

Have a Blessed
Christmas
&
a Steadfast
New Year



BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Panther Press



DECEMBER 2024

Dear Bradenton Christian School Families & Friends,

As we approach the close of another wonderful year, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generosity, love, and support you have shown to our school community. Your kindness and dedication have made this year truly special, and we are so blessed to have you as part of the Bradenton Christian School family.

As we enter the Christmas season, we pray that each of you experiences a time of rest, joy, and connection with loved ones. May the peace and blessings of this season fill your hearts, and may the coming year bring even more growth, happiness, and opportunities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We are so grateful for all of you, and we pray that you are abundantly blessed in the year ahead.

With Heartfelt Thanks and Warmest Wishes,

BCS Faculty & Staff

Panther Spotlight

Heidi Sikkema

We are spotlighting Heidi Sikkema, the Director of Development at Bradenton Christian School, for her incredible dedication and service to our community. Heidi has been a vital part of BCS for over a decade, tirelessly leading fundraising efforts to support our school's mission. She consistently goes above and beyond for our families, students, and staff, embodying a giving and gentle heart in all that she does. Her love for BCS shines through her diligent work and her unwavering commitment to helping in any way possible. We are so grateful for Heidi and the lasting impact she has made on our school community!



Panther Spotlight

Mike Buteyn

This week's Spotlight shines on Mr. Mike Buteyn, our dedicated middle school Social Studies teacher. Beyond his passion for teaching history, Mr. Buteyn exemplifies a servant's heart in all he does. He works tirelessly with both middle and high school students, mentoring them as part of the worship team and tech team. His behind-the-scenes efforts ensure that our Chapels run seamlessly, creating meaningful worship experiences for everyone. Mr. Buteyn's commitment to our school community goes far beyond the classroom, and we are truly grateful for his leadership, kindness, and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Buteyn, for making a difference every day!



Panther Spotlight

Marcie Hermann

This week, we are thrilled to shine the spotlight on Marcie Hermann, our incredible 1st-grade aide and a true cornerstone of BCS! Marcie has been part of the BCS family for over seven years and is known for her hard work, dedication, and servant's heart. In addition to her role with 1st grade, she oversees all of our elementary aides, ensuring things run smoothly every day. Marcie also goes above and beyond by helping with maintenance throughout the year and during the summer to prepare our campus for each new school year. Our 1st-grade teachers are so grateful for all Marcie does and for the care she shows not just to 1st graders but to all of our students. Thank you, Marcie, for your unwavering commitment and the joy you bring to our school!



Panther Spotlight

Jacob Feikema

Bradenton Christian School proudly recognizes Jacob Feikema, an eighth-grade student who exemplifies dedication, leadership, and God-given talent.

Jacob is a gifted musician, leader, and outstanding student excelling in the classroom. He serves as the chaplain of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society and is an active member of the student council. His musical achievements include first chair saxophone in the Advanced Wind and Jazz Ensemble and membership in the Kingsmen Choir. This year, Jacob achieved the prestigious honor of joining the All-State Band and also earned first chair saxophone in the All-County Band's middle school ensemble.

In addition to excelling in academics and music, Jacob balances athletics and leadership with remarkable dedication, inspiring his peers and glorifying God through his hard work and talent. We are proud to celebrate Jacob's accomplishments and look forward to his continued success!



Panther Spotlight

BCS Maintenance Crew

This week, we're shining the spotlight on a group of individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our campus running smoothly and looking its best - the BCS Maintenance Team!

At the helm of this hardworking team is Rodney Fuller, our dedicated Director of Facilities. Rodney leads with professionalism and a strong commitment to ensuring that our school grounds are safe, functional, and welcoming for everyone.

Rodney is supported by a phenomenal crew: Manny, Stephen, Kody and Ryan. Together, they handle everything from maintaining our beautiful grounds to assisting teachers and staff with any facility needs. Whether it's repairing equipment, setting up for events, or making sure classrooms are comfortable, they are always ready to lend a hand with a smile.

Their work is essential to the success of our campus, and we are so grateful for their dedication and teamwork.



