

BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

GOD FAMILY ACADEMICS FUN

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

September 2022



Welcome back Saints! We are truly excited to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year at Berks Catholic High School. Whether you are new to BC or returning, we are looking forward to another successful school year. We have much to be thankful for in regards to our community support, outstanding staff, students and families. Please know that we value and respect every one of our students. We believe that all students can achieve at high levels. We are committed to ensuring every student is inspired, supported, and challenged to grow.



*It's a
Great Day
to be a
Saint!*





Dear Berks Catholic Families:

I would like to welcome all of you to Berks Catholic High School as we embark on the 2022-2023 school year. What a special time to be a Saint. Our strength as a community of faith and our four pillars; God, Family, Academics, and Fun, is what guides us in all we do. We were excited to open our doors for the first day of school and see all of the wonderful faces walk the halls of Berks Catholic once again. It is always an exciting time when we welcome our Saints back to campus.

Please join me in welcoming our new faculty members: Mr. Patrick Sisk- Social Studies, Mrs. Priscilla Carrasco - Spanish, Mrs. Kelly Berry -Science, Mr. Timothy Wood- Theology, Mrs. MaryBeth Kemp-Science, Mrs. Teri Neafach-English, and Miss Julie Snyder - English. When you get a chance, please welcome them with open arms into our Saints Family. I am excited to work with our Administrators, Faculty, and Staff. I would like to take this time to thank Mrs. Debbie Hannahoe and Mr. Rick Keeley for their many years of dedication and service to the students and families of the Diocese of Allentown and for their incredible impact on Catholic education. Congratulations on their retirement.

We are excited and blessed to report a healthy enrollment of 670 students to start the new school year. Our Admissions Office is hard at work year round to ensure the future of our school. Our first priority each and every day is to help our students grow spiritually. We achieve this through Mass, Retreats, Service Projects and Theology classes. Each year, it is our hope to make Berks Catholic a better place for your children. As a result of our efforts to remain committed to God, we have created new and exciting programs focused on prayer, our faith, and our spiritual growth as a community.

As we enter the sixth year of our 1:1 iPad initiative, we continue to enhance our 21st century learning environment. We have upgraded our internet and look forward to providing a first-class learning environment for our Saints.

The goal of this year's Emotional Appeal at Extravaganza 2022, "Kentucky Derby, Berks Catholic Style", is to upgrade our scoreboards in order for our students and fans to have the best in-game athletic experience possible. We have been blessed with so many generous individuals who have helped us reach our goals year after year. We are asking for your help in making this a reality for our Saints. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our 2022 Emotional Appeal. Please click here to make a donation: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=STWKYUY3SZ4ZA. If you like to attend Extravaganza, or volunteer at Extravaganza 2022, please contact Danielle Fowler at extravaganz@berkscatholic.org or 610-374-1695. It is going to be a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and philanthropy.

My prayer for our Saints and our Berks Catholic Community is for you to pray every day, attend Holy Mass every weekend, and take advantage of any opportunity to spend time quietly with God in your hearts and in your minds.

As I've said often before: "If I had a thousand lifetimes, I'd be a Saint in every single one of them. I love being a Saint. It's hard to explain. There's just something special about Berks Catholic that draws you in. It's a great day to be a Saint!"

God Bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

William Hess, M.Ed
Head of School

**"A NEW
SCHOOL YEAR
MEANS NEW
BEGINNINGS,
NEW
ADVENTURES...
AND NEW
CHALLENGES."**

- Denise Witmer

Who's Who.....

Head of School

Mr. William Hess: bhess@berkscatholic.org

Dean of Studies & Counseling

Mrs. Noelle Vilardo: nvilardo@berkscatholic.org

Director of College & Career Counseling

Mr. Josh Ditsky: jditsky@berkscatholic.org

Director of Admissions

Mrs. Nicole Smith: nsmith@berkscatholic.org

Dean of Students

Mr Michael Ricco: mricco@berkscatholic.org

Chaplain

Fr. Matthew Kuna: mkuna@berkscatholic.org

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Stephanie Hartline: shartline@berkscatholic.org

Director of Institutional Advancement

Mr. Robert Birmingham: rbirmingham@berkscatholic.org

Alumni Relations

Mrs. Betsy Woytovich: bwoytovich@berkscatholic.org

Athletic Director

Mr. David Stahler: dstahler@berkscatholic.org

Policies & Procedures

Early Dismissal

Students who must leave school before the end of the day are required to bring a written note signed by the parent or guardian, to the Main Office as soon as they arrive at school in the morning. They will be issued a pass to leave class at the designated time. Students will sign out in the Main Office (this includes students leaving the building because of illness) before leaving the building and sign in with a doctor's note when returning from their appointment. It is very disruptive when a note is not received and a parent/guardian comes unexpectedly or calls to have their son/daughter excused for an appointment. In some instances the student may be in Mass, assembly or outside for gym class and may not be readily available.

