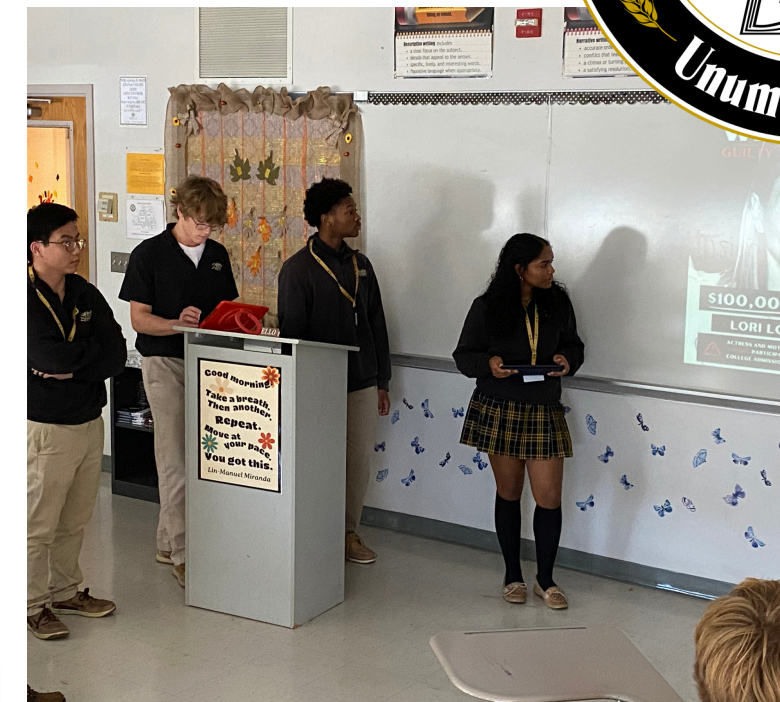


# BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

GOD | FAMILY | ACADEMICS | FUN





# MISSION STATEMENT



Berks Catholic High School is centered on the four pillars of God, Family, Academics and Fun. As a vibrant Christ-centered community, the Administration, Faculty and Staff are dedicated to providing a challenging academic environment for a diverse population of young men and women. Through Christian principles rooted in the Catholic tradition, we strive to positively impact our students spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally, so they can live productive lives of service in this world and attain eternal life.

## OUR BELIEFS...

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God and the Savior of the human race, is at the root of all that we are and all that we do as a Catholic High School. Our school is joyfully rooted in Christ, Who is truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist.
2. As a Catholic High School, we are faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to the mission, identity, and Magisterial teachings of His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.
3. Community Service is rooted in the two greatest commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ to love God and neighbor.
4. Parents and guardians are the primary educators and formators of their children. Our school partners with parents and guardians in the spiritual and academic formation of their children.
5. A diverse Catholic school community is a gift to be celebrated.
6. Quality faculty is integral to the success of the school because the administrators and teachers are the facilitators of learning who impart Christian values through daily interaction with the students.
7. A comprehensive curriculum is necessary to prepare young minds to meet the demands of a challenging 21st century.
8. Berks Catholic High School believes in a varied extracurricular program designed to engage students to use their God-given talents and encourage spiritual growth through teamwork.





## **Spiritual and Moral Values**

Everything we do begins with faith and ends with excellence. Each day, we help our students develop a strong foundation of Catholic values through prayer, study, and outreach. This occurs and is constantly reinforced not only in classes of religious instruction but throughout the curriculum and extracurricular activities. The Gospel's message is taught in our classrooms every day. Helping students see the value in a life of faith and service means they will carry these principles with them in their academic pursuits and throughout their lives.

## **Academics**

Berks Catholic is renowned for academic excellence. Students at Berks Catholic consistently score high on nationally standardized tests. We offer 21 Advance Placement Courses, dual enrollment and dual credit from local college and Universities.

## **Continued Education**

In a Catholic school, a child will be encouraged to further his or her education. The total number of Catholic high school graduates who continue their education is approximately 97 percent.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Berks Catholic students enjoy the benefits of a broad selection of extracurricular activities and 21 Varsity Sports to develop community commitment, social skills and physical fitness.

### **Parental Involvement**

## **Community Service**

Berks Catholic exemplifies the importance of living the message of the Gospels by helping others. All of our students participate in community service projects. Each year Berks Catholic Students complete over 10,000 hours of community service.

Parental involvement is a critical part of Berks Catholic. From education commissions to PTO, Booster Club, Extravaganza, Berks Catholic looks to parents for leadership.

