



PANTHER PRESS

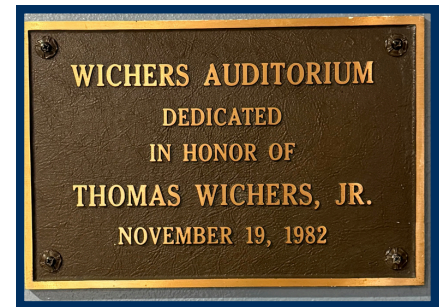
September 4 • 2026

Honoring Our Faithful Servants

Our hearts and prayers are with the Wichers family (BCS Founding Family) following the passing of Carol Jean Wichers this past week. Carol and her husband, Tom, were part of the founding families of BCS more than 65 years ago. Tom was our very first BCS bus driver and played a part in helping discover the land where our school is located today. After Tom passed away more than 45 years ago, Wichers Auditorium was named in his honor and dedicated in 1982 as part of the brand new high school building.

There is great history connected to the Wichers name. Three related Wichers families—Tom and Carol, Will and Dina, and Bernie and Pearl (Wichers) Bandstra—helped lay the foundation of BCS. Through the years, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have continued to be part of our BCS family.

That legacy continues today with Wichers grandchildren and great-grandchildren among our students and staff. (Cheer Coach Anna McSwain, Senior Madelyn McSwain, and 5th grader Graysen Waite.) What a special reminder of where we came from and the people whose faith and commitment helped make BCS what it is today. We are so thankful for our founding families and the lasting legacy they have left that will continue to bless generations to come.



We also give thanks for the impact Coach Hilliard made and the legacy he leaves behind.

One of the greatest ways we can honor that legacy is by continuing to faithfully pursue the work God has placed before us—serving others, encouraging one another, and investing in the lives of our students. While our hearts remain mindful of this loss, we are grateful that the Lord continues to provide new opportunities each day to grow, compete, learn, and glorify Him.

We don't have all the right words at a time like this. Sometimes we are left without earthly understanding...but we stand on our faith and we are strong in our hope because our Savior has overcome. He is Jehova-Rapha, our Great Healer. The prophet Jeremiah's words are a wonderful reminder that even in the midst of despair God's mercy can heal our souls. We also can find strength in Him when we don't have it ourselves. He is always faithful.

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” ~ Lamentations 3:21-23.



Bradenton Christian School

Important Dates & Announcements

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 7- Labor Day No School
- September 14- 9th Grade Workshop
- September 14- 12th Grade Workshop
- September 19- Bouwer Cup
- September 25- Homecoming Game
- September 28- Late Start
- September 29- All School Picture Day

A Friendly Parking Reminder

As we work together to keep our campus safe and accessible for everyone, we kindly ask our BCS families to please **keep the lined areas next to the designated handicap parking spaces clear**. These spaces are specifically used for safely loading and unloading wheelchairs and other mobility equipment.

We also ask that families please **do not park or wait in the pedestrian crosswalks**. These marked lanes are designed to provide a safe path for students and families walking through our parking lots.

We know our parking areas can get busy, especially during drop-off and pick-up, and we truly appreciate everyone doing their part to help keep traffic moving and our campus safe. Thank you for showing patience, kindness, and consideration for one another!

EVENT DETAILS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

The River Club
7:30am Registration
8:30am Shotgun Start

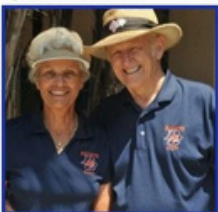
Four Person Scramble
\$155/person \$140/alumni
Entry fee includes: green fees, cart fee, lunch and player gift.

Online Registration
Entry forms at bcspanthers.org/giving

Contact
BobbiJo Norris at
bnorris@bcspanthers.org

CONTESTS

- Putting Contest
- Longest Drive-Men/Women
- Closest to the Pin-Men/Women
- 50/50 Raffle & Games



DON AND MARILYN BOUWER

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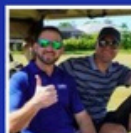
**CLOSEST TO THE PIN
SPONSOR MEN/WOMEN \$500**

- Signage at designated location

HOLE SPONSOR \$150

- Tee sign

Interested Sponsors should contact
BobbiJo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org
*Contributions are tax deductible



Gross winners receive complimentary entry
to 2027 Bouwer Cup Tournament.