CAMPUS NEWS

Pen Pals for 4th Grade

After the hurricanes, 4th grade teacher Mrs. Buskirk was contacted via email by Rachelle Altena, a 4th grade teacher at Central Valley Christian School in Visalia, California. She kindly asked for a list of the first names of our 4th grade homeroom students so they could pray for the classes. In addition to this, they sent personalized letters (including cute pictures of each student attached to the letter they wrote) to our students and what a blessing these they were. As you can imagine, our students LOVED receiving these letters and are thrilled to have the opportunity to write them back and create a pen pal from across the United States.



Cubby Buddies

The Christmas Cubby Buddy event is such a blessing. Each year our Seniors and their Kindergarten Cubby Buddies came together for a heartwarming Christmas celebration! The day was filled with joy and a festive pizza party. Seniors and their little buddies exchanged thoughtful gifts, enjoyed lunch together, and spent quality time playing together. It was a special way to embrace the holiday spirit and strengthen the bond between our oldest and youngest students.

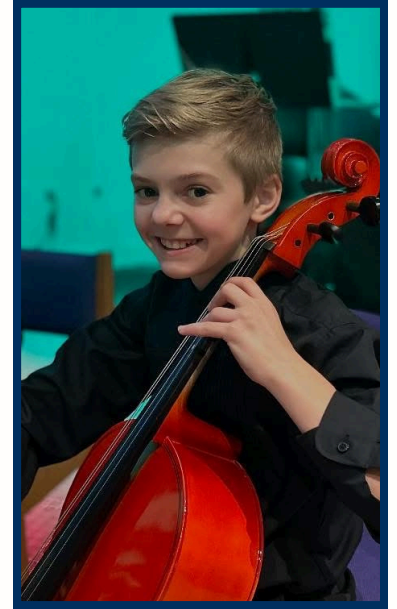


CAMPUS NEWS

Musical Christmas Performances

The BCS Philharmonic, Symphonic, and Divertimento orchestras lit up the stage with energetic performances and Christmas spirit.

During the Symphonic Orchestra's performance of "Veni, Veni", we enjoyed a violin solo by Marin Denton as well as a special chimes percussion feature from Cade Dole. The Philharmonic also split up into two string quartets and played without a conductor.



BCS celebrated the season with the Elementary Christmas Concert, showcasing the talents of our young students. Kindergarten and 1st grade performed traditional Christmas pieces, with some Kindergartners shining in solo performances. Students in 2nd through 4th grade shared the joy of Christmas through their heartfelt songs. This year, BCS brought back a cherished tradition, featuring 4th graders playing the handbells. The evening concluded with joyful audience participation, making it a memorable celebration for all.

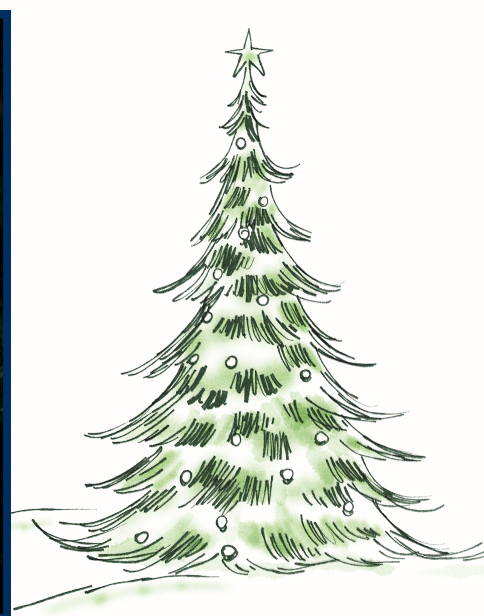


CAMPUS NEWS

The BCS Choir brought the holiday spirit to life during their Christmas Choir Concert. Each performance was filled with joy, and the evening was truly magical.

Grace Eason danced beautifully to Christmas Canon in D, adding an elegant touch to the concert. We also had many students showcase their incredible talent with solos: Leigha Breitzman, Kenny Ordonez, Ava Gooby, Ella Hochstetler, Ellie Blank, Blake Shenbaum, Lilly Minor, Gia DeJesus, Landry Chambers, and Haley Childers.

