

As we approach graduation season, we pause to celebrate the incredible **Class of 2026**. Over the years, these students have grown not only in knowledge, but in character, faith, leadership, and service. They have left a lasting impact on our school community through their dedication, friendships, and Christ-centered example.

While it is bittersweet to see them move on to their next chapter, we are filled with gratitude for the memories shared and excitement for all God has in store for their futures. We pray they continue to walk boldly in faith, pursue excellence, and shine the light of Christ wherever they go. **Congratulations to our seniors — you will always be a cherished part of the BCS family.**



QUICK LINKS

- [Important Dates & Announcements](#)
- [Preschool](#)
- [Elementary](#)
- [Middle School](#)
- [High School](#)
- [Extracurricular](#)
- [Thank You Sponsors](#)



As a special bonus for our families, **Manatee Apparel** is offering 10% off throughout the entire month of May! Be sure to take advantage of this discount on school-approved apparel that keeps your students looking their best while supporting a valued partner of our school.

You Are Invited!!

Please Join Us for Our Retirement & Farewell Gathering

When: **Monday, May 18, 2026 from 3:15-4:15PM**

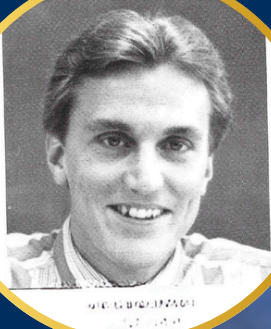
Where: **Bradenton Christian School - Wichers Auditorium**

We Are Celebrating:

Joel Van Ryn, Sharon Brussee, Dave Dickmann,
Juan Arango, and Jacque Hartmeyer

We will have "Blessing Baskets" for each person listed above for cards and well wishes. If you cannot make the reception, you are welcome to leave farewell and appreciation cards at each school office or our welcome center.

Special **thank you** to
Joel Van Ryn and Sharon Brussee
for their many years of
impact & service to
Bradenton Christian School!



41 Years of
Service and
Dedication

Joel Van Ryn

43 Years of
Service and
Dedication

Sharon Brussee

After 41 years of faithful service, Bradenton Christian School is honored to celebrate the retirement of Joel Van Ryn — a beloved teacher, coach, mentor, and follower of Christ whose impact on generations of students will long be remembered.

Joel moved to Bradenton in the summer of 1985 after teaching middle school in Sussex, New Jersey, and began teaching at BCS for the 1985–1986 school year. Over the next four decades, he faithfully poured into the lives of students both in the classroom and through athletics. He served as High School Boys Junior Varsity Basketball Coach and Varsity Assistant Coach from 1985–1989, coached Middle School Boys Basketball from 1989–2018, led Varsity Boys Golf from 1990–2017, and also served for several years as Middle School Student Council sponsor.

Joel treasures many memories from his years at BCS — from the close fellowship shared among faculty in the early years to the excitement of faculty versus senior games where, as he happily recalls, “the faculty went undefeated.” He also remembers the incredible blessing of coaching championship golf teams and dedicated basketball players who learned the value of teamwork, perseverance, and encouragement.

One of Joel’s favorite memories came during his years coaching middle school basketball, when practices were held at G.T. Bray Park because BCS did not yet have enough gym space. Rather than complain, one special team embraced the challenge by running to and from practice to build endurance. Joel recalls how, after racing back to campus, some players would turn around and run back to encourage the last runner to finish strong and not give up. That same team eventually advanced to the Florida State Championship — a beautiful reflection of teamwork, perseverance, and Christlike encouragement.

Throughout his years at BCS, Joel has seen God faithfully at work. He shares that Godly mentors and colleagues helped him grow in wisdom and reminded him of the high calling of Christian education. “We are entrusted with His masterpieces,” Joel reflected, “and we should guide students to value the Truth above all things.”

Joel’s influence reaches far beyond the classroom and athletic fields. He has watched generations of BCS alumni use their God-given gifts to further God’s Kingdom in countless professions and callings, and he considers it a blessing to have partnered with families in raising children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Known for his faithful dedication, servant’s heart, and unforgettable “Joke of the Day,” Joel has brought joy, wisdom, and encouragement to the BCS community for over four decades. His legacy will live on in the lives of the students, athletes, families, and colleagues he so faithfully served.