Drop-Off Items

In response to limiting people in the building during this time; drop-offs throughout the day will not be allowed. If it is absolutely necessary the item must be dropped-off on the table in the lobby. Please ensure that your child's name is on the item. It is the student's responsibility to check for their dropped off item(s). The main office cannot deliver or send for a student to pick up an item. This will help keep interruptions in the classroom to a minimum. Please keep in mind when a classroom is interrupted it not only takes your child off task but all classmates as well. BCHS is not responsible for any items left in the lobby. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Illness During School Day

If a student becomes ill or sustains an injury during the school day, he/she should obtain a pass for the school nurse's office (if nurse is not available to the Main Office) from the teacher or moderator.

Students are not allowed to call their parents/guardians to pick them up during the school day because of illness. Students are to report to the school nurse, who will evaluate the student's needs. If the illness persists, the parents/ guardians will be requested to personally take the ill student home. **If the student is dismissed without approval from the nurse/main office, it will be marked unexcused.**

Lateness

Students are considered late to school after the second homeroom bell has rung at 7:50 A.M. **Students must be seated in homeroom by the 7:50 A.M. bell.** Students arriving late must report to the main office for a late pass that will allow them into homeroom. A detention will automatically be issued each time you are late. After 5 lates you will be issued Saturday Detention, after 10 lates you will be issued ISS. The detention must be served on the next detention date. **Any student involved in extra-curricular activities after school is required to serve their detention.** Students are reminded that excuses such as car problems, oversleeping, traffic problems, missing the bus or ride, etc., are unacceptable.

Only a medical or dental excuse, signed by a physician or dentist will be honored, notes or phone calls from parents/guardians will not excuse a student's lateness. A phone call from the parents/guardian, before 8:00 a.m. and a note is required when a student is late. **ALL lates are recorded on permanent records.**

From the Desk of the Dean of Students

"Our intellects do not make the truth; they attain it; they discover it"

Fulton J. Sheen

I am blessed to be serving you again this year as the Dean of Students and am enjoying my additional assignment as your technology coordinator.

The year is off to an incredible start and I continue to thank God everyday that we are able to be in person and experiencing the beginning of a normal school year. In doing so, please be sure that you are checking our brand new website daily for information and new updates. Our 2022-2023 Parent/Student Handbook will be available on-line and you will be asked to sign the commitment form that you and your student(s) have read and understand our school policies.

In keeping everyone safe this year, we had our first fire drill of the school year on September 14th. We also will be having drills throughout the year to cover all the areas of the Standard Response Protocol. During our in-service training this year, we were blessed to have one of our own Saints parents, Detective Joe Taimanglo, to help educate our entire staff on the best practices in school safety and security. I was also thankful to be a part of the Threat Assessment and Management for Schools program last year at California University of Pennsylvania and received a graduate certificate to make sure we have all of the tools and best practices at our disposal to keep everyone safe.

I am excited that for the first time since we began our 1-to-1 iPad initiative that every student had an iPad by the end of the first week of school! Please be sure that your student's iPad is in a case that will protect it from daily travel and usage.

Our Theater Saints will be taking the stage and performing our Musical Revue on November 12th. This fundraiser benefits the Performing Arts program and donations can be made at any time. Our Saints will also be performing "Shrek" as our spring musical with performances on March 3rd and 4th, 2023.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families each day and if I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at mricco@berkscatholic.org or by phone at 610-374-8361 ext. 227.

Michael Ricco
Dean of Students

From the Desk of the Director of College & Career Counseling

SUMMER RE-CAP:

Beginning June 16 students had the opportunity to participate in:

- ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT INFO SESSION (1)
- COMMON APPLICATION WORKSHOPS (4)
- ESSAY WORKSHOPS (4)
- CAMPUS VISITS / COLLEGE INTERVIEWS (1)
- INDIVIDUAL PLANNING MEETINGS (offered on a daily basis)

Saints, did you take advantage of these opportunities?

REMINDERS - SENIORS:

Official Transcripts are now available to be sent. There is a process and form required to request them; this process was explained during Application Night on August 23 and in Theology Class on 9/6.

It is advisable to have two sets of SAT or ACT scores for college applications, even if you end up applying Test Optional.

It is VITAL that you speak with Mr. D, Mr. Piersol, or Mrs. Bonanno about whether or not to apply Test Optional because every college is different in how they view scores.

