



Bradenton Christian School

# Panther Press

Ph: 941-792-5454

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[www.bcspanthers.org](http://www.bcspanthers.org)



**“What do YOU do for a living?”**

**By Chris Mustaine, Middle School Principal**

“What do you do for a living?” It is a very common question and a good way to get to know someone a little bit better. This is my favorite question to answer. Upon hearing my answer “I am the Middle School Principal at BCS” the person listening, without fail, has a strong reaction. Sometimes good, because middle school was a time of transition and discovery for them. Sometimes the response is not so good, because middle school can be a time of great stress and hardship. No matter which side of the middle school experience he/she comes down on, when they hear I choose to spend my day and my life with and among eleven- fifteen-year-olds, they learn a lot about me. They learn that I am a little crazy and they know I am doing God’s work. Both are very true most of the time and have been fleshed out this year.

The year started with a bang when we hosted our first “new student ice-cream social.” It was a great night for new students to get plugged into the school community. It was a night of new students finding classrooms, meeting teachers and preparing lockers. It was also a night of sharing Culver’s ice cream with a bunch of new friends. It was a fun and fruitful night of building community and getting school culture off on the right foot. A huge thanks goes out to Stephanie Edmonds, middle school teachers and the entire admissions team for putting on such a great event.

Another noteworthy event we had was the Middle School Tailgate. If you weren't there, you missed out on a lot of fun...and if you weren't there early you missed out on the free food (we went through 170 hotdogs and buns in 15 minutes). Even with the sparse eats those who came out had a blast playing games, winning prizes and shooting the breeze with fellow Panthers as we waited for the first varsity home football game to begin. Thanks must be given to our grillers (Josh Coombs and Vern Lykins), the servers (Amber Coombs and Jennell Vanzant), and the directors of fun (Stacey and Jose Ramirez).

Middle school does run the gamut of good days and not so goods days, but we are in a place that does the good and the bad together. And for me, there is no other way I want to answer that very common question, “What do you do for a living?”

BCS is always looking for talented, Christ-centered faculty and staff members! Please check out the link if you are interested in opportunities at BCS  
<https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>

If a loved one of yours wants to receive The Panther Press or you want to feature a story about BCS, please contact Bobbijo Norris at  
[bnorris@bcspanthers.org](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org).

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# Panther Press Spotlight

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## **Building Community in Middle School Bible Mrs. Romaniello MS Bible Teacher**

Seventh grade Bible classes look a little differently this year at BCS. If you walk by and peek inside, you will quickly notice that Mrs. Romaniello's two classes are entirely made up of girls! Why the change? It's all about building community!

Middle school can be such a challenging time, especially with all the messages students are bombarded with in our culture today. This is an important time of growth and maturing as students figure out their identity in Christ. While studying the scriptures every day this year, this gender-specific class can have open and honest conversations about everyday issues. The curriculum will include topics such as healthy self-esteem, empathy, dealing with the drama, Godly vs. toxic friendships, relationships, inner and outer beauty, dating, conflict resolution, and much more.

One Friday each month will feature a guest speaker from our community who can share God's word and encourage the girls through their own life experiences. The two classes come together on these days to share lunch and parents are providing special encouragement for the 44 girls through food, drinks, encouraging notes, or even homemade gifts.

As you walk by, you may be surprised by the laughter you hear coming out of these classes. We are learning that even though life can be difficult, we are better together, and that each and every girl is a precious daughter, dearly loved by the King!



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# Dive into the hearts of our new Teachers

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## Janet Cook Ross Study Hall Teacher

A native of Winona Lake in Indiana, we "lakers" love our waterskiing. Free time fun, for me, has been tracing my family tree back to 1737 when my ancestors sailed to America from Rotterdam. Family time is spent finding missing persons with our K9 Search and Rescue Belgian Malinois, named Quasar. Though not part of his job description, our three year old fur-kid is expert at locating lost car keys, too. A retrieving wizard.



I teach because I want everyone to have what I had – a quality, Christian education. Having attended private Christian school myself in elementary, junior high, high school, and college, I can attest to the importance of a Christian environment, Bible-based curriculum, and Godly role models. The experience was life-altering for me. Upon seeing their success among the Panther community, I followed former colleagues, the multi-lingual Señora Bradshaw (formerly of Providence Community School) and the everpopular Coach Hochstetler affectionately known as "Hoss" (from Sarasota Christian School). What a joy to be reunited at Bradenton Christian School.