Joel, thank you for 41 years of Christ-centered service to Bradenton Christian School. We are deeply grateful for the countless ways you have invested in this community and pointed students toward excellence, perseverance, and Truth. You will always be a treasured part of the BCS family.



41 Years of
Service and
Dedication
Joel Van Ryn

Mr. Van Ryn’s favorites: “Joke of the Day”

1. Q. Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher? She got fired. You know why?

A. She couldn’t control her pupils!

2. Q. How many ears did Davy Crockett have?

A. Three. A left ear, a right ear, and a wild front-ear!

3. Q. Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?

A. To get to the bottom.



For more than four decades, God has faithfully used Sharon Brussee as a quiet but steadfast blessing to the mission of Bradenton Christian School. What began in 1983 as a six-month temporary bookkeeping position became a remarkable 43 years of faithful service as our bookkeeper and scholarship coordinator.

One of Sharon's favorite memories comes from the early years of the school, long before computers and modern spreadsheets. She recalls sitting on the floor with coworkers, literally cutting, piecing together, and gluing the school budget by hand in preparation to present it to parents. Even during financially challenging times, when there was concern about having enough money to pay teachers, Sharon saw the Lord provide again and again — sometimes at the very last moment. She remembers occasions when members of the finance committee would send her to visit generous donors so that teachers could be paid on time. Through it all, Sharon experienced the faithfulness of God and the unwavering support of coworkers who stood beside her every step of the way.

When asked about her favorite part of being a BCS parent, Sharon shared the joy of seeing her two sons graduate with a superb Christian education and grow into successful husbands, fathers, business owners.

Though Sharon has always served quietly behind the scenes, her faithfulness, humility, and love for Christian education have touched generations of BCS families. Sharon, thank you for 43 years of faithful service and for being such a treasured part of the Bradenton Christian School family.

You are deeply loved, appreciated, and valued.



43 Years of
Service and
Dedication

Sharon Brussee





BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Important Dates & Announcements

May 18	MS Academic Awards
May 18	Retirement & Farewell Gathering
May 19-21	MS and HS Exams
May 20	PreK Graduation (10:00am)
May 21	Elementary Awards / 11:30am Dismissal
May 22	Graduation (No School)

Each summer, we release a **Summer Mailer** packed with important information to help families prepare for the upcoming school year — be on the lookout for that in early July.

Finally, be sure to **save the date for the Bower Cup Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 19, 2026**, at The River Club in Lakewood Ranch!



Looking for a meaningful way to serve this summer? We're excited to introduce our **Summer Beautification Days!** Students will have the opportunity to **earn service hours** while volunteering alongside our incredible maintenance team as we work together to care for and improve our campus. It's a great way to serve, connect with others, and help prepare our school for another amazing year ahead.

17 Beautification Days:

- **May 27**
- **June 3, 10, 17**
- **July 8, 15, 22, 29**

If you have questions about volunteering please reach out to BobbiJo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org. We hope to see many of our students join us in serving our school community this summer!



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Every role at BCS plays a vital part in shaping the future!
We have opportunities available for key roles.
Spread the word!**

- Instructional - Elementary/Secondary - General Substitute Teacher Application (All Grade Levels)
- Instructional - Elementary/Secondary - General Teacher Application (All Grade Levels)
- Secondary Math Teacher (Grades 6-12)
- High School Spanish Teacher
- Secondary Social Studies Teacher (Grades 6-12)

Athletics-Positions available for immediate start

- General Coach Application

Transportation-Positions available for immediate start

- Bus Drivers (CDL Needed)
- Bus Aide

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Jeanna Stinehelfer. Thank you for helping us keep our school community moving safely!

To Apply for an open position, please visit our [website](#).

**WE'RE
HIRING!**





PRESCHOOL

Wednesday, May 20th
VPK Graduation 9:30am
Doors open at 9:00



This is the last day for preschool.
VPK will dismiss from the graduation
program

PreK 3 students must be picked up no
later than 11:30.



happy
SUMMER!

ELEMENTARY

- **May 19th**- 5th Grade Kickball Game
- **May 20th**- Kindergarten and 1st Grade EOY Party
- **May 20th**- 5th Grade at Siesta Key
- **May 21st**- Awards Ceremony K-2 at 8:30 3-5 at 9:45
- **May 21st**- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - 11:30 Dismissal



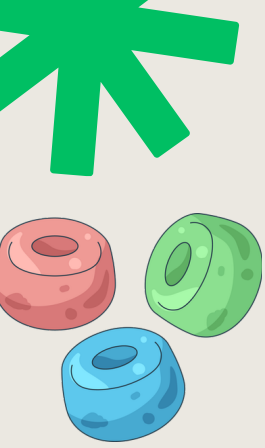
Lost and Found!!



