



# *Bronson Community Schools*

*501 E. Chicago Street  
Bronson, Michigan 49028*



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*Dedication to Excellence – Preparation for Life*

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Dear Families,

Beginning the 2016 - 2017 school year, schools are required to provide a mandatory 180 days in the school calendar. This is an increase of 5 days *from what was state mandated* for the 2015- 2016 school year. State law also requires districts to start after Labor Day, unless there is a waiver in place that allows for an earlier start date. This means our schools get out mid to late June.

Branch County is exploring the option of a waiver to start school sometime around August 24th. This would provide alignment with our college partners so students could have a seamless transition into dual enrollment classes. It would also get all students out earlier in June.

As a county, it is important to run a common calendar to ensure shared services are provided for all students. Therefore, the waiver must be honored at the county level and all schools within the ISD must agree with board action on an earlier start date in order to make this change. We wanted to get this out to you as soon as possible as some of you may begin to make or consider vacation plans for next summer as well.

We believe in transparency and wanted to bring this potential change to our communities before any final decisions are made as a county. Before we would make the change, the waiver would need to be granted from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). If the waiver is not approved, the change would not take place. At this time, we are waiting for guidance from MDE. Stakeholder input is also an important part of making these decisions. We want to do what is best for the collective group.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read and reflect on this issue. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or input you have on this topic. My email address is [belotet@bronsonschools.org](mailto:belotet@bronsonschools.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Teresa Belote  
Superintendent  
Bronson Community Schools

*Visit us on the web at [www.bronsonschools.org](http://www.bronsonschools.org)*

Anderson Elementary  
335 E. Corey St.  
517-369-3234

Ryan Elementary  
461 Rudd St.  
517-369-3254

Chicago Street School  
501 E. Chicago St.  
517-369-3260

Bronson Jr./Sr. High School  
450 E. Grant St.  
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