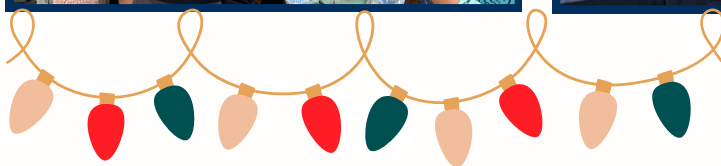
Thank you to Mrs. Burke and the choir for your dedication in creating such a memorable event.



CAMPUS NEWS

All School Chapel

Our school chapel celebrated the birth of Jesus in a beautiful and heartfelt service that brought our community together in the spirit of Christmas. We extend our deepest thanks to the music department and all the students who performed, as they shared their incredible talents by filling the chapel service with joyful and uplifting melodies. A special thank you to Mrs. Romaniello for her thoughtful and inspiring message, which reminded us of the true meaning of this Holy Season. Her words resonated with everyone and helped make this celebration a memorable and meaningful experience for all.



CAMPUS NEWS

Honors Geometry

The Honors Geometry class was challenged to find and prove congruent triangles during a campus-wide scavenger hunt. Using congruence postulates such as SSS, SAS, ASA, and AAS, students worked to justify their findings through precise measurements. To gather the necessary data, they used tools like compasses, rulers, and protractors, as well as apps that measured distances and angles.

This engaging activity combined traditional tools with modern technology, allowing students to experience geometry in action while reinforcing their understanding of triangle congruence.



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- Click [HERE](#) to volunteer!
- Auction- Are you connected in the community? Do you know local business owners? We are looking for volunteers to help the day of the auction. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bowman at 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.

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

- December 20-January 3 - **Christmas Break**
- January 2-4- Chick-Fil-A Basketball Tournament
- January 6- **School Resumes**
- January 11- Winter Blessings Auction
- January 16- Tour Night
- January 20- **No School**



**Celebrating our 40th BCS
Auction & Festival**

A poster for the Chick-fil-A Classic Basketball Tournament. It features a black and white photo of a basketball game in progress. The text on the poster includes:
- **BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** logo and address: 3304 43rd Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209, 941-792-5454, bcspanthers.org
- **JANUARY 2-3-4** (THUR, FRI, SAT) 2025
- **@ THE PENTECOST ATHLETIC CENTER**
- **Chick-fil-A CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** logo
- **BOYS TEAM**: VENICE HS, WINTHROP COLLEGE PREP, CARDINAL MOONEY CATHOLIC, BAYSHORE HS, INDIAN ROCKS CHRISTIAN, ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN, CANTERBURY FT MYERS, BRADENTON CHRISTIAN
- **GIRLS TEAM**: VENICE HS, FREEDOM HS, DESOTO COUNTY HS, SARASOTA HS, MANATEE HS, PARRISH COMMUNITY HS, BOOKER HS, BRADENTON CHRISTIAN

You are specially invited to the **40th Bradenton Christian School Auction & Festival, WINTER BLESSINGS, on Saturday, January 11, 2025.**

Items are ready for you to browse and make your wish list at this link

<https://bcspanthers.maestroweb.com/>

Invite your friends and family! We will have great food, desserts, wonderful items to bid on, plus the best fellowship in town!

The Festival and Silent Auction are from 4-5:30pm and the Live Auction starts at 5:45pm.

Pre-REGISTER TODAY <https://bcspanthers.maestroweb.com/>

We are still accepting donated items, excursions, or services. Please reach out to us if you have any questions: BobbiJo Norris, bnorris@bcspanthers.org or 941-792-5454 x 114.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Brown and Sons!

Congratulations to Brown and Sons Funeral Homes and Crematory as they celebrate 50 years of serving our Community. To celebrate their love for our community Brown and Sons gave \$50,000 to various community organizations to mark this special milestone. We are so grateful Brown and Sons chose Bradenton Christian School to be one of those recipients as they presented a gift of \$5,000 to our school. Their letter said that they recognize the incredible work that Bradenton Christian School does in shaping the lives of students and providing quality education and they want to support our continue efforts.