**Last Chance!!
Pick up by
the 21st!**



Check the Next Few Pages for Some Summer Camp Options!



COOK AND CREATE CAMP!



With hosts: Mrs. VanDuinen
Mrs. Fernandez

Get ready for a fun-filled week of creativity and cooking and Life Skills! Students will explore their imagination through hands-on projects and delicious recipes they can make (and eat!).

Dates: May 26th – May 29th

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Cost: \$129

Who: Any Upcoming 5th
through Middle School
Aged Student



Limited Spots Available – Sign Up by May 22!!

Perfect for young chefs and creators who love to create, explore, and have fun!

★ ✨ What to Expect:

- Fun and easy cooking activities
- craft projects
- Basic Life Skills
- For questions email:
 - nvanduinen@bcspanthers.org
 - dfernandez@bcspanthers.org



Literacy Workshop

Hosted by Mrs. Mark!

Space is limited.

Email mark@bcspanthers.org with questions.

Registration and payment due by July 10th.

Refresh your skills

And get ready for a new school year!

Designed for students of all levels!

Review grade level skills.

Introduce next level skills.

Practice special word patterns and letter teams.

Comprehension strategies.

Writing skills for all levels!

Explore through hands on learning and movement!

2 Days

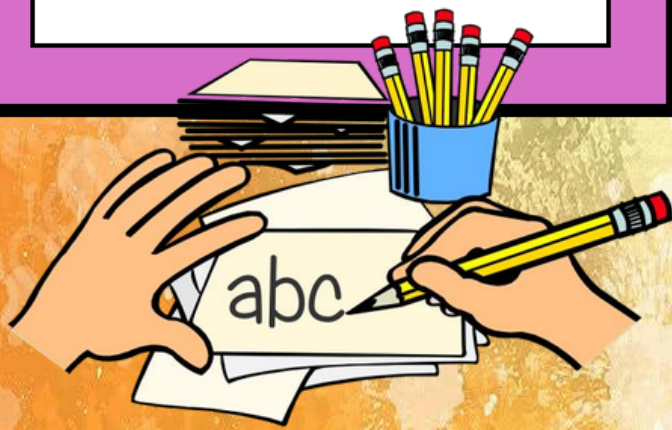
July 22 - 23

9AM-3PM

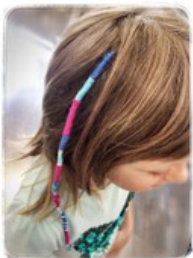
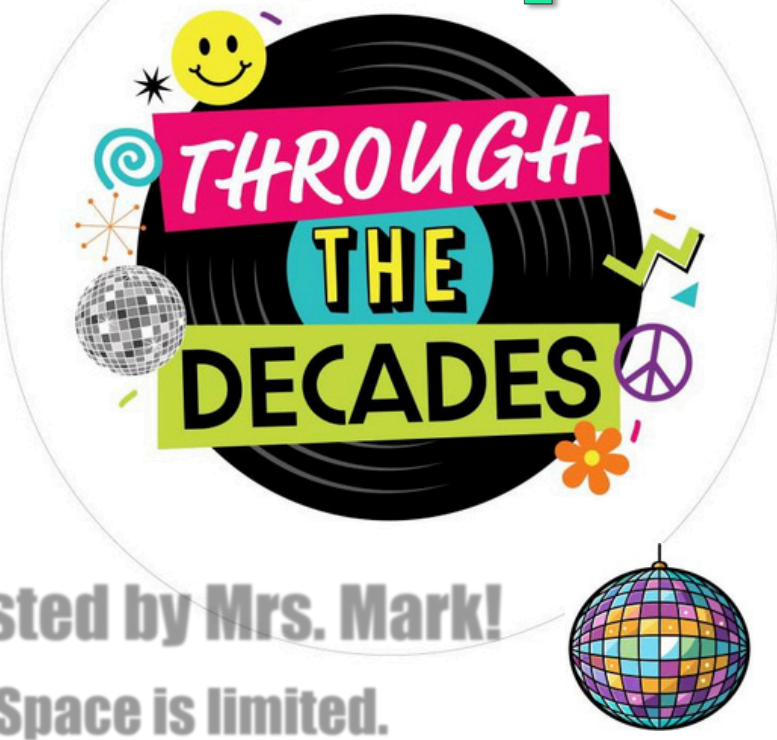
\$75



Grades K - 2



Summer Camp



Hosted by Mrs. Mark!

