Mr. Burton Huddleston, Principal
Mrs. Shawna Kollross, Asst. Principal
Blue Ridge Intermediate and Junior High School
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February 27, 2026

Dear BRIJHS Families,

As we begin to see some changes in the weather, we are excited that students will have more opportunities to enjoy time outdoors at school. Fresh air and active play are so important for learning and overall well-being. While we look forward to spending more time outside, please remember that temperatures can still be breezy and cold. Sending your child dressed in layers—with a coat or jacket appropriate for the weather—will help ensure they can comfortably and safely enjoy outdoor recess and activities.

We are proud of the hard work our students have shown so far this year. After completing the second of three i-Ready diagnostics, we have seen many students make strong progress toward their individual reading and math goals. It is encouraging to see their growth and effort paying off. Students will take the final diagnostic in May to measure the progress made since the fall and to determine if they have met their annual growth goals. If you have questions about your student's progress toward their goals, make sure you are reaching out to their teacher(s) via email or Rooms at the bottom of the BR App.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is now open and ready for parent participation. This survey gathers feedback from students, parents, and staff to help us better understand our school's strengths and identify areas for growth. We truly value your voice in this process. Once at least 20% of our parents respond, we gain access to a detailed report of the results. Our goal is 100% student participation, and we would greatly appreciate strong family participation as well. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at:
https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/?target_name=parent

We have also finalized our schedule for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), which is administered to students in grades 3–8 in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This year, testing will take place before spring break, from March 9 through March 13. To help your child do their very best, please ensure they arrive at school on time each day and, if possible, avoid scheduling early appointments during that week. We anticipate completing testing each day by lunchtime.

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Students will need a pair of headphones for testing. Please check with your child to confirm they still have their headphones from the beginning of the year. In addition, if your child brings their Chromebook home, please make sure it is fully charged each morning during testing week.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Mr. Huddleston and Mrs. Kollross