## **Committed Faculty**

Our faculty is dedicated, caring and committed to the success of their students.





# Message from the Principal



Mr. John P. Petruzzelli  
Principal

Welcome to Berks Catholic High School!

Berks Catholic High School prepares students to be college ready and life ready! Guided by our 4 pillars of success: God, Family, Academics, and Fun, we strive to positively impact our students spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally so they can lead distinguished lives of service and to reach Heaven one day.

This commitment to excellence in these four areas is seen in our vibrant Christ-centered community, challenging academics, state-of-the-art facilities, our partnership with parents and guardians, in our retreat programs and community service opportunities, competitive athletics, in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and in the personal care and concern we show our students. Oh, and don't let me forget to tell you that we have fun at BC!

I invite you to learn more about Berks Catholic. Come visit and learn by asking us tough questions, exploring our campus, by chatting with current Saints and teachers and by visiting the school in person. I am confident you will be impressed with what you see, hear and feel.

As Principal of Berks Catholic, I am energized by the extraordinary community that I have discovered here of spirited students, caring faculty, involved parents and loyal alumni that genuinely love their school. If you are considering joining us, you have some exciting times ahead. I invite you to experience this same incredible feeling of welcoming and belonging that I have.

I can't wait to meet you! It's a great day to be a Saint – and I hope you will become one very soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Petruzzelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a white shadow effect behind the letters.

Mr. John P. Petruzzelli  
Principal





# from the Director of Admissions

Thank you for considering Berks Catholic! This view-book will provide information for you to familiarize yourself with Berks Catholic and the extraordinary things our school has to offer your child.

As Director of Admissions, I have the pleasure of meeting most students and their families before they become Saints, and have the privilege to work with so many of them during their high school years. Seeing the students incorporate Berks Catholic's core values each day reminds me how important the role is of our administration, faculty and staff. Our students are why we are all here, and their success is what motivates us.

We share your enthusiasm about your child's future, both at Berks Catholic and after. I am confident that our school will provide your child with a strong academic foundation while preparing for the future and to be College and Life Ready.

Berks Catholic takes pride on teaching and following the Gospel values while incorporating our four pillars of success: God, Family, Academics and Fun.

Teaching and growing with these core values will help guide your child towards a successful future.

Please contact me to find out how your son or daughter can **Be A Saint!**

[nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org) or 610.374.8361 ext. 244

God bless you and your families.

Go Saints!

Nicky Smith



"We love, care and respect our students for each of their God-given talents and abilities."







# A DOZEN REASONS TO CHOOSE BERKS CATHOLIC

1

We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

2

We partner with parents in the faith and formation of their children.

3

We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.

**BE  
COLLEGE  
AND LIFE  
READY**

**FINANCIAL  
AID  
AVAILABLE**

4

We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.

5

We use technology effectively to enhance education.

6

We instill in students the value of service to others.

7

We teach children respect of self and others.

8

We emphasize moral development and self discipline.

9

We prepare students to lead productive lives of service and to be future leaders.

**MAKE  
LIFE  
LONG  
FRIENDS**

10

97% of Catholic school students go on to college or university.

11

We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.

12

We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

[berkscatholic.org](http://berkscatholic.org)

JOHN R. POST LEARNING CENTER



# Help is never far away

Whether you need help with achieving your academic goals, planning your future, or working through a personal challenge - our faculty, staff and coaches are here to support you.





# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Student life at Berks Catholic is enhanced by our numerous extracurricular activities. Actors, musicians, gamers, bakers, debaters, public speakers, service oriented students, and more will all find opportunities for personal growth. The clubs and activities not only provide another dimension to the student experience, they also provide the opportunity for leadership. Our activities and clubs are student-formed and student-led. We believe that the best way for a Saint to learn leadership is to lead. At Berks Catholic being involved is the norm, not the exception. The reality is that an involved student is a successful student. Through our clubs, teams and activities a Saint is afforded a wide variety of opportunities for personal growth and success.

## A COMMITMENT to the ARTS

Berks Catholic takes our commitment to supporting the Arts very seriously. Our Performing Arts department is thriving. We firmly believe that young people's academic, spiritual and personal lives are enriched by their encounter with the the beauty, the mystery and the heritage of an arts-rich curriculum. Berks Catholic offers an array of different programs including musicals, plays, pep band, concerts, art shows, choir, concert band, string ensemble, Jazz band and more.

