MEMO

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

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

Date: 11/13/2026

RE: Principal Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

16 Girls Basketball vs Calvary Christian Academy @ 5:30pm
17 Boys Basketball vs Champaign Next Generation School @ 5:30pm
18 Girls Basketball 7th Grade Showcase at Fisher
19 Girls Basketball 8th Grade Showcase at Ridgeview JH
19 Boys Basketball at Bloomington St. Mary's @ 5:30pm
21 Girls Basketball 7th Grade Regional at Normal Epiphany vs LeRoy @ 12:30
23 Boys Basketball at St.Matthews-Champaign @ 5:30pm
30 Girls Basketball 8th Grade Regional at GCMS
30 Boys Basketball at Champaign Holy Cross @ 6:00pm

December

1 Boys Basketball vs Calvary Christian Academy @ 5:30pm
3 Boys Basketball at Lexington JH @ 5:30pm
5 JH Christmas Play @ 6:30pm
6 JH Christmas Play @ 2:00pm
7 Boys Basketball vs Fisher JH @ 5:30pm
8 Boys Basketball at PVO @ 5:30pm
10 Boys Basketball vs Leroy JH @ 5:30pm
14 Boys Basketball vs Argenta-Oreana JH @ 5:30pm
17 Boys Basketball at Ridgeview JH @ 5:30pm
18 End of 2nd Quarter
18 Christmas Sing-A-Long @ 1:00pm

SCHOOL NEWS

Behavior

There were 33 behavior referrals written in the month of October. Two of the referrals resulted in out of school suspensions. There were 75 referrals recorded in October of 2025.

Illinois Report Card

The Illinois School Report Card was released at the end of October and included several changes to the way school designations are calculated. The updated system uses a combination of core and elevating indicators to develop an overall performance profile for each school. BRIJHS is encouraged by the progress reflected in this year's report, with increases across all core indicator areas, including student proficiency and growth in mathematics, ELA, and science. While we are pleased with this progress, mathematics proficiency remains an area of needed growth, with 28.6% of our students scoring proficient on the Math IAR. We are addressing this through continued grade-level collaboration, partnership with the Regional Office of Education (ROE), and a systematic review of our mathematics curriculum both within our building and across the district. Attendance is another significant area of focus. Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) establishes a goal of reaching 95% average daily attendance. Last year, BRIJHS averaged 92.6% daily attendance, with chronic absenteeism at 23.8%. To address this concern, we have established a Professional Learning Community (PLC) dedicated to improving attendance, identifying barriers, and working directly with families experiencing chronic absenteeism. We are encouraged by our continued Commendable designation and the progress our students and staff are making. Our goal is to build on this momentum through focused collaboration and intentional improvement efforts as we work toward reaching the Approaching Exemplary designation on next year's report card.

Veterans Day Assembly

Our Veterans Day Assembly was a wonderful celebration of patriotism and gratitude. Students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades honored our veterans through heartfelt performances of patriotic songs, filling the gym with pride and appreciation. The Junior High Band added to the celebration with a performance of *Military Medley*, which they had also performed during the Veterans Day Parade in Monticello. The Junior High Student Council presented *The Little White Table* ceremony, a touching tribute that reminded everyone of the sacrifices made by our service members. We also recognized Allyson Meadows, Tanner Pritchett, and Brantley Blacker for writing essays for this year's *Patriots Pen* essay contest. Their participation reflected thoughtfulness, patriotism, and appreciation for the sacrifices of our nation's veterans. It was a meaningful and unifying event for our students, staff, families, and community guests.

Winter Play

No Christmas is complete without a viewing of your favorite holiday classic - so be sure to come see The Blue Ridge Family Christmas Special this season! Come be part of the "life television audience," and enjoy WKNH's annual Christmas Spectacular - featuring special guest stars from the community, the BRIJHS choir, and of course all the holiday laughs you can handle! The show includes a cast of FIFTY intermediate and junior high students from grades 4-8, and even a few special guests from the high school! This is a laugh-out-loud comedy variety show that you won't want to miss! Show dates are December 5 at 6:30pm and December 6 at 2pm. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3 for students, and kids 5 and under free. Hot cocoa and cookies will be available for purchase, and Mrs. Claus's photo op will be up and running for those special holiday pictures! Come celebrate the Christmas season with us!

MEMO

September Exemplary Knights

Staff Recognition: **Grace Williams**

We are excited to recognize Grace Williams as our Exemplary Knight for the Month of November! As a new paraprofessional at BRIJHS, Grace has jumped in with both feet and quickly become a valuable part of our team. She goes above and beyond to support students throughout the intermediate side of our building, always bringing a positive attitude and a smile, even on days when our students may not bring the same energy! Grace is always willing to step in wherever help is needed, often with just a moment's notice, and does so without hesitation. We are grateful for her flexibility, enthusiasm, and dedication to our students. We are so glad Grace has joined the BRIJHS family!

4th Grade: Rylee Schmidgall

Rylee is super respectful and kind to her classmates and teachers. She always gets her homework done on time, participates in class, and follows expectations. Rylee has a positive attitude and I can always count on her to be helpful. She works hard and always tries her best, and her attendance is excellent! We are lucky to have Rylee in our class!

5th Grade: Taya Brumfield

Taya is a hard worker who always tries her best. She is kind and helpful to others, and her quiet attentiveness during class helps create a positive learning environment. Taya also participates in class and contributes to our learning community. She is a wonderful student to have in the classroom, and I am proud to celebrate her as Exemplary Knight!

6th Grade: Parker Thrasher

Parker is a hard-working, ever-positive member of our class. He leads by quiet example and is always willing to support others around him. He completes his work thoroughly and puts forth his best effort. He comes to school ready to learn, and participates thoughtfully in class discussions. Parker brings a calming presence to our classroom, and I'm so grateful to have him in our class!

7th grade: Allyson Meadows

Ally Meadows is the 7th grade Exemplary Knight for November! She is kind and respectful to her peers and staff, works hard in all of her classes, and advocates for herself whenever needed! She participates in both small group and whole class discussions, helping her team stay focused and on topic. When absent, she checks in with her teachers and works hard to get caught up quickly. She is a positive student leader in junior high this year! Keep up the good work!

8th grade: Kellen Broadstone

Kellen Broadstone is the 8th grade Exemplary Knight for November! Kellen has stepped up and taken full ownership of his learning this year! He has shown his maturity and growth by keeping up on his assignments and missing work, staying on top of his organization, and having meaningful conversations about his progress and growth. Kellen has shown the ability to have tough conversations in order to improve himself and has set high goals for himself this year, which he is achieving! We are so proud of the growth he is showing this year. Keep up the great work!