Overview of the College & Career Counseling Office

SEPTEMBER:

- 6** APPLICATION RESOURCE PACKET Distribution and Review. (SENIORS, Theology)
- 7** TELLING YOUR STORY: Essay Workshop 2 (SENIORS, English)

9 UNDERSTANDING and EXPLORING
ENGINEERING CAREERS (ALL Grades Invited)
Pds 5, 6, 7

A representative from Syracuse University College of Engineering and Computer Science will present. Students, listen to announcements and watch Canvas for Details.

16 CHARTING YOUR COURSE TO SUCCESS
DISCUSSION 8-9:15 am Auditorium
(FRESHMEN/ FAMILIES)

Sept 19 – Nov 11 COLLEGE / TRADE SCHOOL /
MILITARY REP VISITS. (SENIORS, JUNIORS). See
attached list (updated weekly) for sign up
instructions.

Watch Canvas and Email (Constant Contact)
for Weekly Updates

TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



| | Regular Deadline | Late Deadline |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| September 10, 2022 | August 5 | August 19 |
| October 22, 2022 | September 16 | September 30 |
| December 10, 2022 | November 4 | November 11 |
| February 11, 2023 | January 6 | January 20 |
| April 15, 2023 | March 10 | March 24 |
| June 10, 2023 | May 5 | May 19 |
| July 15, 2023* | June 16 | June 23 |

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

www.act.org

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Stand out
to colleges.
Take the **SAT**.

2022 TEST DATES

AUG
27

OCT
1

NOV
5
U.S. ONLY

DEC
3

REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINES

JUL 29

SEP 2

OCT 7

NOV 3

LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINES (U.S. ONLY)*

AUG 16

SEP 20

OCT 25

NOV 22

2023 TEST DATES

MAR
11

MAY
6

JUN
3

REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINES

FEB 10

APR 7

MAY 4

LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINES (U.S. ONLY)*

FEB 28

APR 25

MAY 23

Test dates may change. Check sat.org for updates.

From the Desk of the Dean of Studies & Counseling

Report Cards

The first quarter will end on Friday, November 4th. Teachers will direct contact parents via email if students are in danger of failing a course for the quarter. Report cards will be issued on Friday, November 11th.

Please be aware that student grades are always available to view through our school management system, Canvas. If you would like to create an account to be able to view your Saint's grades please go to our school website: www.berkscatholic.org. Directions for this process are found selecting "Quick Links" tab on the upper right hand corner. Choose the "Parents Observer Pairing Instructions" option on the drop down menu. There are links and step-by-step instructions to set-up your paired account for your Saint student.

The second quarter begins on Monday, November 7th and will conclude on Friday, January 20th. If particular or specific concerns arise, please e-mail teachers directly. Our staff email directory can be found on our school website: www.berkscatholic.org under "About Us".

PSAT

Freshman, sophomores, and juniors will take the PSAT's on October 12 at Berks Catholic High School. The results of the exams are expected by mid-December. Students will receive their test scores and test booklet during school once received. Additional information regarding the PSAT will follow as we approach mid-December.



Technology

Students and parents should see/contact Mr. Ricco if they experience any technical issues with school technology. Direct contact via email for Mr. Ricco should be sent to mrizzo@berkscatholic.org

Peer Tutoring

If your student is struggling and would like extra help, the National Honor Society student members at Berks Catholic High School tutor on days 1, 3, and 5 of our 6-day cycle during activity period. Please contact your student's teacher for a tutoring form if you would like for them to utilize this opportunity.

From the Desk of the Athletic Office

ALL SPORTS PASS

FAMILY PASS - \$200

*** 2 ADULTS**

***UP TO 3 CHILDREN**

INDIVIDUAL - \$70

***ADULT, SENIOR CITIZEN, STUDENT**

**BERKS CATHOLIC STUDENT'S ID
WILL SERVE AS THEIR PASS**

[DRESS CODE]

**Winter Dress Code will go into
effect on
Monday, November 7, 2022**

**The dress code will be heavily
enforced this school year,
please make sure that all
clothing/attire meet the
guidelines set in our
Parent/Student Handbook**

From the Desk of Campus Ministry



PA March for Life

A group of Berks Catholic students attended the PA March for Life on Monday, September 19th. They met for the celebration of Mass at St. Mary's Church in Hamburg, gathering with the other high schools of the diocese, before attending the March in Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania March for Life is our opportunity as a state to gather in solidarity and keep up the fight to protect the most vulnerable among us.

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start! Mr. Hess began the year with his opening address to our students. It can be summarized in three key points: be kind, be respectful, and make Mass a priority each Sunday. It was an important reminder to all of us that of our first pillar at BC—God—is the center of all that we do. On Thursday, September 1, our school celebrated an opening Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, an opportunity to give thanks to God for all the blessings in our lives and to ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us and walk with us as we begin a new chapter. We were reminded that the Holy Spirit dispels the fear in our hearts and kicks us out of complacency. We are excited for a great year ahead, uncovering the great things God has in store for our community.