Watching students mature is the best part of teaching. Growing in character, stature, and favor, the boys and girls who once sat in our middle school classrooms are now, years later, able adults advising presidents in The White House, performing on Broadway, lawyering, doctoring, parenting, ministering, college deans, restaurateurs, missionaries, chefs, architects, police officers, flight attendants, firefighters, even an American Ninja Warrior. Seedlings blossoming into world changers. Who'd have predicted? Longevity in the field of education is an opportunity to see them becoming all they were created to be.



As impressive as our gorgeous campus is, with its fully-stocked library, fine arts complex, competition gymnasium, manicured fields, equipped labs, bright classrooms, and state-of-the-art auditorium; as lengthy as our school vitae is, listing a profusion of champions both athletic and academic; as solid as our communal history is, built on our forefathers' and foremothers' generosity and dreams; what stands out most to me is the depth of my teammates' faith.



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## Dive into the hearts of our new teachers, continued...

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Full to the brim, their testimonies spill over every day as they pour into the hearts and minds of the students with which we've been entrusted. "You shall be like a watered garden," says Isaiah 58:11. Near these dedicated heroes of the faith, we live life in the splash zone of God's reservoir of grace.

Homecoming week enlivened our school spirit with break out groups to emphasize teambuilding. Middle schoolers chose among a thematic escape room, wacky science, video go-cart races, line dancing, board games, scavenger hunt, trivia contest, crafting key chains, a quiz based game show. Hands-on learning is always my preference, whether the English department's novel unit culminating in *The Outsiders* retro sock hop, or raising tadpoles, a simulated archaeological dig, blacksmithing alongside re-enactors on a sixth grade field trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, or practicing our public speaking skills with a mock wedding reception toast. Learning by doing is learning at its best. To aspiring teachers I say, take your vitamins; you'll need your energy! Also, there's an instruction manual I'd recommend, called Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth (also known as the B.I.B.L.E.). It's full of solutions to education's toughest questions.

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### Sabrina Toglia - Middle School Spanish Teacher

Meet Sabrina Toglia, BCS' new High School and Middle School Spanish teacher. In her free time she loves to travel and read! She decided to come to Bradenton Christian School because she wanted to be in a Christ-centered environment!

When asked what she enjoys about teaching, she said "As a language teacher, I love teaching kids about culture and taking them on virtual trips." Her favorite part about BCS is "definitely Thursday chapel!" One of her favorite assignments she gives throughout the year are oral presentation/dialogue assignments at the end of each quarter. "It gives students a chance to show off their new language skills and vocabulary that they learned in the quarter. The curriculum at BCS is intense, but in depth. It's not about learning disassociated vocabulary, but using the language to actually have real life conversations, which is beneficial long term."

If a student wants become a teacher, "my advice to them is, make sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will need a lot of patience! Love what you do, have a passion for it! Teaching is not for the faint of heart. It is dynamic, can be heart breaking when you can't reach students, but when you can, it is such a rewarding experience."

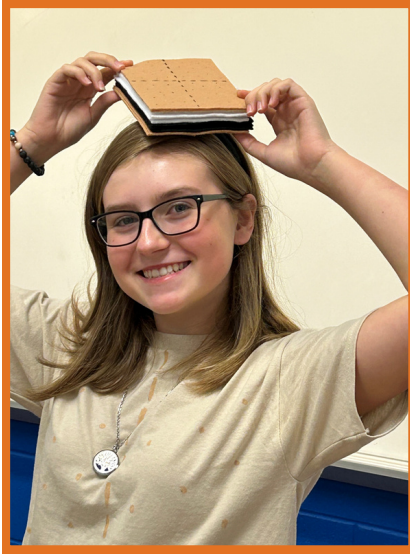
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# Homecoming & Tailgate Highlights

Though Homecoming has passed, we wanted to highlight our amazing Middle Schoolers and staff for their creative talents.





# BCS Auction



## The 39th BCS Family Festival & Auction

On Saturday, November 4, BCS will be hosting the 2023 Harvest Blessings Festival & Auction on campus. This community event is a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and fun. Our goal also is to raise funds to help bridge the gap between the cost of our BCS education and the tuition charged to keep education financially accessible.

The Festivities begin at 3pm with the Festival and Silent Auction. The Festival is games run by our student clubs and local churches. Our auction has over 200 items ready for your bid. The Live Auction will begin at 6:45pm which is always a memorable time filled with high energy and excitement!

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

**Bobbijo Norris**

[bnorris@bcspanthers.org](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org)

(941) 792-5454 ext. 114

or

**Heidi Sikkema**

[hsikkema@bcspanthers.org](mailto:hsikkema@bcspanthers.org)

(941) 792-5454 ext. 160

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OFFER**

Stay for the end of the Live Auction and be blessed!

# \$500 TUITION DISCOUNT!

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# Announcements



## Interested in Volunteering?

Many hands make light work. The following verse is a famous expression of the need for Christian goodness to be visible in the world. Doing the work given by God is how His disciples distribute His light.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."  
Matthew 5:15-16

Volunteering is far more than signing up for an event or completing a task. You are creating community, connecting with new families, and allowing God to shine through you.

There are many ways you may volunteer at Bradenton Christian School.

- Auction
- Giving Tuesday
- All Pro Dads
- Moms in Prayer
- Gala
- Check out our events that are coming up <https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved>
- To volunteer please contact Bobbijo Norris at [bnorris@bcspanthers.org](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org).



## Church Connection

Calling all BCS youth! Are you looking for a youth group or local church community to get involved with? We have information for the local youth groups and meeting times.

- **Bradenton CRC:**  
Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm - 8:30pm  
<https://bradentoncrc.org/ministries>
- **Bayside Community Church:**  
Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School is Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.  
<https://www.mybayside.church/ministries/bayside-youth>
- **West Bradenton Baptist:**  
Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm  
<https://fortheneighborhood.com/students/>
- **Grace Community Church:**  
Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School meets Sunday nights from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.  
<https://www.gracesarasota.com/channel/equip/you th>
- **North River:**  
"The Swell" takes place on Sunday evenings at 4:30pm - 7:00pm  
<https://www.gonorthriver.org/students>
- **The Bridge Church:**  
Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
<https://www.bridgechurchfl.com/students>
- **First Baptist Church of Bradenton:**  
Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm - 7:30pm for Middle school and High school students.  
<https://firstbradenton.com/>

If you would like your church featured in Panther Press for youth events, please email Bobbijo Norris at [bnorris@bcspanthers.org](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org).

If you would like to speak at Middle or High School chapel services for BCS please contact Calvin Morley at [CMorley@bcspanthers.org](mailto:CMorley@bcspanthers.org).





# Announcements

## Important Dates

- November 4 - Auction
- November 6 - Junior Parent Workshop
- November 7 - **Late Start**
- November 9 - Elementary Field Day
- November 13 - Hispanic Honor Society Induction
- November 20-24 - **Fall Break/No School**
- November 28 - Giving Tuesday



## Late Start Details

- Start time on these Tuesdays is 9:00am for Elementary School and 9:10am for Middle and High School
- Elementary drop off begins at 8:40am, that is when supervision begins
- Students will be admitted to class at 8:55am (Elementary) and 9:00am (Middle & High)
- Parents who need to drop students off before 8:40am please register for before school care. Before school care for students in K-5 will be offered from 7:40am – 8:40am for a fee. Email [mjones@bcspanthers.org](mailto:mjones@bcspanthers.org) or call 941-792-5454, ext. 157 for more information.

## GIVING TUESDAY

We are excited to see how God will bless BCS once again this school year! BCS holds fundraising events and has an Annual Fund to bridge the gap between what you pay for tuition and what it actually costs to educate your child(ren).

We want to ensure every family who desires a Christian education for their child, that we will walk along side them and offer some tuition assistance to those who qualify. Giving Tuesday (**November 28th**) is just one of those ways to help families & you can even **DOUBLE** your gift this year!

Click here to donate:

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved/donate>



## Dress Down Day

On **Thursday, November 2nd**, wear your Christmas pajamas or your ugly Christmas sweater! The cost is \$3 and will go towards Operation Christmas Child and Josh Provides.

**No leggings, tank tops or short shorts.**

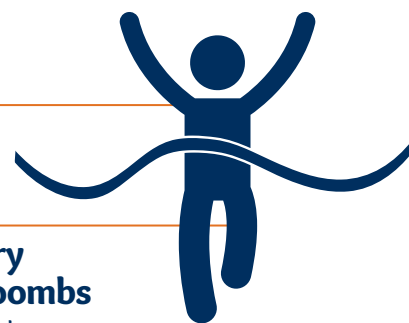
\* MERRY \*  
CHRISTMAS



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# Sports

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## Winter Sports are in full swing

- Girls Weightlifting
- Soccer
- Wrestling
- Basketball

To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>

## Wrapping up Fall sports

- Volleyball
- Football
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Swimming
- Cheer

## Varsity Golf Written by Coach Macey

"What a great group of guys! They've been #6strong all season. We had a chance to win some hardware at Districts, hopefully at Regionals we can all click at the same time. Super proud of them."

Cheering on our Golf team as they head to Regionals, way to go Panthers!



## Varsity Cross Country Written by Coach Coombs

Varsity Cross Country is having a great year so far. We have our District meet Thursday, November 2nd and we are hoping to secure a spot at the Regional meet the following week. Most of our athletes have repeatedly set new Personal Record's at several of the meets this year. Our team is young, consisting of mostly middle schoolers, so we are looking forward to becoming stronger and faster with each year.

A couple of highlights so far, our Varsity Girls placed 1st at the North Port Invitational as well as 5 of the girls metaled in the top 15 runners. The girls also placed 4th out of Manatee County at the Tri-County meet. Let's go Panthers!







# Sports

## BCS Volleyball

Written by Coach VanDuinen

Looking at our Varsity Volleyball season, I tried to pick a highlight of our year. As I reflected on the 19-9 record, the big hits, amazing defense, and ace serves, the team dinners, the bus rides, and the camaraderie built, I could not help but go back to the team word that was selected on the first day of practice, **determined**. How incredibly wise of these girls to pick this word, as it became a word we rallied behind. I know a key word can sound generic, but it was something more than just a word, as determination became an action. Through them anyone around the volleyball program can see that God is working within these girls, through this game, and definitely not limited to just playing a game.



Photo Credit to Billy D Photography

Teaching the game of volleyball is so rewarding, but being able to build relationships and help mentor through some of life's toughest challenges is the reason why we coach. The importance of coaching will be about wins and losses to some degree, but if that is the primary focus of coaches, we miss out on life changing opportunities and that is why coaches have some of the biggest impacts in the development of our athletes.

Our team did find success on the court. We finished 19-9 and ended in the top 20 in the state in the toughest classification for volleyball in 3A. We have all state players for the first time since 2009, we not only had 1, but 3 in Faith Allen, Kirsten Benigni, and Jillian Zoerman. We had the best record against Manatee County teams and competed at a high level throughout the year. With no seniors on the team, the future of BCS in the volleyball program is bright.



Written by Coach Ricky JV Volleyball

We had a great season being capped off with a great weekend of volleyball by the girls where we won the Keswick tournament that BCS had never won. What a great accomplishment achieved by this JV team! We look forward to next season and watching this team grow and compete again."





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# Sports

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## Tennis Open Hits

Tennis open hits are open to anyone in 6th-12th grade who is interested in playing tennis for BCS this upcoming season. Students will need to find their own transportation to the courts which are located at 3635 Cortez Rd. (Behind the McDonalds near school on Cortez). Open hits will be from 3:30-5:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday beginning Tuesday November 7. The complete list of dates for tennis open hits are listed below. If you have any questions, please email Coach Meadows at [rmeadows@bcspanthers.org](mailto:rmeadows@bcspanthers.org).

Tuesday 11/7

Wednesday 11/8

Tuesday 11/14

Wednesday 11/15

Tuesday 11/28

Wednesday 11/29

Tuesday 12/5

Wednesday 12/6

Tuesday 12/12

Wednesday 12/13

Wednesday 1/10



## Wrestling

There will be a two day tryout for girls and boys interested in Wrestling on November 6th and 7th from 3:30 to 6 pm.

Please meet in the Auxiliary gym on the rubber floor side.

If you have any questions please contact Jonathan Kliewer at [jkliewer@bcspanthers.org](mailto:jkliewer@bcspanthers.org).

## Girls' Weightlifting

If you are interested in weightlifting, it is not too late to join. We meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact head Coach Sean Riley at [Sriley5775@gmail.com](mailto:Sriley5775@gmail.com)

To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>



# Thank you Sponsors

## Market Your Business to the Community Through BCS!

We invite you to take the opportunity to sponsor the Panther Press. The Panther Press is a monthly publication during the school year that showcases our community and all the amazing events, happenings, students and faculty. These newsletters are sent electronically which means timely delivery and accurate information. Additionally, all publications will be uploaded to our website. Imagine the exposure for your business throughout the school year for a minimal cost of \$200.

For more information contact Bobbijo Norris at [bnorris@bcspanthers.org](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org).



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