This event will support the exceptional
Christian Education offered at
Bradenton Christian School.

The Bouwer Cup Golf

Tournament is right around the corner, and we want YOU to be part of the fun!

Join us on **Saturday, September 19 at The River Club** for an unforgettable day on the course, with an 8:30AM shotgun start! Whether you're coming to compete, connect with friends, or simply enjoy a great day of golf, your participation helps support Bradenton Christian School.

- Registration is LIVE! Don't wait, **sign up TODAY!**

Gather your foursome, invite a friend, and make plans to tee it up for BCS!

PRESCHOOL



September Bible Verse:
I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made. I know how
amazing that was! Psalm 139:14



September Fruit of the Spirit:
LOVE.



Bible Story: Noah's Ark



12345

09/07 No school
09/22-09/24 Community Helpers
09/21-09/25 Homecoming Week
(More to come)
09/28 Preschool normal hours
09/29 Picture Day (NEW DATE)



ELEMENTARY

EVENTS

- 9/7 - Labor Day- NO SCHOOL
- 9/16 - 1st Grade at Glazer Museum
- 9/19- Bouwer Cup
- 9/21- 9/25- Homecoming Week -
See Dress up Schedule →
- 9/28- Late Start- 9:00AM
- 9/29- All School Picture Day

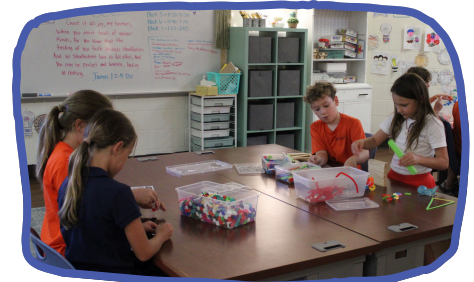


Students got to play rhythm hopscotch in music class this week to build up their musicianship while still having fun!



The 4th graders are learning how to play the recorder.

BCS Elementary Homecoming Week		
THEME: SUPERHEROES		
SEPT 21 - SEPT 25	2026	
MON 21	MATHLETE VS ATHLETE: SHOW OFF YOUR BRAINY SIDE OR YOUR SPORTY SIDE!	
TUES 22	AGE DAY: TINY TOTS AND GOLDEN YEARS! Dress like a cute little baby or a fun-loving grandparent!	
WED 23	MINIONS: GO BANANAS! 	
THURS 24	COLOR DAY: WEAR YOUR GRADE COLOR! Kindergarten- Red 3 rd Grade- Purple 1 st Grade- Blue 4 th Grade- Green 2 nd Grade- Pink 5 th Grade- Yellow	
FRI 25	THEME DAY: DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO! Reminder of the Football Game: 7PM	



4th graders are learning to build in STEM using different materials.



First week of Carousell!



We had the first Cubby Buddy event where the Kindergartners met the Seniors who will mentor them throughout the year.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mark Your Calendar:



- September 7: Labor Day, No school!
- September 16: MAP Testing /Afternoon activities
- September 21-25: Homecoming Week
(Afternoon activities Thurs. & Fri.)
- September 28: Late Start Day
(Upper School starts at 9:05)
- September 29: School Picture Day * (Updated!)



Mrs. Powell is teaching her students how to do scientific notation during Pre-Algebra.



In Mrs. Buteyn's Art class, students start the year by choosing a shape that matches their interests and creating an abstract painting using only that shape.



BCS Middle School Homecoming Week

THEME: SUPERHEROES

SEPT 21 - SEPT 25

2026

MON
21

MATHLETE VS ATHLETE: SHOW OFF YOUR BRAINY SIDE OR YOUR SPORTY SIDE!

➤ EARN POINTS FOR YOUR TEAM!!!!

TUES
22

AGE DAY: DRESS TO MATCH YOUR COLOR'S ASSIGNED AGE!