## LEADERSHIP AND INTEGRITY THROUGH ATHLETICS

Berks Catholic offers over 21 Varsity sports programs that offer a long tradition of excellence for our Saints to become part of something special. Saint athletes recognize that lessons learned in the classroom are complimented by those learned on the field, track, ice, mat, court, golf course or pool. Our athletic program is a seamless extension of what occurs at school. The Saints mission and identity are maintained and reinforced through our athletic programs. Saints Athletics promote confidence, hard work, dedication and sportsmanship.



“Berks Catholic set me up for success. Our teachers challenged us with demanding curricula and firm ethics. Being surrounded by other driven students pushed me to work hard and achieve my goals.”

Katie Ott  
Class of 2013







## ABOUT BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Choosing a Catholic education is a decision that is made with much thought, deliberation, and prayer; and we at Berks Catholic High School are excited to partner with you and your family. At Berks Catholic, the core of our mission are our four pillars: **God, Family, Academics and Fun** which help shape the development of our students spiritually, intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

**GOD:** We are a Catholic high school that is welcoming and respectful of all faiths and traditions. Because we are Christ-centered, the value and dignity of every individual is emphasized in all we do; and students are afforded opportunities and encouraged to cultivate their relationships with each other and with God.

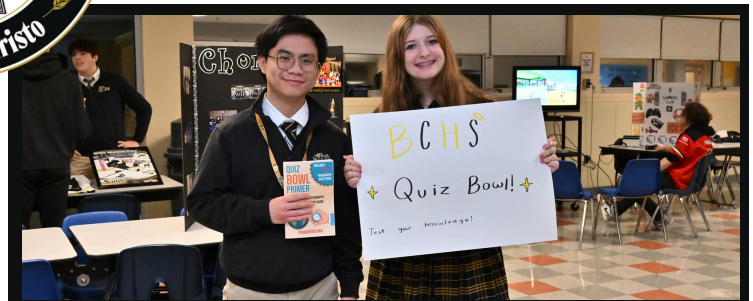
**FAMILY:** "It's like a family." An extraordinary sense of community is palpable at Berks Catholic as well. Holding true to Catholic and Christian traditions students have a responsibility to one another, are accountable for their actions, and have a built in support system that is an extension of their immediate family.

**ACADEMICS:** Caring, committed faculty challenge every student to realize their intellectual potential. In addition, each student receives individualized, college and career counseling from college admissions professionals. Traditionally, more than 95% of Berks Catholic students will pursue higher education immediately after graduation. The Class of 2023 received 24.66 million dollars in college scholarships & grants!

Berks Catholic offers the opportunity for academic success through a robust offering of College-Preparatory, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. Students who are more "hands-on" and technically inclined are able to enroll in a vocational track at the Berks Career and Technology Center while still pursuing a college-prep curriculum.

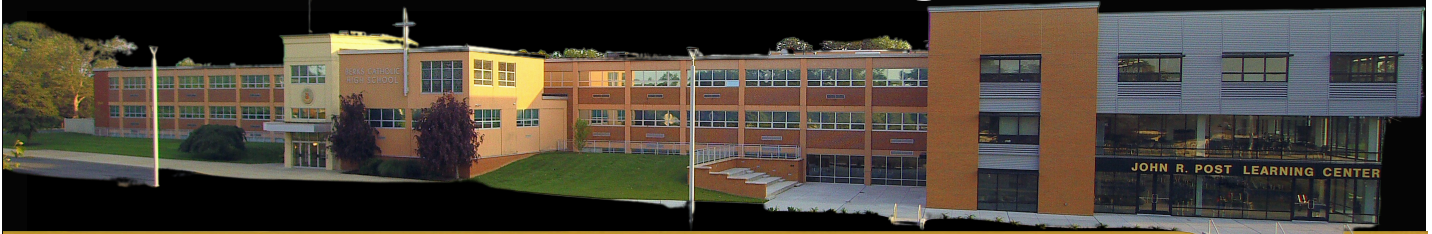
The Office of College & Career Counseling works with each student individually to help your child find the right fit for their life after Berks Catholic. Our Saints being "College & Life Ready" is something we take great pride in.

**FUN:** Our last pillar of success. At Berks Catholic High School, education extends beyond the classroom as our Saints are encouraged to develop their God-given talents and abilities and discover their passions in every area of their lives. Whether they are playing a sport, performing in a concert, writing an article, creating a piece of art, or volunteering their time, our Saints encounter countless opportunities for growth while having fun. Our clubs and activities provide opportunities for leadership, creativity, and the chance to bond with peers. Our Saints have fun in the classroom when appropriate and sometimes, fun just to have fun!





