

BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# WELCOME BACK PANTHERS

## Panther Press

AUGUST 2024



### IN THIS ISSUE



FROM THE  
SUPERINTENDENT



PANTHER SPOTLIGHT-  
WELCOME TO THE  
FAMILY!



GET INVOLVED



ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND  
EVENTS



THANK YOU SPONSORS



**STEADFAST** IS THE  
SCHOOL THEME  
FOR '2024-'2025.

"The Lord is gracious and  
merciful, slow to anger and  
abounding in **STEADFAST** love."

Psalm 145:8



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[WWW.BCSPANTHERS.ORG](http://WWW.BCSPANTHERS.ORG)

# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



"LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR; THEY DO NOT SOW OR REAP OR STORE AWAY IN BARNES, AND YET YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FEEDS THEM. ARE YOU NOT MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN THEY? CAN ANY ONE OF YOU BY WORRYING ADD A SINGLE HOUR TO YOUR LIFE?"

- MATTHEW 6:26-27

My parents gave me a hard time because I always felt sorry for the trees and plants when we had a good ol' summer thunderstorm. I would see them bend and move with the wind and wilt from the rain and occasional hail. Yet, by the next morning, they would stand just as tall as if nothing had ever happened. As might be expected, I was concerned about the birds and all the wild animals a couple of weeks ago when Tropical Storm Debby dumped so much rain on our community. They seemed to fare well because they took advantage of the abundance of water as soon as the rain stopped.

As we are beginning a new school year, I cannot begin to tell you all the times this summer that a strong sense of doubt ran through my mind about taking on this leadership position. Many of us do not handle change well and I knew that this year was going to be known for many changes. The verse above was quite reassuring to me because I know that God is already in this school year and He is always, always, always in control. Everything that is going to happen this year, He already knows.

For some of you, this may not have been the summer of your dreams. There were illnesses, issues with elderly parents, divorce, death, floods, and the list goes on. And yet, there were births, and cures, and successful surgeries, family vacations, and many, many answers to prayers.

As our students, both young and old, head back to school, we need to remember that God is faithful and He will carry us through whatever season in life we find ourselves. Trust that His plans for you and your family are good- just as He cares for the birds, and the trees, and all of His Creation. He will watch over you and every one of us. Take time today to pray for your student's growth and friendships throughout this school year. It is going to be great to see what He accomplishes this year!

In His Steadfast Love,

*Linda Dahneke*

BCS Interim Superintendent



BETTER  
TOGETHER



## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Kim is currently a BCS parent and is looking forward to stepping into the assistant principal role for the 2024-2025 school year. With over 18 years in education, Kim has served as a middle and high school teacher and a school administrator in both Christian and public school settings. She was on the leadership team at Quisqueya Christian School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti during rising insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately relocating with her family to Bradenton as a result of the worsening instability in the country. She holds a Master's Degree in Teaching from Texas Woman's University and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Texas A&M University. She is eager to contribute her international experience and combined perspective as a parent, teacher, and school administrator to deepen the trust among all members of the BCS community while upholding shared values and the school's mission. Kim and her husband, John, have been married for 14 years and have three daughters, Kailey (11), Olivia (9), and Jaycie (2), as well as a spunky little dog named Sushi. Kim and her family are currently attending Harbor Community Church in Bradenton.



**Secondary Assistant Principal**  
KIM GRYGLEWICZ

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Originally from Kentucky, Amy moved around the midwest before settling in Bradenton 14 years ago. She began teaching in 2009 and she has honed her skills in a diverse range of private schools working with middle and high school students. Specializing in English literature and diverse learning needs, Amy enjoys nurturing a love for literature and fostering a spirit of inquiry and exploration in her classroom. In addition to her professional interests, Amy enjoys reading and engaging in various artistic pursuits. She graduated from Murray State University with a degree in English Literature and a minor in Journalism. She has two children, Emma, 17, and Caleb, 11. The family attends First Baptist Church Palmetto.



**11th grade British Lit/AP**  
Amy Sietsma

*Amy Sietsma*

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Tyler is currently a software project manager for the eGain Corporation in Tampa and is thrilled to be joining BCS as the new String Orchestra Director. In addition to his career in technology, Tyler is a professional music composer and multi-instrumentalist, having won global composition competitions for orchestra, band, and woodwind ensembles. He also serves as Music Director and Lead Guitarist on The Bridge Church worship team. He holds a Master's Degree in IT from the University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Tyler and his wife, Erin, met in Indiana during high school marching band and have been married for 5 years. They have a miniature poodle, Dexter, and enjoy dancing, pickleball, and scuba diving.