➤ Red - Elderly Blue- Teen/College
Orange - Adults (Mom/Dad) White - Baby
Purple - 50/60's Green - 70/80's

WED
23

MINIONS: GO BANANAS!



THURS
24

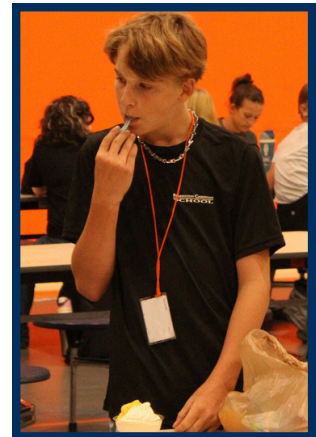
COLOR DAY: WEAR YOUR TEAM COLOR!

➤ Periods 1-4 (Normal Chapel Schedule)
Afternoon: Class activities/games

FRI
25

THEME DAY: DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO!

➤ Periods 5-8 (Normal Schedule)
Afternoon: Dodgeball/Outside Field Activities
Football Game: 7PM



HIGH SCHOOL



Upcoming Events

- Labor Day - No School 9/7
- 9th Grade Parent Workshop 9/14 (6PM)
- 12th Grade Parent Workshop 9/14 (7PM)
(Parents & Student)
- Homecoming week 9/21-9/25
- Late Start Day 9/28-9AM
- Picture Day for all students 9/29



**Please read the BCS College
advisor newsletter for
important information.**

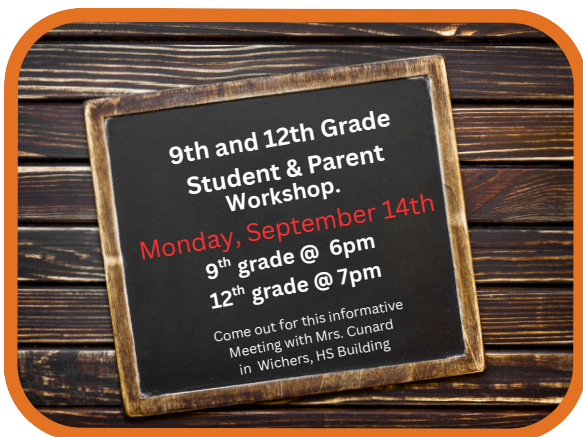


REMINDER



Please Read the BCS College Advisor
(High School Guidance Newsletter)

Emailed 9/1/26 by Mrs. Cunard — check your inbox!



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

BCS Volleyball Showcase

Get ready for an exciting weekend of high-level volleyball action! The BCS Volleyball Showcase brings together 16 varsity teams for a weekend of competition, energy, and fun volleyball memories!

- Tickets: \$15 per day

Come cheer on our Lady Panthers and enjoy an incredible showcase of talent, teamwork, and competition. You won't want to miss it!





LYRICAL BALLET & JAZZ DANCE CLASS

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STARTS: TUESDAY, 9/8

TIME: 3:15 - 4:30 PM

LOCATION:
Bradenton Christian School
Wichers Auditorium

FOR: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
BCS Students

CLASS STYLE:
Lyrical, Ballet & Jazz

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through movement, joy and a nurturing environment.
ISAIAH 60:1

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One scan.
Full access.
2026 Fall Media Guide.

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/birrk/Fall-2026-BCS-Media-Guide/>



Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I grew up in Decatur, Illinois, and moved to Sarasota in 1981. After a career in advertising and graphic arts, including 12 years at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, I taught myself to paint in 1996 and started my mural painting business the following year. In 2020, I began working for Sarasota County Schools while continuing to run my painting business.

I'm excited to be part of the Bradenton Christian School family as a bus driver. I love spending time with the students and getting to know their families.

I graduated from Niantic-Harristown High School. In my free time, I enjoy painting murals, creating canvas artwork, motorcycle riding, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, and spending time with my family. My family includes my fiancé, Scott, my daughters Taylor and Skylar, my granddaughter Gracelyn, and my mom, Beverly, who will turn 92 this year. Scott is an international sport fisherman who has traveled the world in pursuit of trophy fish, including 18 trips to the Amazon!