We are looking forward to some awesome opportunities to share our faith in the coming months, including the PA March for Life, our Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., the senior class retreat, and our partner school prayer service!

From the Desk of the Chaplain

This school year, we welcome Father Matthew Kuna as our new Chaplain. Father Kuna is a newly ordained priest of the Diocese of Allentown, and serves as Parochial Vicar of Saint Catharine of Siena Parish (Reading) and Chaplain of Berks Catholic High School. Originally from Allentown, he graduated from Saint Thomas More School and Bethlehem Catholic High School. Father Kuna is a graduate of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, where he studied to be a Spanish and English as a Second Language teacher and was involved at the Saint Christopher Catholic Newman Center. After graduating from college in 2016, he entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (Philadelphia) where he completed his studies for the Priesthood. Father Kuna is excited to be part of the Berks Catholic family and to be a Priest for the Diocese he calls home!



HOMEcoming

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 Homecoming Court

Homecoming Queen Nominations

*Sydney Brown
Paige Hagan
Margaret McFadden
Binh Nguyen
Bridget Ottinger
Hannah Painton*

Homecoming King Nominations

*Luke Bennethum
David Birmingham
Jackson Gasperak
Emmanuel Geishauer
Josiah Jordan
Baylor Kobularcik*

HOMEcoming
2022

Alumni & Friends

PLEASE JOIN THE BC COMMUNITY

on 9/23/22.

Big Tailgate pre-game 5-7P.M.
(Please bring something to share)

ALL ARE WELCOME

Homecoming ceremony 6:35p.m.
Kickoff 7:00 p.m.

*Any Partner Student wearing Partner School or
BC Spirit wear is admitted for free.*

Saints
BERKS CATHOLIC

SAVE THE DATE!!!



KENTUCKY DERBY

Berks Catholic Style

Extravaganza 2022

BERKS CATHOLIC
ALONG WITH OUR
2022 CHAIRPEOPLE
SUSAN & MARK MCFADDEN

HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022
6PM - ?

Don't forget our raffle tickets are also available!
WIN \$10,000 CASH

The drawing will be held on Saturday, October 8th during the Extravaganza 2022
Donation \$100

If you would like to make a donation to Extravaganza or purchase a \$10,000 Cash
Raffle Ticket - please visit

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=STWKYUY3SZ4ZA

For more information or questions about Extravaganza, please call Danielle Fowler
at extravaganza@berkscatholic.org or call 610-374-1695

SEP 2022

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|--|-----|
| | | | | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| | | | | Opening School Mass College Application Night | School Closed | |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| | Labor Day School Closed | Faculty Advisory | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | Faculty Meeting | | | 6 th Grade Bonding | College Coffee 8AM | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | PA March for Life | Student Gov't Induction Prayer Service | | | Homecoming Assembly & Vote Partner School Night | |
| SPIRIT WEEK | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| | "Swing Fore the Saints" Golf Tournament | School Mass | 5 th Grade Bonding | Picture Re-Takes Eucharistic Exposition -PM Special Schedule | Hall of Fame Night | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

OCT 2022

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|--|---|---|---|-------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | 01 |
| | | | | | | |
| 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
| | | Faculty Advisory Jr. Ring & Pin Ceremony Prayer Service FASFA Meeting | | Dioc Pilgrimage to Wash DC (Jr Class Retreat) Extravaganza Eve & Partner School Appreciation Night | | Extravaganza |
| 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | Faculty Meeting NHS Induction Prayer Service | School Mass | PSAT Testing 11:30 Dism. Seniors Do Not Report | Step Up Day - HGA | Step Up Day - SIS | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | Step Up Day - SCS | Step Up Day – SHS & LSA FASFA Night | Step Up Day - SMS | Step Up Day - SPS Senior Retreat | Step Up Day - ICA | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | School Mass | | Partner School Prayer Service 7PM | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| | Halloween | | | | | |

2022 Berks Catholic Hall of Fame



Joanne Andrewjewski Heintz '66

Mike Kaminski '77

Maria Serafin McLeroy '82

John Miller '64

Joe Rahs '79

Jon Tobias '76

Maria Wengyn '80

John Zabinski '73

Danielle Kline Fowler '87

Phil Gallen '76

Loretta Rapino Kennedy '84

Mike Miller '76

Jim O'Neill '74

Meg McGlinn Shields '83

Greg Shumaker '80

Michael Shumaker '84

Peter Shumaker '86

AnnMarie Rapino Stuber '83

Mike Wummer '73

Ceremony will take place Friday, September 30, 2022 at 6 pm
at the the Franco-Post Auditorium before the
Conrad Weiser Football Game. Inductees will also be
honored and announced at the game at half time.