They also stated, "We are deeply grateful for role your school plays in the community and look forward to seeing the wonderful ways this gift will assist in furthering the school's mission."

Pictured: Wendy Brown, Brown and Sons & current BCS parent, and Linda Dahnke, BCS Interim Superintendent



PREVIEW NIGHT

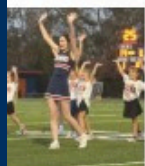
Explore our campus, meet our teachers, coaches, and club leaders, and learn about the Christ-centered education and community we offer. The evening begins with a warm welcome from our administrative team, followed by guided tours and interactive booths highlighting academics, athletics, fine arts, and extracurriculars. Discover how BCS partners with families in a covenantal relationship to nurture each child's God-given potential. Come experience the heart of BCS, where faith and excellence thrive!



Spread the word
& Join us for Preview Night!

Save the Date

you're invited



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

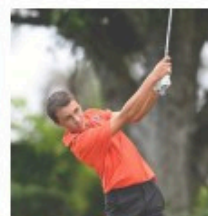
- 5:30 PM - Doors Open
- 5:45 PM - Welcome and Introduction
- 6:00-7:00 PM - Guided Tours & Booth Exploration



RSVP



Let us know you'll be joining us for this special evening!



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

SPORTS

Girls Wrestling

The BCS girls wrestling team participated in the Wiregrass Sports Dual Round Robin Tournament!

Congratulations to Sophomore Kennedy Wright, who took 1st place in the 155lb weight class and remains undefeated across the past two tournaments! Her determination and skill on the mat are truly unmatched.

Shoutout as well to 6th grader Ava Rivera, who placed 2nd in the 100lb weight class in just her first year of wrestling! Ava faced off against a high school Junior with three years of experience in a grueling match and held her own with grit and heart. Way to shine Panthers!



BCS Cheer Team

What an exciting day it was for the Bradenton Christian School Cheerleaders! The team participated in their very first competition of the season at the AllOut Season Showcase, and they represented BCS with pride.

The girls were thrilled to debut their brand-new uniforms, which they absolutely love. After four months of hard work, dedication, and countless hours of practice, they were ready to take the mat and show off everything they had working toward.

Coaches Michaela and Presley beamed with pride, saying they couldn't be more impressed with the team's commitment and growth. From perfecting stunts to nailing routines, these athletes have poured their hearts into this season already, and it's all coming together beautifully.

Way to go lady Panthers, your BCS family is cheering you on for the season.



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



ATHLETIC CORNER

Tips & Advice with Dr. Nicole Kemper

Rest & Recovery for Athletes

There are so many benefits to rest and stretching during athletics and sport participation, and we are at a time of the year during Christmas break where our athletes can take the time to focus on both of these.

Resting for athletes includes both physiological and psychological benefits. Resting can promote muscle recovery, allowing time for glycogen to replenish itself in the body. It also promotes relaxation, prevents overtraining, and can even assist overcoming adaptation before those adaptations lead to too much stress and cause injury.

Rest days should include both passive and active recovery. Passive recovery involving taking the day off entirely from exercise or activity, and active recovery allowing low-intensity exercise. Active recovery also allows the body to repair soft tissue with blood circulation via stretching, walking, yoga, etc. Another important key concept during rest days is sleep, especially following exams and long weeks of practices and games.

Lastly, when we talk about stretching, it is important to note that stretching must last more than 15 seconds, at a minimum. We need to allow the physiological process of golgi tendon organs to override the muscle spindles to truly get stretching done at our muscles. A go to for this is holding all stretches for 30 seconds, overcoming the muscle spindles, and then feeling the stretch for an additional 15 seconds. This means to time your stretches instead of counting out loud to insure the stretch is beneficial.



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

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.



CHEVROLET | **MAZDA**

www.CoxAuto.com



Bigger! Better! Faster!



941-251-4491 FIVESTARPIZZA.COM



KIRKEY ROOFING INC.

