
MEMO

To: Blue Ridge Board of Education
Mr. Ryan Peyton, Superintendent

From: Burton Huddleston, Principal, Blue Ridge Intermediate and Junior High School

Date: 9/10/2026

RE: Principal Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 11 Mid-Quarter for Quarter 1
- 12 Softball Regional Championship @ 10:00am
- 14 Baseball at Trinity Lutheran @ 4:30pm
- 15 Baseball vs Heyworth @ 4:30pm
- 16 Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm
- 17 JH Baseball Regional TBA
- 25 Early Dismissal @ 2:20pm (Homecoming)
- 28 Girls Basketball vs Judah Christian School @ 5:30pm
- 29 Girls Basketball at Champaign Next Generation School @ 5:00pm

October

- 5 Girls Basketball vs St. Malachy School-Rantoul @ 5:30pm
- 6 Girls Basketball at Argenta-Oreana @ 5:30pm
- 6 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30pm to 6:45pm
- 7 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30pm to 6:45pm
- 8 Girls Basketball vs Bloomington St. Mary's @ 5:30pm
- 9 Teacher Institute Day-No school for students
- 12 Columbus Day-No school
- 13 Girls Basketball vs Lexington JH @ 5:30pm
- 14 Girls Basketball at Bement/Cerro Gordo @ 5:30pm
- 15 Girls Basketball at Fisher JH @ 5:30pm
- 19 Girls Basketball at LeRoy JH @ 5:30pm
- 21 Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm
- 26 Girls Basketball vs Ridgeview JH @ 5:30pm
- 27 Girls Basketball at Champaign Holy Cross @ 6:00pm
- 29 Girls Basketball at Tri-Valley MS @ 5:30pm

SCHOOL NEWS

September Enrollment

4th Grade: 48 students
5th Grade: 59 students
6th Grade: 50 students
7th Grade: 43 students
8th Grade: 45 students

Total Enrolment: 245 students

Our enrollment at this time last year was 247 students.

Behavior

There were 5 behavior referrals written in the month of August. There were 9 referrals recorded in August of 2025.

Arrive and Dismissal

Our new arrival and dismissal procedures have gotten off to a very positive start this school year. We have received encouraging feedback from parents and families, particularly regarding the improved organization, clearer traffic flow, and increased safety of our students during these busy times of the day. The procedures have helped create a more structured process for students, families, and staff while reducing some of the safety concerns associated with traffic and student movement. As with any new process, we recognize that adjustments may be necessary as we continue to learn what works best for our school community. We will continue to gather and consider feedback from staff and families and will make reasonable tweaks to the procedures when needed to ensure we are providing the safest and most efficient arrival and dismissal experience possible.

Fall iReady Inform

Our initial fall i-Ready Inform results provide a strong starting point for identifying student strengths and areas for growth. In reading, 161 students are currently in the yellow or green performance zones, indicating they are performing at or above grade-level expectations based on the assessed standards. The remaining 80 students will be a focus of rigorous, standards-aligned classroom instruction, tiered interventions, and individualized i-Ready learning pathways during the school day. In math, 156 students are currently in the yellow or green zones, while 84 students are identified as performing below grade-level expectations and will receive additional targeted support. We will reassess students with i-Ready Inform in December and again in May to monitor growth and adjust instruction and interventions as needed. Our goal is to leverage every resource available—including strong core instruction, intervention supports, and individualized learning—to help students who are below grade level move toward proficiency while challenging students who are already meeting expectations to continue growing beyond grade-level standards. .

Fall Sports Wrapping Up

Our fall baseball, softball, and basketball seasons are providing valuable opportunities for student-athletes to compete, grow, and develop. The boys baseball team is currently 2-6 with

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two games remaining in the season. Weather has presented some challenges, resulting in the cancellation of practices and games and making it more difficult for the team to establish a consistent routine. Despite those setbacks, our young baseball team continues to show improvement throughout the season. The experience our players are gaining through competition this year will be valuable as we look ahead to future seasons and continue to build the program. Our girls softball team is currently 13-0 and has advanced to the Class 1A Regional Championship game this Saturday. With a win, the team will advance to the Class 1A Sectional, which features the final 16 teams in the state tournament. We are extremely proud of the effort, teamwork, and success the softball team has demonstrated throughout this season. Girls basketball practice has also begun, with the team's first game scheduled for September 28 at home against Judah Christian. Many of our basketball players are currently still competing with the softball team and will transition fully to basketball once the softball season concludes. We are excited to see our student-athletes continue to represent Blue Ridge and look forward to a successful start to the basketball season.

September Exemplary Knights

Staff Recognition: Theresa Buggar

Mrs. Theresa Buggar is a wonderful choice for our September Exemplary Knight. As a new paraprofessional on our staff this year, Mrs. Buggar has jumped into her role with both feet and is already making a meaningful impact on our students and staff. She has quickly earned the respect of her colleagues through her calm demeanor, positive attitude, and willingness to help whenever and wherever she is needed. Her experience and expertise working with students are evident in the strong connections she has already established with students just a few weeks into the school year. Mrs. Buggar has been a tremendous addition to our BRIJHS family, and we are very fortunate to have her on our team!

4th Grade: Ian Gaspar

Ian shows up everyday ready to learn and participate. Ian always comes with a great attitude towards school and schoolwork. Ian is extremely welcoming and kind to his peers. Ian includes all students when participating in any activities. He shows great responsibility for his learning and organization. I'm glad to have Ian in class and am looking forward to seeing all of the great things he does this year. Great work, Ian!

5th Grade: Opal Bateman

Opal started out on Day 1 rising to meet the 5th grade expectations. She is an extremely hard worker and keeps herself on the right track as well as actively helping friends achieve success. Great things are coming her way!

6th Grade: Brantley Clark

Brantley is the quiet strength that our classroom needs. He is always working and giving his best to everything that he does. He is willing to lend a hand to his peers, say a kind word to

those who are down, and participate in any and all classroom discussions. He is the epitome of what an exemplary student should be. I am so grateful to have him in my class this year.

7th grade: Bria Reynolds

Bria is our 7th Grade Exemplary Knight for the start of the school year! Bria is a very bright, kind, and helpful 7th grader in our school. Bria's teachers have noticed her care and willingness to help classmates when they need assistance. Bria demonstrates a keen ability to pay close attention to detail on her school work and will always ask for clarification if needed. Bria is eager to learn and shows it in outstanding classroom work! She always has a smile on her face and is a joy to have in the classroom as a great example for others! Keep up the great work, Bria!

8th grade: Kylen Shoufler

Kylen is our 8th Grade Exemplary Knight for the start of the school year! This is Kylen's first year with Blue Ridge and already he has shown the teachers and staff at BRJH how bright and caring and dedicated a student he can be! Kylen is a very bright student, who exhibits kindness to others and advocates for himself when needed. He is full of confidence in the classroom and continues to amaze his teachers with his work ethic and dedication to get caught up and stay on top of tasks. We are very lucky to have Kylen at our school this year and can't wait to see all that he will accomplish as a Blue Ridge Knight!