Space is limited.

Email Imark@bcspanthers.org with questions.
Registration and payment due by May 22nd.



3 Days
June 2-4
9AM-3PM
\$175

Grades K - 6
Sibling discount offered!



70's, 80's, 90's
themed activities!
Daily art project!
Lessons on being
a 70's, 80's, 90's kid!
Daily prizes
And MUCH MORE!

MUSICAL THEATRE

Summer Camp

Hosted by Mrs. Mark!

Space is limited.

Email Imark@bcspanthers.org with questions.
Registration and payment due by May 29th.



Perform a live production from
Beat by Beat Press!

Choose from singing/acting,
prop making, and
stage crew!

Friday show
for families.

Daily prizes

5 Days

June 8 - 12

9AM-3PM

\$250

Grades 2 - 8

Sibling discount offered.



P.E. GAMES AND SPORTS CARDS

Summer Camp



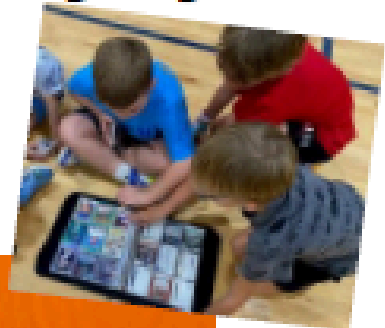
Hosted by Mr. Mark!

Space is limited.

**Email wmark@bcspanthers.org with questions.
Registration and payment due by May 22nd.**

**3 Days
June 2 - 4
or
July 7 - 9
9AM-3PM
\$150**

**Grades K - 2
Includes materials
and give aways!**



**HOURS OF YOUR FAVORITE
P.E. GAMES
INTRO. TO SPORTS
CARD COLLECTING.**

**TRADE DAY!
AND MORE!**

**P.E. GAMES AND
SPORTS CARDS**

Summer Camp



Hosted by Mr. Mark!

Space is limited.

Email wmark@bcspanthers.org with questions.

Registration and payment due by May 22nd.

**3 Days
June 9 - 11
or
July 14 - 16
9AM-3PM
\$150**

**Grades 3 - 6
Includes materials
and give aways!**



**HOURS OF
YOUR FAVORITE
P.E. GAMES
INTRO. TO SPORTS
CARD COLLECTING.**

**TRADE DAY!
AND MORE!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **May 18:** Middle School Awards Ceremony - 8:15 in Wichers
- **May 19-20:** Exam week
- **May 21:** Last day of school



An induction ceremony was held for the new members of the National Junior Honor Society. Congratulations to our newly elected officers and all members!



MIDDLE SCHOOL Exam Week

THINGS TO KNOW:

Students may be picked up as early as 11am (early release); all students must be picked up after exam 2

Hot lunch will not be served after Monday (May 18)

Exam reschedule requests must be approved by teacher and principal - \$50 fee may be applied

Students are to report to study hall areas between exams

DATE	EXAM 1	EXAM 2
19 MAY MS DISMISS 11:30AM	EXAM 1: LANGUAGE ARTS 8:15AM - 9:45AM; EARLY RELEASE 9:15AM ALL STUDENTS GRADES 6-8	EXAM 2: MATH 10:00AM-11:30AM; EARLY RELEASE 11:00AM ALL STUDENTS GRADES 6-8
20 MAY MS DISMISS 11:30AM	EXAM 1: SCIENCE 8:15AM - 9:45AM; EARLY RELEASE 9:15AM ALL STUDENTS GRADES 6-8	EXAM 2: SS/GEO./HIST. 10:00AM-11:30AM; EARLY RELEASE 11:00AM ALL STUDENTS GRADES 6-8
21 MAY ALL DISMISS 11:30AM	EXAM 1: MAKE-UPS 8:15AM - 9:45AM; EARLY RELEASE 9:15AM	EXAM 2: SPANISH I 10:00AM-11:30AM; EARLY RELEASE 11:00AM ONLY SPANISH I STUDENTS