Transportation

Lisa Sparling



Lisa Sparling

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

Hello! I'm Mrs. Wells, and I'm so excited to be joining the Bradenton Christian School family!

I am passionate about creating a classroom where students feel safe, supported, and excited to learn. I believe learning should be engaging, meaningful, and fun while encouraging each child's unique gifts, growth, and sense of community.

My faith in Christ, my family, and my community are the foundation of who I am. I have been blessed to be married to my high school sweetheart for 22 years, and together we have four children, ages 17, 15, 12, and 10.

I earned my Bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida in Advertising and Public Relations with a minor in Marketing. After working in marketing, the Lord led me to pursue teaching so I could invest in the lives of children. I have now held my Florida Professional Teaching Certificate for 17 years and am grateful for the opportunity to serve students each day. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of teaching in a variety of classrooms and school settings. I love partnering with families to help students grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, boating, fishing, cheering on sports, traveling, and exploring new places. I am truly excited to be part of the BCS community and can't wait to see all that God has in store for this school year!



4th Grade Teacher

Jodi Wells



Jodi Wells

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I'm Madi Austell, originally from Bristol, Rhode Island. I recently earned my Master's in Athletic Training from Liberty University, where I met my husband, Ethan. We were married on May 17, 2026, and moved to Bradenton on June 1. Before graduating, I completed my final clinical semester with Clemson Football, gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

I'm thrilled to be part of the Bradenton Christian School family and truly believe God brought my husband and me here for a greater purpose. I look forward to serving and ministering to our student-athletes through athletic training.



Athletic Trainer

Madison Austell

Madison Austell

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

My name is Marcia Burt, and I'm excited to be joining the first-grade team at Bradenton Christian School! I grew up in Clearwater, Florida, and spent 21 years in Auburn, Alabama, where I taught elementary school for 15 years and developed a deep passion for helping young learners grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

After returning to Florida, I served as an adjunct instructor in early childhood education at Grand Canyon University and worked on an early literacy research team at the University of South Florida. I love partnering with students and families through faith, encouragement, and meaningful relationships.

My husband and I have been married for 27 years and have four sons, including two who attend BCS. In our free time, we enjoy traveling, spending time on the boat, reading, and playing with our dogs. I look forward to partnering with BCS families for a wonderful school year!



1st Grade Teacher

Marcia Burt



Marcia Burt

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

My name is Dave Kinman, and I'm excited to be joining Bradenton Christian School as the new High School Spanish teacher. My wife, Cindy, and I moved to Florida from Pennsylvania to be closer to our daughter, her husband, and our three grandsons, who will all be attending BCS this year. Teaching has been my calling for more than 40 years. Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of teaching Spanish and French in both public schools and at the college level, and I feel incredibly blessed that God continues to open doors for me to do what I love. This year, I'll be teaching Spanish II, III, IV, and AP Spanish. When I'm not in the classroom, you'll likely find me reading, cheering on my Pittsburgh sports teams, or watching my grandsons play baseball. I am humbled and honored to join the BCS community and look forward to encouraging students academically and in their walk with Christ. I can't wait to meet everyone and see what God has in store this school year!



High School Spanish

Dave Kinman



Dave Kinman

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

My name is Frank Puccio, and I'm excited to be joining Bradenton Christian School as a high school history teacher. My wife, Debbie, and I have lived in Lakewood Ranch for the past six years, and we love spending time with our son, his wife, and our granddaughter, Nora. This year, I'll be teaching World History, AP Human Geography, American Government/Economics, and U.S. Pop Culture/History in Film. I've spent my entire career in education, and after teaching middle school history in Bradenton for the past four years, I thought I was ready to retire. It didn't take long to realize I missed being in the classroom, so I'm thankful God opened the door for me to join the BCS family.

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy reading historical fiction, playing golf, and watching a beautiful Florida sunset with my wife. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and seeing what God has in store this school year!