# Berks Catholic High School



## OPEN ENROLLMENT AND ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

- Accepting applications
  - 21 AP Classes
  - 4 yr.individualized College & Career Consulting
  - Caring & committed faculty
  - Financial Aid Available
  - Safe environment
  - Aceptamos aplicaciones
  - 21 clases de avanzada
  - 4 Anos de asesamiento universitario y profesional
  - Profesorado comprometido y atento
  - Ayuda financiera disponible
  - Ambiente seguro
- Students with Accomodations should send their educational testing & learning plan with application
  - Students who only came to Partner School in Grades 7 or 8 need to submit previous school discipline & attendance record and last report card from previous school
  - Acceptance can be denied for Discipline & Attendance

**BE A SAINT!**









# Athletics

At Berks Catholic we believe that Athletics are an integral part of the School's educational program. Each scholar athlete is encouraged to compete honorably and with integrity. As in academics, the athletic program provides powerful opportunities for students to strive for excellence, to deal courageously with adversity, and to learn how to live within and grow beyond their limitations. At all levels, the athletic program teaches the value of hard work to achieve meaningful goals, with attention given to skill development, conditioning, and fitness. We believe that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of a student's educational experience. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to God, the school, to the activity, to other students, to the community and to the athletes themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to achieve maximum benefit from his or her education.

Berks Catholic High School student activities are considered a complement to the school's spiritual and academic programs, which strive to provide experiences that will help to develop student's grow spiritually, mentally, socially, and emotionally.







# FINANCIAL AID

## How to apply:

1. Application and registration fee must be submitted before you can apply.
2. STS Aid applications are done online beginning January 1, 2025.

**MYTH** Getting my application for aid in first will assure me financial aid.

**TRUTH** Financial Aid at BC is not first come first serve, rather late versus on time. You have the best chance for the largest amount of aid possible if your application is on time. It is need based.

**MYTH** We won't qualify for aid.

**TRUTH** Berks Catholic is committed to helping all families who want a faith based education.

**MYTH** We can't afford a Catholic education for High School.

**TRUTH** Berks Catholic recognizes the sacrifices parents make to afford a faith based education.

We are committed to making it work for all families.

***For questions regarding Financial Aid please, contact: [tuition@berkscatholic.org](mailto:tuition@berkscatholic.org).***



**[nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)**



# How to be a Saint..

## Steps to register

- 1 **Receive** the Class of 2029 Registration folder at your BC Step Up Day.
- 2 **Browse** through to see some of the great things Berks Catholic has to offer.
- 3 **Complete** the application inside the viewbook (students recently joining the Catholic school system please include final report card and discipline records beginning in grade 6.
- 4 Complete BC application. Send to Berks Catholic along with application fee.
- 5 **Welcome** to BC you are now registered! Please contact Mrs. Smith with any questions. We are here to ensure your child's academic success.

**Saints**  
BERKS CATHOLIC

[nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)





# Berks Catholic High School

Founded - In 2011 • School Motto - Unum In Christo 'One in Christ' • School Colors- Black and Gold

## Administration

- Principal-** John Petruzzelli
- Chaplain-** Fr. Matthew Kuna
- Asst.Principal/Athletic Director-** Bill Hess
- Director of College & Career Counseling-** Josh Ditsky
- Director of Admissions & Marketing** Nicole Smith
- Dean of Academics & Counseling-** Noelle Vilaro
- Director of Institutional Advancement-** Robert Birmingham
- Informational Technology Specialist-** Jeremy Kopp
- Dean of Students-** David Jones

## Enrollment 2024-2025

- 605 Students (49% Female ~ 51% Male)
- 43% Diverse
- 18:1 Student to Faculty Ratio
- Berks Catholic is 1:1 with I pads
- 21% Non-Catholic

## 2024 Graduates

- 91% of the Class of 2024 will continue their formal education at 55 different 4 year, 2 year, & trade institutions in 12 different states & Washington DC. They will also serve in the US Army.
- \$24.66 million dollars in academic, athletic, and other merit and talent-based scholarships
- Every BC Student gets an Individual College/Career Plan

## Performing Arts

- Fall Play ~ Broadway Musical ~ Broadway Music Review ~ Christmas Vespers ~ Mass Choir ~ Honors Choir ~Dinner Theatre Night
- Pep Band ~ Concert Band ~ String Ensemble ~ Jazz Band