STUDY HALL AREAS:

6TH: BOYS: BAND GIRLS: CHOIR	7TH: BOYS: FIELDS GIRLS: WICHERS	8TH ALL: MAIN GYM
---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------

Congratulations to our new Student Council Representatives for the 2026-2027 school year

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Mrs. Hutto – Advisor

Executive Board

President – Mikaela Bush

Vice President – Natalia Carey

Secretary – Ryan Mikulec

Treasurer – Drew Buky

Historian – Jackson Mielke

Committee Chair – Landry Chambers

Chaplain – Grace Eason



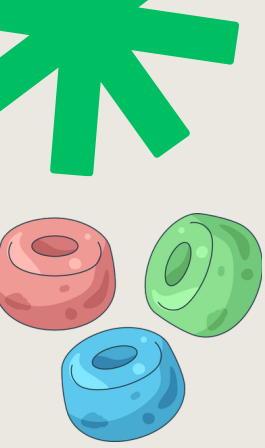


8th Grade Chapel



Thursday's chapel was led by our eighth graders, and it was such a meaningful time. Watching them lead in worship and in encouraging others in the Lord was a reminder of how much they have grown. Mrs. Romaniello closed the event in prayer, while the middle school faculty gathered around the students to pray for a blessed new chapter and high school experience. We are so proud of our 8th graders!





COOK AND CREATE CAMP!



With hosts: Mrs. VanDuinen and Mrs. Fernandez

Get ready for a fun-filled week of creativity and cooking and Life Skills! Students will explore their imagination through hands-on projects and delicious recipes they can make (and eat!).

Dates: May 26th – May 29th

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Cost: \$129

Who: Any Middle School Aged Student



Limited Spots Available – Sign Up by May 22!!

Perfect for young chefs and creators who love to create, explore, and have fun!

★ What to Expect:

- Fun and easy cooking activities
- craft projects
- Basic Life Skills
- For questions email:
 - nvanduinen@bcspanthers.org
 - dfernandez@bcspanthers.org



HIGH SCHOOL

Upcoming Events

May 15-18 Senior Trip

May 19-21 MS - HS Exams

May 21st Half Day 11:30 dismissal



BCS HIGH SCHOOL SPRING EXAM SCHEDULE

May 19-21

Important Notes:

- Students **MUST** be in dress code to take exams.
- Students who are exempt from exams or do not have exams (for example, study hall) are not required to be at school during those periods.
- Students who are on campus during these days must be in a classroom taking their exams or in a study hall. Students may only leave class once we have reached the early release time. Parents should coordinate pick up times with their student.
- Please bring a lunch if you are unable to be picked up during the lunch break. Hot lunch will **NOT** be available on Tuesday and Wednesday exam days. Thursday dismissal is at 11:30.
- It is important to communicate with your students' plans for picking up. During lunch break (11:30-1:30) All students will be in Wichers Auditorium. Students will not be permitted to walk off campus during school day.
- Any students on campus and not taking a test **MUST** be in study hall. (Report to Coach Werner's room in the PAC).
- Any student who wishes to reschedule an exam must first gain permission from their teacher and administration. Changing an exam time will result in a fee charged to your FACTS account.

TUESDAY

- Pd 1 8:15 - 9:45
Early Release 9:15
- Pd 2 10:00 - 11:30
Early Release 11:00
- Pd 7 1:30 - 3:00
Early Release 2:30

WEDNESDAY

- Pd 3 8:15 - 9:45
Early Release 9:15
- Pd 4 10:00 - 11:30
Early Release 11:00
- Pd 8 1:30 - 3:00
Early Release 2:30

THURSDAY

- Pd 5 8:15 - 9:45
Early Release 9:15
- Pd 6 10:00 - 11:30
Early Release 11:00

PICK UP

Please pick up within 15 minutes after your testing time concludes.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**High School Female Athlete of the Year,
Senior Ava Stanley**



**High School Male Athlete of the Year
Junior Timmy Mercer**



“The Sonlight award represents Christian character in the face of a worldly culture. These Awards go to the male and female athletes who have modeled Christ-likeness to the outside world. They have a shining testimony of our God wherever they go and in whatever they do, especially on the field or court.”

**Female Sonlight Award Winner
Senior Sophia Weaver**



**Male Sonlight Award Winner
Senior Cooper Van Eerden**



THANK YOU SPONSORS!

