

Bradenton Christian School

Panther Press

Ph: 941-792-5454

May 2024

www.bcspanthers.org

Congratulations Class of 2024



Bradenton Christian School Class of 2024

Jaden Baker
Brett Balais
Olivia Berg
Dillon Bishop
Olivia Blank
Piyawat Boonyasiriwat
Benjamin Bradshaw
Micah Campbell
Austin Capps
Luke Charron
Rebecca Compton
Blake Copeman
Julio Correa
Jace Craft
Mikaela Culhane
Ethan Cunard
Eleanor Dalman
Dominic DeFrank
Landon Dempsey
Launa Derosia
Finley Duncan
Allison Feikema

Collier Fuller
Michelle Fuller
Kaylie Funderburke
Devin Gooby
Natalie Griffith
Jordan Gross
Joela Hammond
Alena Hollaar
Simon Holton
Chloe Huth
Celine Ith
Jayden Jarvis
Abigail Jeter
Kuyper Johnson
Kristina Krikke
Joshua Langborgh
Jesus Lopez
Christina Magloire
Michael Marotta
Alex Martin
Joel Martin
Abigail McSwain*

Nathaniel Meloro
Katherine Mercer
Charles Nelson
Anthony Nguyen
Jordon Pasco
Syrus Pentecost
Jayden Perea
Chelsea Pierre-Louis
Reid Price*
Madison Reynolds
Alessandro Rincon
Hannah Roden
Jordan Rowland
Fischer Schmidt
Claire Shallcross
John Shetler
Hunter Smith
Sofia Srodek
Cooper Stark
Teagan Stermer
Olivia Stream
Allison Strite

Ty Townsend
Noah Van Eerden
Jyathniel Volcy
Abigail Vreman
Adisyn Walinga
Brody Walker
Carly Weaver
Charlotte West
Brett Woolery
Italo Zagaceta



***Faculty Outstanding Senior Award & Valedictorian- Reid Price**

***Salutatorian- Abigail McSwain**

Panther Press Spotlight

*Thank you for
going above
& beyond.*



Our BCS Community is bidding farewell to some cherished teachers and administrators who are retiring or moving on to new adventures. Your dedication and passion have profoundly impacted countless lives, and your presence will be deeply missed. As you set out on this new chapter, we wish you joy, health, and fulfillment in all your future endeavors. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to our community especially, our students. God's blessings to you!

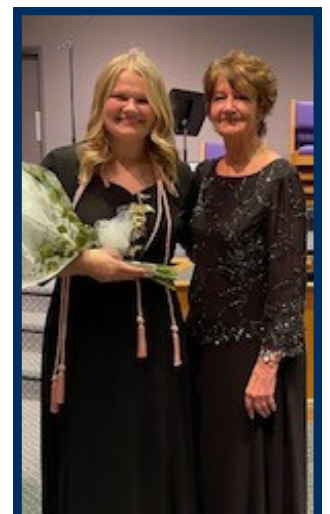


Thank You Mrs. Jones!

Mrs. Jones, you have been a staple to the BCS community for 30 years. Your smiling face greets families everyday and will truly be missed. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our students, staff and faculty. We know your next steps are well earned and we pray you take time to soak in all the moments God has for you. Wishing you many blessings as you go and enjoy your retirement.

Thank you Miss Shell

This spring we had an unforgettable evening at the Strings Spring Concert featuring four incredible groups: Prelude, Divertimento, Symphonic, and Philharmonic! This concert marks Miss Shell's final performance after 10 years of dedication and passion. Thank you Miss Shell for all you have added to our music program. Your talent and love for the students is beautiful. We celebrate you and the legacy you have kindly given to BCS.



Pray For Our Leaders



Linda Dahnke is no stranger to the BCS campus. Her love for Christian education and our students is beautifully evident. She served as the interim High School Principal last school year and has recently accepted the role of Superintendent. Ms. Dahnke was born and raised in Indiana, and visited Florida several times a year, making it feel like home. In fact, when Linda was a freshman at Calvin College (now Calvin University) and on one of the many trips to Bradenton, she asked her parents to ride by Bradenton Christian School and informed them that "I am going to teach there someday." After graduating with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education with a concentration in Special Education K-12, Linda started a program for students with Multiple Handicaps in Southern Indiana. She moved to Michigan for "TWO" YEARS. During her TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS in Michigan, she taught in the Academic Support Classroom, worked as a Guidance Counselor, served as the Assistant Principal, and finally ended up as the High School Principal. She completed her degree in Educational Leadership during this time. After moving to Chattanooga, TN, she was the Head of School at Chattanooga Christian Elementary School for five years and then the Head of School at Belvoir Lutheran School for one year. During this time, Linda earned her Master's in Autism Spectrum Disorder from Grand Canyon University. When she finally moved to Bradenton, her goal of teaching at BCS was fulfilled and she served as the lead teacher in the Learning Center/Enrichment program before retiring in 2023 for a SHORT "TWO" WEEKS.

Linda adopted her daughter, Shelby, when she was two months old and they have been a package deal ever since. You will find Shelby in the cafeteria every day, where she volunteers. When Linda is not at school, she loves working in her yard, which is always a work-in-progress. Linda and Shelby love to go to the beach and travel to many different places. They also enjoy hanging with their two four-legged babies, Toby, a nine-year old, 159-pound Shepherd, and Samantha, a three-year old, who is the craziest dog ever owned. Linda is so excited to continue to serve at BCS with the team that is in place. She believes that BCS is heading back to a strong Covenantal Christian School and feels so blessed to work with this faculty/staff, the amazing students and their families, and most importantly to serve God in His school.

Pray For Our Leaders



We are thrilled to announce that Matt Ruta has joined Bradenton Christian School as the new **Secondary Principal**. 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. He has served as an 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 Matt joined us as a Panther!

Mrs. Stephanie Edmonds has been serving as the BCS Admissions Director for the past two years, and recently has accepted the role as Elementary Principal. Stephanie was born and raised in Florida. After graduating from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and from St. Leo University with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, she started her career in Pasco County. Her family then moved to Louisiana for a pastoral position for her husband. For almost seven years she served as the principal of a private Christian school in Baton Rouge before returning to Florida. Mrs. Edmonds has been married to her husband, Zach, for sixteen years. When she's not at work you can find her traveling with their daughter, Emma, a competitive gymnast, and enthusiastically cheering on their son, Graham, at baseball games. You can often find their Boston terrier, Louie, with them at the ball field.



Campus News

Closing out our Senior's 2024 school year with the last Cubby Buddy event



Campus News

Outstanding Middle School Student Award



The Outstanding Student Award is presented to a current 8th grade student who encompasses all four characteristics of encouragement, positive attitude, self-control, and spiritual boldness. Colton Chaney represents Bradenton Christian school in such a way that his teachers and peers recognize these qualities in him. The scripture on the plaque is I Timothy 4: 12 which reads, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

Cobb Center for Career and Technical Education

The Cobb family's commitment to fostering technical education through the Introduction to Construction class at BCS is commendable. Aaron Cobb's leadership as both teacher and operations manager at Performance Technical Services (PTS) highlights his dedication to empowering students with foundational skills for the construction industry. The program is accredited by the National Center for Construction and Education and Research (NCCER), and has a track record spanning seven years, providing students with a solid foundation in construction fundamentals. The class prepares individuals for entry level positions on project sites by providing the basics in safety (which includes OSHA 10 certification), hand and power tools, construction math, material handling, construction drawings, and employability skills. The opportunity for students to transfer credits to institutions like Manatee Technical College (MTC) underscores the program's value in preparing individuals for entry-level positions and further education in the field.

Aaron has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management from the University of Florida, and is the NCCER Certified Master Trainer for PTS, who sponsors the class. The instrumentation trainer designed and procured by PTS demonstrates the ongoing commitment to innovation and providing students with hands-on learning experiences. Moreover, the involvement of Ron, Stuart, Aaron, and Ryan Cobb in advisory committees at MTC showcases their broader commitment to advancing construction education in the community. Their collective efforts reflect a genuine desire to see students succeed and explore diverse opportunities in the construction industry. A special thank you to the Cobb Family!



Campus News

Art Show

Congratulations to the High School winners of this year's art show! 1st place 2D, Chloe Shunk, 2nd place 2D, Launa Derosia, 3rd place Kamryn Benigni, 1st place 3D, Emily Allyn, 2nd place 3D, Ethan Fischer, 3rd place 3D, Avery Clover, Best in Show, Katie Brooks. Special thanks to Debbie Snow, this year's special judge.



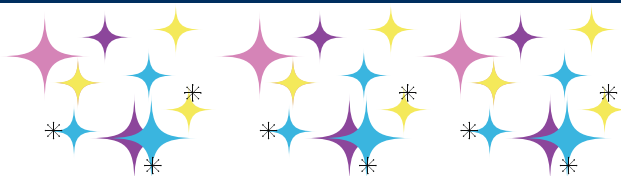
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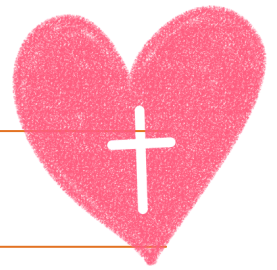
Campus News

Sock Hop

The 7th Grade English classes finished reading “The Outsiders” and celebrated overcoming stereotypes by hosting a Sock Hop! The 7th grade parents helped organize the event and added some fun with a soda fountain and photo booth. The students played games and danced to music from the 1960’s. DJ and parent, Jose Ramirez from Outrageous Camps, was the MC and host who made the event an absolute success.



Get Involved



Thank You from The Hermann Family

To Our Treasured BCS Family,
We are forever grateful and appreciative of the most generous support you have blessed our family with, not only these past few months, but also the many previous years. Weston's amazing recoveries each time is a true testament of all the love and prayers that have covered him despite each set back. You are evidence that God and good exists in this tough world and that we are nothing without our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. May God's glory shine in this situation for the whole world to see. Thank you from the truest part of our hearts, The Hermann Family



Church Connection

Throughout the school year we connect with several local churches to guide our youth to stay "plugged in" and growing in Christ. Please check out the website links below for summer youth activities and VBS programs.

- **Bradenton CRC:**
<https://bradentoncrc.org/ministries>
- **Bayside Community Church:**
<https://www.mybayside.church/ministries/bayside-youth>
- **West Bradenton Baptist:**
<https://fortheneighborhood.com/students/>
- **Grace Community Church:**
<https://www.gracesarasota.com/ministry/high-school>
- **North River:**
<https://www.gonorthriver.org/students>
- **The Bridge Church:**
<https://www.bridgechurchfl.com/students>
- **First Baptist Church of Bradenton:**
<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.

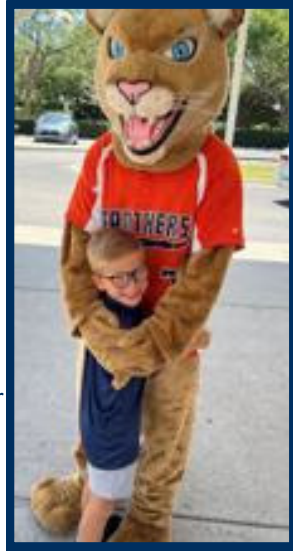


Announcements

SAVE
THE DATE

A Big Panther Thank You

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful support this year! God has blessed BCS once again! Our goal was to raise \$400,000 to keep tuition affordable and to help our BCS families. We also raise funds throughout the year to help with various needs. Every gift, whether small or large, makes an impact!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SURPASS OUR GOAL!

Here is our update from this school year:

Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament - We welcomed 96 players netting \$14,000 for the athletic department ice baths for student health and wellness.

BCS Harvest Blessings Family Auction - We had over 325 in attendance and raised over \$154,000 for BCS.

Giving Tuesday - We raised over \$76,000 with 115 donors participating.

BE THE ONE Community Foundation Giving Challenge-The Community Foundation of Sarasota along with The Patterson Foundation helped 724 organizations placing BCS at 39th in most funds raised. Overall, we had 261 donations and raised overall around \$100,000.

Annual Fund & Other General Donations - BCS was blessed with over \$80,000 in church offerings, general, and Annual Fund donations.

Praise God! We are truly blessed beyond measure, and we thank you for helping Prepare the Hearts and Minds of God's Children. Have a great summer!
Heidi Sikkema, BCS Director of Advancement

BCS BEAUTIFICATION DAY

Saturday, August 3, 2024

- Meet at the Elementary School front entry
- Gather 8:30am & Work 9-11:30am
- Fellowship Lunch 11:30am

Important Dates

- A Sign Up Genius will be coming soon with information for the Beautification Day on August 3, 2024.
- Fall Sports begin July 29, please refer to <https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics> with recent updates for athletic clearance and forms required for student athletes.
- Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament is set for September 27, 2024.



Summer Sports Camps



<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/2024-summer-schedule>



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.



Tennis

BCS Tennis would like to thank USTA Florida Section Foundation for their support this season!

The USTA Florida Section Foundation provided new tennis equipment for the school and financial support for the program. We are so thankful for their support and proud of all our tennis players this season!

Varsity Boys that went to districts and made the semi-finals in singles:

- Alex Martin
- Carter Young
- Blake Van Eerden
- Jeffrey Undorf

Varsity Boys that went to districts and made the semi-finals in doubles:

- Alex Martin & Anthony Nguyen
- Carter Young & Blake Van Eerden

Varsity Girl that went to districts and won in singles:

- Nathalie Buky

Varsity Girls that went to districts and won in doubles:

- Vika Vikulina & Brooke Woolery

Middle School Kids that went to districts:

- Ben Bailey
- Adeliene DuToit
- Emma Golda
- Isa Kinter
- Isaac McSwain
- Ben Bailey & Adeliene DuToit won doubles.



 **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Varsity Sports Awards

**Male Son Light Award
Reid Price**



**Female Son Light Award
Faith Allen**



CONGRATULATIONS

**Female Athlete of the Year
Teagan Stermer**



**Male Athlete of the Year
Anthony Nguyen**



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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