1951 CELEBRATING 70 YEARS! 2021



LATITUDE PEDIATRIC & FAMILY CLINIC

We do not discriminate against your health choices

941-253-2530

www.latitudeclinic.com

Merrill is proud to support Bradenton Christian School.

Stephen T. Jerome
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Wealth Management Advisor
941.741.2427
stephen_jerome@ml.com

MERRILL LYNCH
A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation.
Bank of America, N.A. is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment advisor, Member SIPC, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation.
© 2021 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. MFP373593 View-BAI-AMN | 4/20/21/PM-0521 | 05/20/21

Go Panthers 



More Life Built In[®]

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PANTHER PRESS SPONSOR, CLICK [HERE](#)

Thank You Sponsors

where exceptional is the rule




STEWART

FAMILY ORTHODONTICS

Free Initial Exam • 0% Interest Financing

stewartfamilyorthodontics.com

Lakewood Ranch (941) 751-0646
4315 Solutions Lane
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211



Bradenton (941) 746-2463
708 43rd St W.
Bradenton, FL 34209

Live Safe. Live Well.




PC SECURITY SYSTEMS
(877) 866-0589
411@securedbypc.com
www.securedbypc.com
2041 Whitfield Park Loop, Sarasota, Florida 34243

PC Security Systems, Inc offers residential and commercial burglar alarms, cameras, and home automation. Family owned and operated for over 40 years.



REAL TIME MARKETING
TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR BRAND

FOR ALL YOUR DIGITAL MARKETING NEEDS, CONTACT REAL TIME MARKETING

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETICS PROGRAM

RealTimeMarketing.com



UNIFY360™
THE #1 LOCAL MARKETING PLATFORM

LET US SUPPORT YOUR BRAND WITH OUR ALL-IN-ONE LOCAL BUSINESS MARKETING PLATFORM

UNIFY360 SUPPORTS BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Unify360.com



GO PANTHERS!

   thewhitfieldexchange.com

Over 8,000 sq.ft. of 'Gently Used, Gently Priced' Furniture & Home Accessories

The Whitfield Exchange

Consignment Store



Always accepting quality consignments. Call today! We sell fine used furniture, mattresses, rugs, artwork, greenery, kitchenware, knick-knacks AND MORE for 50-60% less than retail prices!

941-751-4045
6835 14th St West Bradenton, FL 34207

Your Speciality Print-on-Demand Company

designs by *Stacey Lynn*



Ask me about **STICKER FUNDRAISERS** for your organization!



- ◆ Window Clings
- ◆ Wholesale & Logo Stickers
- ◆ Photo Stickers
- ◆ Cards ◆ Decals
- ◆ Party Banners



Your local source for personal and business speciality prints!

★★★★★

CONTACT ME DIRECTLY:
designsbystaceylynn@gmail.com
941.724.1478
designsbystaceylynn.com

Looking for my faith-based shop?
StuckOnFaith.com

Digital Shop:
StuckOnFaithStudio.Etsy.com



Sharing God's Love
One Sticker at a Time

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PANTHER
PRESS SPONSOR, CLICK [HERE](#)

Thank
You

Locally Owned & Operated
by the Brown Family



Brown
AND SONS

Funeral Homes & Crematory



Go Panthers!
Rachel Brown
Class of 2012

SERVING MANATEE COUNTY SINCE 1975

604 43rd St. W. Bradenton, FL 34209 **941.758.7788** 5624 26th St. W. Bradenton, FL 34207



SUNCOAST
METALS LLC
Conserving the future by recycling the past

WE BUY SCRAP METAL

2050 51st Street
Sarasota, Florida 34234

941.351.0006

Sponsors



THE
MEADOR GROUP

POWERED BY **CMG** HOME LOANS

ApplyWithBry.com

Go Panthers!



Kelly Sallee
REALTOR®

941.914.0400
KellySallee@michaelsaunders.com
TreimanTeam.com



Michael Saunders & Company
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PANTHER
PRESS SPONSOR, CLICK [HERE](#)