It's Our Pleasure to Support
Bradenton Christian School




Bayshore Gardens
Creekwood
Cortez Plaza
Manatee Ave & 43rd
UTC



Driving Family Legacy.
Building Bold Vision.
Creating Community.




**Bruce
Williams
Homes**

www.bwhomes.com
941.748.8834



Bigger! Better! Faster!



941-251-4491 FIVESTARPIZZA.COM

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



AUTO INJURY & SPORTS
PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

KESSLER

SPINE & REHAB

CHIRO | PT | BALANCE | REHAB

941.877.0317

**French's Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Services**

"We Help You Keep Your Cool"

Commercial & Residential ~ Licensed & Insured
Sales - Service & Installation
Refrigeration - Air Conditioning & Heating
* State License #CAC1817471

Jody H. French, Owner

📞 941-737-5799 📠 941-746-8939 ✉️ JHFrench512@aol.com
*call or text anytime

Serving Southwest Florida



Panhandle
CLEANING & RESTORATION

FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER

24-Hour Emergency Response
800-504-7054

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Go Panthers!



Kelly Sallee
REALTOR®

941.914.0400
KellySallee@michaelsaunders.com
TreimanTeam.com



Michael Saunders & Company
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

Edward Jones®

Financial strategies built just for you

<p>Matt McSwain CFP®, AAMS® Financial Advisor</p> <p>5783 Manatee Ave West Suite 102 Bradenton, FL 34209 941-761-1217 matt.mcswain@edwardjones.com</p> 	<p>Becky McSwain ChFC®, CLU®, CKA® Financial Advisor</p> <p>4502 Cortez Road West Suite 105 Bradenton, FL 34210 941-795-2783 becky.mcswain@edwardjones.com</p> 	<p>Janice French AAMS® Financial Advisor</p> <p>6402 Cortez Road West Bradenton, FL 34210 941-567-6683 janice.french@edwardjones.com</p> 	<p>Brent Van Eerden Financial Advisor</p> <p>4502 Cortez Road West Suite 105 Bradenton, FL 34210 941-795-2783 brent.vaneerden@edwardjones.com</p> 
---	---	---	--

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



COLDSTONE
CREAMERY

Go Panthers!

BCS family owned and operated.

7476 Cortez Road
Bradenton, FL 34210

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

ZNS

ENGINEERING

Land Planning | Engineering | Surveying | Landscape Architecture



REHFELDT GROUP
— CPAs —



**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
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 Corp." MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment advisor, Member SIPC, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank Corp. ©2023 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. 840775283 (page 06/06/2023) 11/02/2023



Cabinetry Sales & Installs
Kitchen & Bathroom
Remodels

Call us today for your Free
Estimate & Design!
941-841-7366

Proud sponsor of
Bradenton Christian School

Go Panthers!

www.shoreinterior.com




THANK YOU SPONSORS!



MONEYMAN
PAWN & JEWELRY
— MORE THAN A PAWN SHOP —

PROUDLY SUPPORTS BCS!
1608 53RD AVENUE EAST, BRADENTON FL 34203

WWW.MMPAWN.COM (941) -727-0222



Bower Athletic Complex

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OF THE SOUTH
THE **BOUWER** FAMILY
Bradenton Christian School Founding Family

DRYmedic
RESTORATION SERVICES

WATER MOLD FIRE STORM

PROTECTING PROPERTIES.
RESTORING PEACE OF MIND.

(941) 203-4523 DRYmedic.com

Owned by BCS Families | Trusted. Local. Reliable.



UNIT'S
MOVING AND PORTABLE STORAGE
OF SARASOTA

Moving? Looking for storage solutions?



Call 941-899-5998 for a free quote!

DR. JUSTIN O'KEEFE



**Parkway
Veterinary
Center**



RH
RIVERHOUSE
WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

PALMETTO, FLORIDA 941.729.0616 RIVERHOUSEFL.COM

StuckOnFaith.com



A Ministry of designs by *Stacey Lynn*

◆ Faith-focused stickers ◆ Journals
◆ Wholesale Stickers ◆ Digital Stickers

Digital Shop: StuckOnFaithStudio.Etsy.com

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

**Popi's
Place**
FAMILY RESTAURANTS

Margaret A. Kirkland, D.D.S.



General and Aesthetic
Dentistry for the
21st Century

(941) 794-2442
DrMargaretKirkland.com