**Strings Director**  
Tyler Habig

*Tyler Habig*

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Bethany is originally from Charlottesville, Virginia. She graduated from Taylor University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She has taught lower school, English as a second language, middle school math, and Childbirth Education. She enjoys running, cooking, and reading. Bethany has been married to her husband and best friend for 23 years. They have the pleasure of raising their children, Kellen, Beckham, and Elle who will be attending BCS this year. Together they enjoy good food, watching sports, time outside, and just being a family. She is thrilled to be a part of the BCS family once again as she was a student at BCS a long time ago! Bethany greatly anticipates being able to biblically teach both the mind and the heart of her students!



**3rd Grade Teacher**  
Bethany Ulrich

*Bethany Ulrich*

# PANTHER PRESS SPOTLIGHT

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Tori Boehme, and her family are from Fort Wayne, Indiana. She graduated from Purdue University Fort Wayne with her master's in Special Education. She has been teaching in the public school setting for the last 7 years, working with various student populations and demographics, from Kindergarten to Adult Learners. Along with her husband, Kody, they are thrilled for themselves and their two girls to join the BCS Family. Tori's dream of teaching on the same campus as her daughters is coming true! She is most excited about moving from a public school setting to a private school setting, where we can openly discuss our faith and demonstrate our love for Jesus. This is such an exciting time and adventure for their family!

*Tori Boehme*



**Learning Services**  
Tori Boehme

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Kathryn Compton, a Florida native and USF Early Childhood Education graduate, joins us in 3rd grade from Miller Elementary with 18 years of teaching experience. Married to Brad for two decades, they enjoy family life with daughters Rachel, starting 9th grade, and Rebecca, embarking on her journey at FSU. Kathryn finds solace in hiking and paddle boarding, passions she shares with Brad, an avid golfer. Recently taking up golf herself, Kathryn enjoys exploring this new hobby alongside family activities. The Compton's are active members at Water's Edge Church and locally worship at Faith Baptist Palmetto. Kathryn is most excited to share her love of reading with her students, develop close relationships with the BCS community, and can't wait to see how God uses her in this new role.

*Kathryn Compton*



**3rd Grade Teacher**  
Kathryn Compton

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Caryn is looking forward to teaching science and becoming part of the BCS community. Before moving to Florida this summer, she has taught at a variety of settings around the world, including an international Christian school in Vienna, Austria, public middle school and community college in Texas, a Department of Defence Elementary school in Okinawa, Japan, private school in Washington, DC, and public high school in New Mexico. She has a bachelor of science from Wheaton College and a masters degree in Entomology (the study of insects!) from the University of Massachusetts. She has two children, Haakon (18 and will be a freshman at UF in the fall) and Sonja (16), in her free time, Caryn enjoys doing outdoorsy things with her family and dog, gardening, baking, crochet, and exploring our beautiful world.

*Caryn Davis*



**High School Science**  
Caryn Davis

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Erin Rainer is thrilled to join the 1st grade team. She graduated from Campbellsville University with a Bachelor of Science degree in K-12 Health and PE. She's received her Master's of Education degree in Teaching and Learning from Southeastern University. She has previous experience teaching 2nd grade, Music, 7th and 8th grade Health and PE, and K-5. This next school year her children are entering 9th, 8th, 3rd, and 2nd grade at BCS. Originally from Kentucky, her husband's job at West Bradenton Baptist Church brought them to Bradenton 9 years ago. They have loved living in Bradenton and all it has to offer! Erin also coaches the middle school girls' basketball team and enjoys any sports activities. She is looking forward to this upcoming school year.

*Erin Rainer*



**2nd Grade Teacher**  
Erin Rainer

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

With 17 years of experience teaching English as a Second Language and Spanish, Jennie has had the privilege of teaching in Australia, Spain, and the US, primarily within Christian schools. Her teaching experience spans elementary Spanish, exploratory Spanish, and high school Spanish 1 & 2. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a minor in Spanish from UCF, and is currently pursuing her master's degree. Outside of teaching, she is passionate about travel and has explored over 21 countries. She also coordinates and manages immersion programs for high school students in Spain. Her family recently relocated from the Orlando area, they have 3 children, Marc (16), Elena (13), and Daniel (10). As a family, they enjoy discovering new cities, traveling, visiting the beach, and attending their athletic games together. She is excited about the opportunity to continue shaping the hearts of her students and becoming a part of the BCS family.

*Jennie Santucci*



**Spanish Teacher**  
Jennie Santucci



# PANTHER PRESS SPOTLIGHT

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Jon was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, he has two brothers, two sisters, five sons, three grandchildren and three small dogs. He has been a Christian for over 50 years. Jon loves the Lord and really enjoys teaching and referring sports. He has over twenty five years of sports officiating and coaching experience. He taught for over fifteen years in two private schools in California. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Grace University, an MA from Talbot Seminary and has completed one year of education classes from National University. Being a team player, caring for and helping students learn in a safe environment and building and maintaining good relationships with students and parents are important to him. He is very excited to be apart of the BCS staff and looks forward to this coming school year.