High School History

Frank Puccio



Frank Puccio

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

Hi, my name is Tiara Powell, and I'm excited to be here at BCS! I'm originally from Kentucky and moved to Florida in 2023 to be closer to family.

This is my eighth year in education and my fourth year teaching middle school math. I'm looking forward to teaching Algebra and Pre-Algebra this year and helping students grow in both their confidence and understanding of mathematics.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Middle Level Education with concentrations in Math and Social Studies, as well as my Master of Education in Special Education with a focus on Learning and Behavior Disorders.

When I'm not in the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family, working out, going to the beach, attending and serving at church, and anything sports-related.

My husband, Robert, and I have been married for a year and a half, and our daughter, Dilynn, is a third grader here at BCS. We are so thankful to be part of this wonderful community, and I'm excited for the opportunity to invest in the lives of my students this year. I look forward to an incredible school year!



Middle School Math

Tiara Powell



Tiara Powell

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I'm Coach Stephen White, originally from Franklin, Tennessee, and look forward to joining the Bradenton Christian School family. I earned both my Bachelor's degree in Media Arts and Communications and my MBA from Lindsey Wilson College. My background includes digital media, graphic design, video production, marketing, and business development, and I'm excited to bring real-world experience into the classroom. I've also been involved in football for most of my life, playing and coaching at the youth, high school, collegiate, and professional levels. I'm passionate about mentoring students and helping them grow academically, creatively, athletically, and spiritually. I look forward to encouraging students as they prepare for success in college, careers, and beyond!



HS Digital Technology & Robotics

Stephen White



Stephen White

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I'm Ryan Burnham, and I'm honored to serve Bradenton Christian School as Assistant Athletic Director. I will be continuing as Head Strength & Conditioning Coach and Head Coach of the Varsity Boys and Girls Weightlifting programs. I have more than six years of experience working with high school and collegiate athletes, helping them maximize performance while developing character, discipline, and leadership.

I earned my Master of Science in Kinesiology from Southeastern University and am a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) through the National Strength and Conditioning Association, as well as a USA Weightlifting Level 1 coach. Before joining BCS, I served as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach at the University of South Carolina Aiken and previously taught physical education while leading a successful high school weightlifting program.

I am passionate about helping student-athletes grow not only in their sport but also in their faith, leadership, and character. My wife, Kelly, our daughter, Lolo, and I live in Parrish, and we are grateful to be part of the BCS community.



Assistant Athletic Director

Ryan Burnham



Ryan Burnham

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

BCS has been a special part of my family's life for many years. My husband is a BCS alumnus, and two of our sons graduated from BCS in 2021 and 2023.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to serve our school community in many ways—as a volunteer in the classroom, library, and lunchroom, and most recently as the High School Secretary from 2019–2023. After that, I was grateful to spend precious time caring for my father until he passed away in January 2026. During that season, my husband, Lee, and I were also blessed to travel and watch two of our sons play collegiate baseball.

In my spare time, I enjoy curating my Etsy store, taking Pilates classes, and embracing this new season of empty nesting with my husband of 28 years.

I am so excited to be back at BCS! I love the people here and have missed working alongside them. I look forward to welcoming new families to BCS because I know firsthand how special this community is. I am thankful that God has given me the opportunity to once again serve the BCS family.



Director of Admissions

Kristin Heintz

Kristin Heintz

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

Hello! My name is Brandon Smith, and I will be joining Bradenton Christian School as the new sixth and seventh grade middle school math teacher. Math has always been a passion of mine and is what I chose to study in college. I enjoy helping students build confidence in math while encouraging them to think critically and solve problems with curiosity.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy playing basketball, playing guitar, shooting film photography, and learning more about physics and mathematics. I'm looking forward to getting to know my students and their families and am excited to be part of the BCS community this school year!



Middle School Math

Brandon Smith

Brandon Smith

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I'm excited to join the special BCS family! I look forward to sharing my passion for inspiring fourth-grade students to grow as readers and writers while engaging and equipping them to become confident, lifelong learners. After 30 years of teaching students of all ages, I've found that the greatest blessing is helping each child discover who they are in Christ and how God has uniquely gifted them.

My husband, