

Panther Press

Ph: 941-792-5454

January 2024

www.bcspanthers.org

Please Welcome New High School Principal, Matt Ruta!

Welcome TO THE TEAM

We are thrilled to announce that Matt Ruta will be joining Bradenton Christian School as the new High School Principal. He will be officially starting in July. Matt comes to Bradenton Christian School with a deep well of experience as a teacher and as a school leader at both Christian and public institutions. Currently, he serves as the Assistant Upper School Principal at Orangewood Christian School in Maitland, FL. Throughout his nineteen-year tenure in education, Mr. Ruta has also served as a High School Math teacher, a Dean of Students, and a Varsity Basketball Coach. He holds a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Belhaven University and a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from Mississippi College. Mr. Ruta brings a depth of experience, a dedication to excellence, a passion for Christian education, and the ability to build strong relationships to lead BCS's high school. He is both honored and humbled to step into this new role, and desires to see our students excel academically, thrive socially, and strengthened spiritually. Matt and his wife, Natalie, have been married for fifteen years and have a son John (10), who loves playing the drums, and a daughter Maylee (8), who enjoys competitive dancing. We are so excited for Matt to join us as a Panther!



High School Principal

Matt Ruta

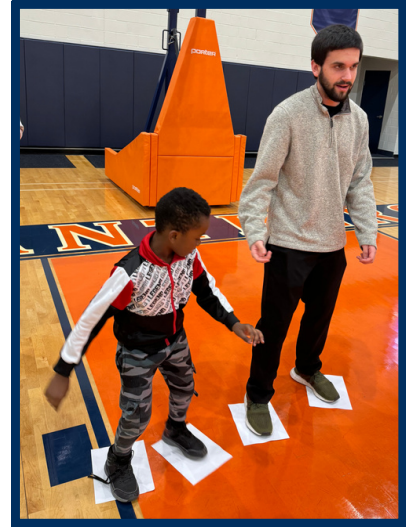


BCS is always looking for talented, Christ-centered faculty and staff members! Please check out the link if you are interested in opportunities at BCS
<https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>.

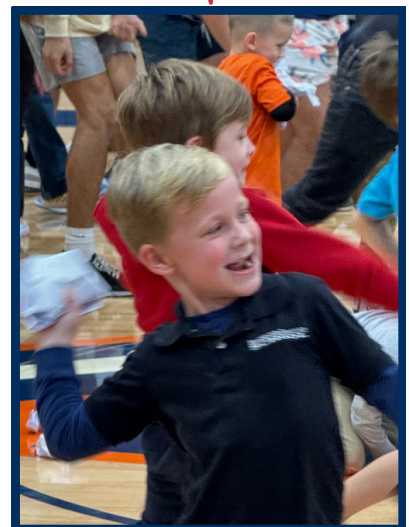
If a loved one of yours wants to receive The Panther Press or you want to feature a story about BCS, please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

Panther Press Spotlight

This month for our Cubby Buddy event, we decided to do an indoor snowball fight and ice skating, Florida style! Seniors look forward to these events as much as the Kindergarteners. The joy and laughter that radiates from each opportunity these groups are able to share is a pure blessing. We love the relationships that build and grow from Cubby Buddies.



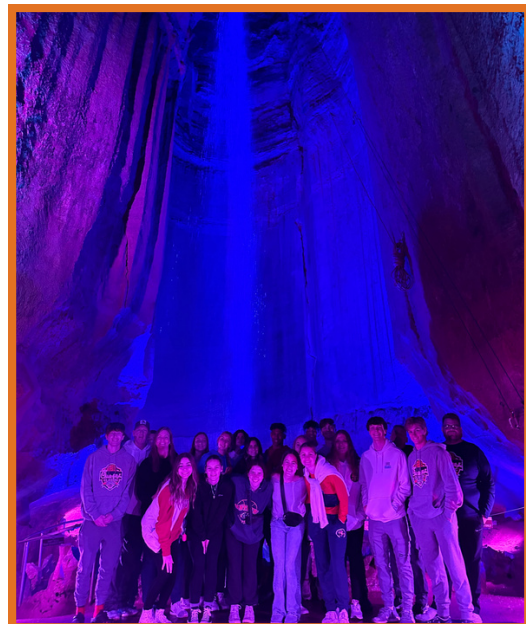
Cubby Buddy Time



Campus News

Interim for our High School Students

Every other year Interim takes place at BCS. The purpose of interim is to provide high school students and faculty opportunities to learn and teach in areas outside the regular classroom. It is our desire to offer courses which will enhance our students with broader perspective of education, as well as strengthen them spiritually. There are many offerings both near and far that students have the ability to dive into. This year some students traveled internationally to Madrid & Athens, London & France, while some students stayed local enjoying Anna Maria Island, Key West and Tennessee even several opportunities for learning on campus. Students even have the option to do independent studies and career shadowing. We hope you enjoy the stories from a few of the trips on the following pages.



Campus News

Interim: Anna Maria Island Adventure

Reported by Mrs. Behm

A beautiful bonding time was had on Anna Maria Island by ten girls, Mrs. Behm, and Ms. Yates! We enjoyed our beautiful home with a rooftop balcony and all the amenities. We were able to start our day taking in the beauty of God's world at the beach as we did gratitude journaling and stretching. Three professionals visited us to bless us with their talents of hair décor, nails, and a professional photo shoot. We shopped a lot, traveling from our beach house to Pine Avenue by bicycle and to Bridge Street via the beach trolley for putt-putt. The Monkey Bus took us to the Causeway for kayaking and lunch. Despite the gloomy weather, we were blessed to be together and enjoy girl time!





Campus News



Interim: Madrid-Athens Adventure

Reported by Mrs. Klierer

The 2024 Madrid-Athens Interim trip was amazing! Twenty-two students, Mr. Arango, and Mrs. Klierer spent 10 busy days touring historic landmarks, enjoying local cuisine, and experiencing God's beautiful creation. From a traditional flamenco show, the historic Spanish cities of Toledo and Segovia, and shopping in Madrid to the impressive Acropolis and beautiful Greek islands in Athens, we did A LOT in 10 days! Students were able to practice their conversational Spanish skills, and did a great job! While it may have been cold at times, this was an unforgettable trip with blessings and memories of a lifetime. Can't wait for next Interim year!



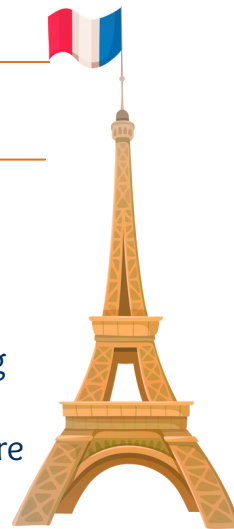


Campus News

Interim: London & France Adventure

Reported by Coach Werner

For Interim 2024 Mrs. Cunard and Coach Werner chaperoned 20 high school students on a 10 day trip to London, England and Paris, France. The trip began by flying into London and experiencing amazing sights such as The Crown Jewels, Big Ben, The Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace and immaculate views of the city from atop of The London Eye. Students were able to dive in London culture through unique dining experiences such as the Borough Market and shopping at Piccadilly Circus. A self guided tour of Warner Bros Studio offered amazing insights into the fascination of film and production. Following a great first half of the trip, students took the Eurostar to Paris, France where they got to experience the deep European history by exploring the Louvre Museum, seeing the Arc De Triomphe and eternal flame, and going to the top of the magnificent Eiffel Tower. Culinary staples such as pastries, macaroons and TikTok famous hot chocolate were enjoyed along with a fantastic day at Disney Paris. Through this trip everlasting memories and friendships were made. Such a blessing to explore a piece of God's world together with our BCS students.



Get Involved



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.

- All Pro Dads
- Moms in Prayer
- Check out our events that are coming up <https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved>
- To volunteer please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

Volunteers
needed

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/ministry/high-school>

- **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.

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

Announcements

Important Dates

- February 5- Family Association Meeting
- February 8- Strings Concert (Grades 5-12)
- February 8-22- **Re-enrollment**
- February 13- **Late Start**
- February 16- Grandparents Day (11:30 Dismissal)
- February 19- Presidents Day- **No School**
- February 20- **No School**



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 or call 941-792-5454, ext. 157 for more information.



Candy Grams sponsored by Key Club, will run from February 1-9, and delivered on February 14th. They will be sold before and after school in front of the high school and then also at both middle and high school lunches.

Loose Change Competition for Middle and High Schoolers, is sponsored by Key Club and runs from February 1-29. All money from both the Candy Grams and the Change Competition go towards The Leukemia Society.

Super Bowl Dress Down Day is on Friday February 9, for K-12th grade and is sponsored by the 5th grade class for their Tallahassee trip. Come decked out in your favorite Super Bowl Team jersey. Please be sure to follow dress code guidelines; no leggings, tank tops or short shorts.

Grandparents Day is right around the corner and we are so excited to celebrate all our Grandparents and Grandfriends. Elementary and Preschool students please make sure to fill your loved ones in on all the details that will take place on February 16, 2024.

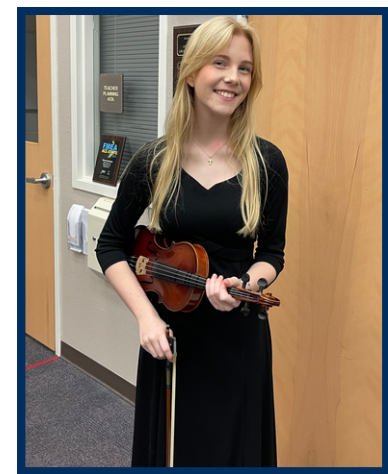
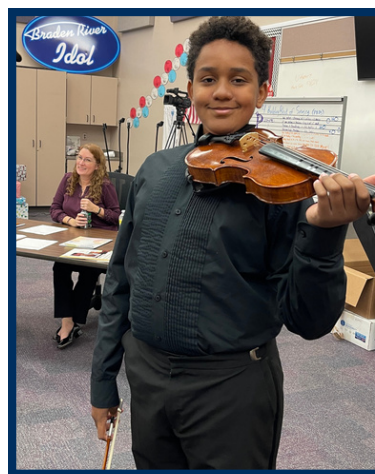
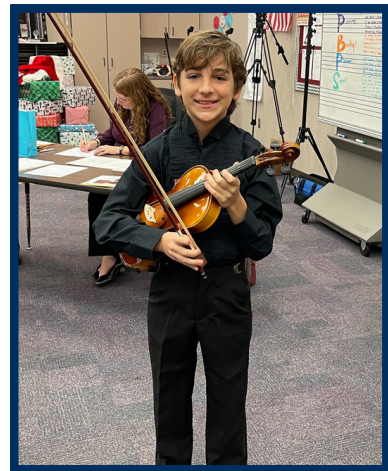


Announcements

Celebrating BCS Strings Students

By Mrs. Shell

A huge congratulations to our BCS string students who participated in the Florida Orchestra Association Solo & Ensemble event. There were ten soloist and one duet. All of our students received a "Superior" rating. That is the highest possible rating and an incredible accomplishment for our students! We are extremely proud of these musicians.



Announcements

The Drama Department Presents Anastasia



This dazzling show transports its audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love and family.

Performances

Dinner Theater:

This year a delicious dinner of baked penne with a red meat marinara sauce, Caesar salad, garlic bread, assorted cookies, and a white cake with a cheesecake mousse filling will be served to our dinner theatre guests.

Thursday, March 14 & Friday, March 15 @ 6PM

- Individual Tickets: \$27.50
- Table Sponsors: \$270 (Table of 8)

Standard Theater:

Saturday, March 16 – Standard Seating (Senior Night) @ 6pm

- Tickets: Adults - \$17.50/Children 10 & under - \$12.50
- Row Sponsors: \$270 (Row of 12)

TICKETING: Tickets available for purchase online at www.bcspanthers.org/student-life/drama

Announcements

BE THE ONE - Community Foundation Giving Challenge

Save the Date: April 9-10, 2024

Noon to Noon

We are gearing up to go **BANANAS** this year during the 2024 Community Foundation Giving Challenge! Our BCS Community always ROCKS the Community Foundation Giving Challenge when it is held every other year. **The Community Foundation Giving Challenge is a 24-hour event supported by The Patterson Foundation where every gift from \$25-\$100 is matched during this giving time.** Stay tuned for more information to come!



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Blessed with New Transportation

BCS was graciously gifted three new vans, thanks to an anonymous donor. The heart of this donation was to provide upgraded and safe transportation for our students. The vans hold 15 passengers which makes transporting our growing teams more efficient. We are so blessed to have a community of generous donors who allow God to work through them to see a need and fill it. Thank you for supporting our students and school.



Sports

Senior Night



Pictures courtesy
of Akiko Campbell



CLASS OF 2024



To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below
<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>

Sports

Girls Lacrosse

By Coach Wright

Girls Lacrosse season is officially in full swing! We had a great turnout for the optional practices over the last six weeks and 25 girls showed up for our tryouts. There is a lot of excitement for what this season will bring. This is my first year as the head coach for the program at BCS and I am blessed with a great coaching staff. Coach Alexis is the assistant coach, who shows her love for the Lord in all she does. She previously coached at ODA and two local club level programs. She played at Riverview HS and excelled there as well as on her club teams. I am so grateful to have her coach alongside me this year. Coach Bartz is coming back as a parent coach to help the new coaches with transitioning and development of new and young players. If you are interested in helping as well with the team in this manner, please contact me, **Coach Wright at bwright@bcspanthers.org**.

This year we have three amazing senior players, Natalie, Jordan, and Teagan, with offers for lacrosse already coming in for some of them. There is a lot of amazing talent and heart already with the team and I'm excited to see the growth of the team and program.

This season our team word is "Unity." Our motto is that "whatever we do, we do it together, in a positive, uplifting way, as a team, on and off the field." I want to see our girls showing a Christ-like character to each other and to others, knowing that we are there for one another no matter what. Our team verse is Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." The coaches' desire this season, is for the girls to grow in their relationship with Christ and to play lacrosse with Christ-like intention. I spoke to the parents at the parents meeting and said, "If we lose every game but the girls have a better and closer relationship with Jesus and are playing for His glory and acting as witnesses for His kingdom, then I will consider this season a win. But if we win each game and they do not learn how to be better women of God, then this season will be a loss for me." My desire is for them to glorify God through all their gifts and talents and know the purpose that God has for them as women of the kingdom.

As we start our season, we invite you to come and support the girls in this lacrosse program. We are excited to show our hard work and dedication. Go Panthers!



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 BCS 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.



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