*Jon Wallasky*



**Middle School Math**

Jon Wallasky

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Jo-Ann is the mother of two BCS Almuni and is excited to begin a new adventure at Bradenton Christian School working with and getting to know the students and staff. Jo-Ann is a 1990 RN graduate of the P.E.I. School of Nursing in Prince Edward Island, Canada. She moved to Bradenton in 1991, to fulfill her dream of working as a nurse in Florida, where she met her husband (on a blind date) in 1993. Jo-Ann and her husband, Norm, were married in 1994 and have 2 boys, Noah and Isaac, both of whom attended BCS from Pre School to graduation - Class of 2018 and Class of 2022. While her boys were attending BCS, Jo-Ann worked substitute teaching and was very involved with their field trips, as well as their class and sporting events. In her spare time, Jo-Ann enjoys reading and going to the beach - preferably both at the same time, and going for walks with her sweet 6 year old rescue dog, Copper. Jo-Ann and her family attend Bradenton Christian Reformed Church.

*Jo-Ann Meekhof*



**Secondary Study Hall**

Jo-Ann Meekhof

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Amy has been a BCS parent since 2013, when her now 11th grade son Connor first started Kindergarten. Cade an 8th grader, and Charis a 5th grader eventually followed their older brother. She and her husband Geoff moved to Bradenton to help plant Harbor Community Church. Amy received a teaching certificate from Bridgewater College, and later earned a Masters in Biblical Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. Having taught in public elementary schools, as well as having served in youth and children's ministry for over 20 years, she is looking forward to teaching the Bible to 6th-7th graders at Bradenton Christian School.

*Amy Henderson*



**Bible Teacher**

Amy Henderson

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Robin is originally from a small town in NC (King) where she worked with the public school system for 14 years. She just moved to Bradenton last August. She's been married for 30 years to her high school sweetheart. Robin has 2 children, both her son and daughter are grown. She attends Westside Christian Church and is excited to be a part of the 2nd grade team at BCS!!! She knows the Lord has placed her here for a purpose and is ready to see what this school year holds!!

*Robin Bentley*



**2nd Grade Aide**

Robin Bentley

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Kristi recently moved back to Bradenton from South Africa, where she worked as a gospel community associate for her church. She is passionate about discipleship and is excited to bring that passion to BCS. She is married to her husband Cameron and has two boys, Mason, aged 12, and Ayden, almost 6, who will be attending BCS this year. As a proud BCS graduate, she is thrilled to rejoin the BCS family as staff and contribute to the smooth running of the elementary school. She loves the beach and is so grateful to be near it once more. She looks forward to being part of this wonderful community again.

*Kristi Brown*



**Elementary Assistant**

Kristi Brown

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Born and raised in Indiana, Lyndee met her husband, Josiah, at Indiana University. His career took them from Indiana to Illinois, to Florida, and back to Indiana. She previously worked at BCS as a math teacher and will now be teaching Geometry and Learning Services. The people who fill BCS make it a special place, and they are eager to jump back into the community. Their family, including Tinley (grade 8), Bo (grade 5), and Kai (future Panther), are looking forward to returning to the sunshine state and growing together with Christ followers at BCS.

*Lyndee Sears*



**Geometry & Learning Services**  
Lyndee Sears

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Molly has been married to her husband, Travis, for 18 years and they have 4 kids (London 9th, Logan 7th, Declan 4th, Brooklyn 3rd). They have been at BCS since 2019, when they moved to Florida from New Jersey. Molly enjoys spending time with her family and cheering on her kids on at their various sports and activities. She has had a great time serving at BCS in volunteer roles since they moved here and she looks forward to officially being a part of the 3rd grade team!

*Molly Biggs*



**3rd Grade Aide**  
Molly Biggs

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

Kate Kremer joins the BCS family and will be teaching High School Social Studies this year. She grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, but has spent the last 7 years in Des Moines, Iowa. She enjoys traveling, camping, and going on adventures, she especially loves exploring in Nation Parks. Kate is passionate about history and sharing that knowledge with her students. She is so excited to see what awesome things God will do this year at BCS.

*Kate Kremer*



**HS Social Studies**  
Kate Kremer

## Welcome TO THE TEAM

After taking some time off from teaching, the Lord led Ally to BCS. She started at BCS in March 2024, but this will be her first full year and she couldn't be more excited! Even her 4-year-old daughter, who is starting VPK, is excited to go to "Jesus School." Ally was born and raised in Bradenton, and recently her and her husband purchased their first home here. Their family attends The Bridge Church and are very active, as her husband serves on the security team, she work in the children's ministry, and just started on the worship team. She is most excited to get back to her love of reading and teaching literature, with the Lord at the center!

*Ally Henderson*



**High School English**  
Ally Henderson

*Welcome*

# GET INVOLVED



## Calling ALL PANTHER PARENTS!

The Panther Parents is an organized volunteer group to help promote the school's mission and come alongside the school to help facilitate events and coordinate volunteerism. Current parents and guardians are automatically a part of this group. This group is also open to alumni and grandparents who desire to volunteer for Bradenton Christian School.

This group will operate off suggested dues of \$50 and/or donations (The \$50 is a suggestion, not a requirement to be a part of Panther Parents. Dues and donations are a tax write off.) The dues/donations will help cover the cost of staff appreciation throughout the year and any other needs that arise at BCS with approval from administration. We are excited to support BCS in so many ways!

Looking to dive in? Current Panther Parent opportunities that are open:

- Carousel's Creamery Parent Playground Day-  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44A9AE29A6FAC70-50861817-carousels>
- BCS Spiritual Retreat Weekend- [Work Crew: BCS Spiritual Retreat Weekend \(signupgenius.com\)](#)
- Auction- Are you connected in the community? Do you know local business owners? We are looking for volunteers to help gather items for the auction and sponsorships. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bowman at [abowman@bcspanthers.org](mailto:abowman@bcspanthers.org)



## 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:

- **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](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

## ★ **LABOR** ★ ★★★★ **DAY** ★★★★★



### Important Dates

- September 2- Labor Day No School
- September 3- Middle School Picture Day
- September 4- High School Picture Day
- September 5- Pre-K Picture Day
- September 10- LATE START
- September 17-18- Elementary Picture Day
- September 23- 9th & 12th Grade Parent Workshop
- September 27- Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament (No School)
- September 27-29- Spiritual Retreat

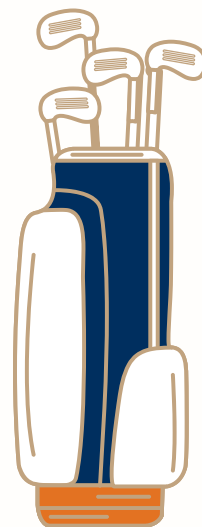
### Late Start Details

- 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 need to register for Before School Care.
- Before School Care for students in K-5 will be offered from 7:40am – 8:40am for a fee, please register for Before School Care by clicking [HERE](#).
- If you have any questions, contact Kirsti Brown at [kbrown@bcspanthers.org](mailto:kbrown@bcspanthers.org) or call 941-792-5454, ext. 157.

### Bouwer Cup Golf Tournament

Join the fun on September 27, 2024. It's time to tee it up! Gather your team, be a sponsor, and support BCS! The event will be held at IMG Academy Golf Club with a shotgun start at 8:30am with lunch provided. Golf with your friends, students, coworkers or sign up individually and we will place you with a team. Click [HERE](#) to register and sponsor today!

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



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)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Welcome Center

The Welcome Center (front entrance of the Pentecost Athletic Center) is for all visitors, including parents, who will be on campus for an extended period of time. You will need your ID and be issued a visitor badge through our Raptor System.

All Middle School/High School lunches are to be dropped off at the Welcome Center so students are able to collect those as they pass through to the lunchroom. All other items may be dropped at either Middle School or High School reception areas.

To sign students in or out (tardy, leaving for/returning from appointments), please also go directly to the reception area of each school building.

## CAMPUS MAP



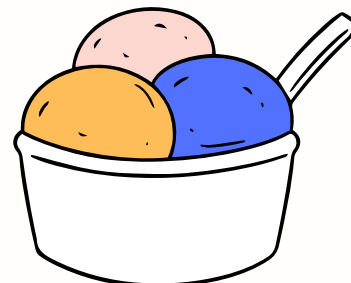
## Carousel's

On September 4, and every first Wednesday of the month, Bradenton Christian School and Carousel's Soft Serve Icery will provide students with the ultimate product and experience.

Carousels gives back 30% of all proceeds to our BCS student body organizations which benefits our elementary, middle, and high school activities. To sign up, please use the following link-

<https://carousels.com/fundraiser/bradenton-christian-school-2024/>

If you have any questions, please contact BobbiJo Norris at [bnorris@bcspanthers.org](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org)



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)

# Thank You Sponsors

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](mailto:bnorris@bcspanthers.org).

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Sharing God's Love  
One Sticker at a Time



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