trimesters of this school year. This has been a difficult year academically for many of our students and the start of the new trimester presents an opportunity for those who have struggled to finish the year on a positive note leading into their 8th or 9th grade year. I would encourage you to reach out to the teachers in the classes your child has struggled to develop a plan moving forward. I would also encourage your child to take advantage of our after school tutoring program each week on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3-4pm.

The annual ILEARN State Assessment is approaching quickly. BCJHS is scheduled to administer the test the week of April 26th. The test will be administered over a four day period (Monday-Thursday). It is very important for students to be in attendance on testing days. Please make every attempt to schedule appointments around testing. Remote students are required by the state to participate as well. More information will be sent out after spring break regarding the testing format for our remote students. Results of the ILEARN will be particularly valuable this year in helping identify learning gaps perpetuated by the pandemic. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the BCJHS office at 988-6605.

- Brian Garman  
BCJHS Principal

# Eagles

## Important Future Dates @ BCJHS

March 8th  
Start of 3rd Trimester

March 12th  
2nd Trimester Report  
Cards Mailed Home

March 15th - 19th  
Spring Break

March 20th  
Science Olympiad  
State Competition

April 19th - 23rd  
ILEARN Testing



## MRS. WHITCOMB'S WALL



### Part 3 of Cellphones, Tweens, and Teens

Last month we uncovered some interesting facts related to the development of some of our children's most influential technological media: smartphones, social media, and video games. As promised, this month we will explore how using this technology may be influencing our young people.

Doing a quick search on Google for "Smartphones and teens" will return literally hundreds of studies. It's interesting to note that not all of these are current, apparently this is something that has been on the minds of professionals for at least the past decade. However, the underlying theme of this research is showing that depression, anxiety, eating disorders and suicide are just a portion of the mental health concerns linked to excessive "screen time" among our teens and tweens.

According to a 2016 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, of 17,000 kids surveyed approximately 13% had a major depressive episode, compared to 8% of the kids surveyed in 2010. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data shows that suicide deaths among people age 10 to 19 have also risen sharply. One study found that kids who spent three hours or more a day on smartphones or other electronic devices were 34% more likely to suffer at least one suicide-related outcome—including feeling hopeless or seriously considering suicide—than kids who used devices two hours a day or less. ([Time, Oct 10, 2017](#))

One thing that really stood out to me regarding the above referenced study was the importance of the *amount of time spent on a device*. *The amount of time our kids are on their phones is something we have control over! Another article published by ABC in 2018 found that a parent's own cell phone use has direct influence over their child's learning. Obviously we all know that our kids are likely to mirror our amount of usage, but our cell phone use in their presence can actually decrease their ability to learn! Not only that, but researchers at the University of Texas found merely having a smartphone nearby reduces a person's brain power. In a study of 800 cellphone users, researchers found those with their phones in another room did better on tests than those with their phones on their desks.*

Although the fear of our teens on cell phones is not something to be ignored we are learning that there are some facets of this danger that we can still control for our children! Next month we will dive more deeply into the effects of this technology and begin to explore the limits that need to be set for everyone's safety.

Mrs. Whitcomb  
Student Services Advisor  
[twhitcomb@browncountyschools.com](mailto:twhitcomb@browncountyschools.com)/ 812-988-6605

Honesty Self-Control Excellence Respect  
Responsibility  
Courteous

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Go Eagles!!

## Waltman Construction 7th Grade Student of the Month

Congratulations to BCJHS March “Student of the Month” Nate Bachman. Nate was nominated by BCJHS Language Arts Teacher Mrs. Stark. According to Mrs. Stark, "Nate is consistently kind and respectful to all around him. He has navigated moving to a new school during a pandemic and all the challenges that go with that. He has worked hard to advocate for himself and push through a tough year. He makes classes more fun for students and teachers. We are so lucky to have him here!"

Nate’s picture will be displayed at BCJHS during the month of March. A special thanks to **Waltman Construction** for sponsoring the BCJHS “Student of the Month”. Nate will be receiving a “Student of the Month” plaque compliments of **Waltman Construction**.



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## Waltman Construction 8th Grade Student of the Month

Congratulations to BCJHS March "Student of the Month" Baylie Meyer. Baylie was nominated by BCJHS Art Teacher Mrs. Roales. According to Mrs. Roales, "If I was describing Baylie, I would say: thoughtful, caring, empathetic, hard worker, always thinking of others and other's feelings, self motivated, and intelligent. I could not think of a more deserving person for this honor. I love seeing what ideas come out and are expressed through art."

Baylie's picture will be displayed at BCJHS during the month of March. A special thanks to **Waltman Construction** for sponsoring the BCJHS "Student of the Month". Baylie will be receiving a "Student of the Month" plaque compliments of **Waltman Construction**.