## Advanced Placement

- 21 Advanced Placement Classes Offered
- 10 Advanced Placement Scholars
- 2 Advanced Placement Scholars with Honors
- 1 Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- 1 National Merit Award Winner
- Dual credit through Alvernia University
- Dual enrollment w/ Mount Saint Mary's University
- Partnership w/ Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences

## Extra Curriculars

### **Athletics**

Baseball  
Basketball\*  
Cheerleading  
CrossCountry\*  
FieldHockey  
Football  
Golf\*  
Lacrosse\*  
Soccer\*  
Tennis\*  
Volleyball\*  
Track\*  
\*Wrestling

Swimming, Water Polo and Diving are available through a co-op program with Reading High School  
\*denotes boys and girls

### **Clubs & Activities**

Aavidum  
Art Club  
BC Bakers  
BioMed Club  
Book Club  
Business Club  
Competitive Gaming  
E-Sports  
Forensics  
Gardening Saints  
Green Team  
Math Club  
Mock Trial  
Model UN  
National Honor Society  
Pickle Ball  
ProLife Club  
Quiz Bowl  
Saint Ambassadors  
Ski Club  
Spirit Club  
STEM/Science Club  
Student Government  
Yearbook





When I think back about my time at Berks Catholic two words come to mind: lifelong community. From my time bonding with other students and teammates who are now lifelong friends to my time bonding with teachers and faculty who are now lifelong mentors and friends, it has been a pleasure. The values instilled in me at Berks Catholic of hard work, dedication, and decency I have retained, and have shaped who I am as a person and a lawyer to this day. For me, Berks Catholic will always have a special place in my life.

**Ifedapo Benjamin – Class of 2013**

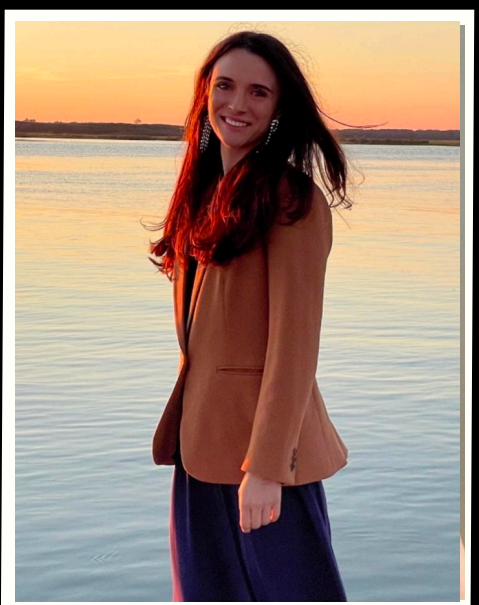
After graduating from Berks Catholic, Ifedapo earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a paralegal certificate from Marist College. Thereafter, Ife earned his law degree from Seton Hall University and is now admitted to practice law in both New York and New Jersey. Currently, Ifedapo is a litigation associate in New York City at a major law firm.



When I reminisce on my time at Berks Catholic, I think about the long-term relationships I was able to form and build in both the classroom and on the basketball court, the strong ethical and moral foundation built, and the higher level of academic performance and standard I was held to. I believe the small class sizes and the school spirit cultivated and shaped what community meant to me. I felt a sense of belonging and most importantly that I mattered. I am thankful for the time spent, lessons learned, and college readiness skills obtained while attending Berks Catholic! We Are BC!

**Nicole (Johnson) Fleming, Class of 2012**

After graduating from Berks Catholic, Nicole attended a five-year program where she earned a bachelor's degree in health sciences and a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from Duquesne University. She currently works as an elementary school-based speech language pathologist for the Reading School District, servicing students in K-4th including three Autistic Support classrooms.



“Berks Catholic set me up for success. Our teachers challenged us with demanding curricula and firm ethics. Being surrounded by other driven students pushed me to work hard and achieve my goals. I am thankful my parents sent me to Berks Catholic and invested in my future. Go Saints!”

**Katie Ott-Class of 2013**

After graduating from Berks Catholic, Katie attended Fordham University's honors program and graduated magna cum laude. During college, she was awarded a grant for her independent research project based in Argentina and sang on national television. After college, Katie attended law school where she focused in tax law.

**For more information on how to Be A Saint, please contact**

**Nicole Smith, Director of Admissions**

**610.374.8361 ext. 244 • [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)**