**Western Indiana Conference  
Eastern Division**

Brown County Eagles  
Edgewood Mustangs  
Owen Valley Patriots  
Indian Creek Braves  
Cloverdale Clovers

**BCJHS Coaching Staff**

Cross Country: Mrs. Chasity Smith  
Cross Country: Mr. Ian McCabe  
7th Football: Mr. Sean Cassidy  
8th Football: Mr. Joel Lewis  
Asst. Football: Mr. Ernie Stringer  
Asst. Football: Mr. Josh Hazelgrove  
Tennis: Mrs. Andi Rogers-Bartels  
8th VBall: Mrs. Amanda Hawley  
7th VBall: Mrs. Emma Totten  
8th Boys' BB: Mr. Heath Bryant  
7th Boys' BB: Mr. Jackson Saylor  
8th Girls' BB: Mrs. Ronna Snyder  
7th Girls' BB: Mr. Kyle McGaha  
Wrestling: Mr. Andy Reed  
Asst. Wrestling: TBD  
Cheer: Ms. Cindy Woolems  
Girls' Track: Mrs. Chasity Smith  
Boys' Track: Mrs. Carly Salisbury  
Asst. Track: Mr. Kyle McGaha  
Asst. Track: Mrs. Christy Wrightsman



**The Sports Corner**  
By Mr. Pagnard, BCJHS Athletic Director

The winter sports season ended on a strong note and the spring sports season is quickly approaching. The girls' 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team won the WIC east championship but lost to Sullivan in the championship game to claim 2nd place overall. A big congratulations to 7<sup>th</sup> grader Jackson Reed who placed 1st in his weight class at the WIC wrestling tournament. We look forward to great things from both the girls' basketball players and Jackson next winter.

Girls' tennis tryouts are quickly approaching. Tryouts will start on March 22, 2021 at 3:30 at the tennis courts. Good luck to those wishing to tryout. The track teams will also begin practice on March 22, 2021 at 3:15pm. Good luck to all student wishing to join the boys' and girls' track teams. We look forward to seeing you all at our spring matches and meets. Go Eagles!

Please visit the Brown County Athletic Department's webpage @ [www.browncountyathletics.com](http://www.browncountyathletics.com) for all athletic information grades 5-12.





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## Science Olympiad

By Mrs. Hale, Sponsor

The BCJHS Science Olympiad Team competed in a 2nd invitational tournament on Saturday, February 27th. The team members have been working so hard to prepare for the state competition on March 20th which was evidenced by the tremendous improvement they showed on the 27th. We had several teams and individuals place at the competition:

### **15th Place**

Anatomy & Physiology  
Genevieve Wilson & Kayleigh Everett

### **3rd Place**

Circuit Lab  
Owen East

### **21st Place**

Crime Busters  
Ella East & Kayleigh Everett

### **7th Place**

Disease Detectives  
Elle Rainwater & Genevieve Wilson

### **15th Place**

Dynamic Planet  
Sadie Hiatt & Shyanna Luckey

### **16th Place**

Experimental Design  
Sadie Hiatt & Shyanna Luckey

### **5th Place**

Game On  
Owen East

### **12th Place**

Heredity  
Elle Rainwater & Genevieve Wilson

### **12th Place**

Meteorology  
Sadie Hiatt & Shyanna Luckey

### **18th Place**

Ornithology  
Sadie Hiatt

### **16th Place**

Reach for the Stars  
Kayleigh Everett & Shyanna Luckey

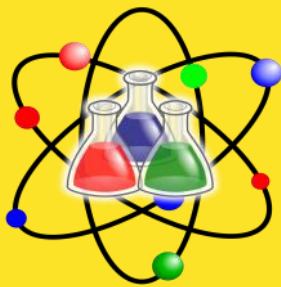
### **13th Place**

Road Scholar  
Hailee Darnell & Kayleigh Everett



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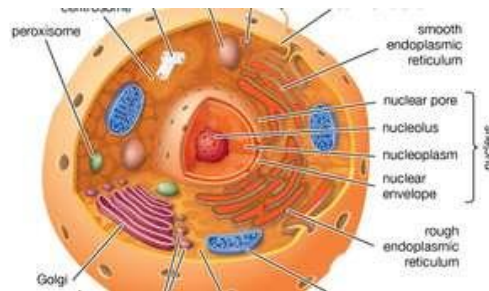
**Home of the Eagles!!**



## Science

By Mr. Roush, BCJHS Science Teacher

The 7th grade science classes participated in a review of the cell cycle with a focus on mitosis using Oreo cookies and sprinkles. This lab was designed by Ms. Davis and was used in Mr. Roush's class too. The students were challenged to model 5 of the stages of mitosis using half an Oreo cookie and rainbow sprinkles. The students really enjoyed this hands-on activity that helped them gain valuable knowledge about the cell process, but I am sure it was the eating of the display that might have been the highlight of the day.





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## **Former BCJHS Teacher Mr. Wilcoxon Passes Away**

Former BCJHS Teacher Mr. Ryan Wilcoxon passed away tragically on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 at the age of 31. Ryan served as a health teacher and coach at both BCJHS and BCHS from 2016-2019

Ryan was a graduate of Eastern Greene High School and Franklin College. He played baseball all throughout high school, leading Eastern Greene to its only semi-state appearance in school history, and continued his playing career at Franklin College for 3 years.

He most recently was serving as a special education teacher and varsity baseball coach at Owen Valley High School. He spent his entire professional career impacting the lives of students as a teacher and coach at Edinburgh High School, Eminence Jr./Sr. High School, Eastern Greene High School, Brown County Jr./Sr. High School, and Owen Valley High School. He will be greatly missed!

BCJHS Art Teacher Mrs. Roales presented the family with the original painting depicted below as a tribute to Ryan's life.







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## Language Arts

By Mrs. Stark, BCJHS ELA Teacher

During a unit focused on analyzing nonfiction pieces, students with Mrs. Stark and Mr. CasaSanta looked for bias, considered what makes a source reliable, tackled tough vocabulary, considered what challenged, changed, or confirmed their previous thinking, and researched Changemakers- people who made a difference in the world. Students chose who to learn more about and then wrote scripts and created podcasts to teach others about the Changemakers. Students studied everyone from Nelson Mandela to Eva Kor and Salva Dut and Steve Jobs.

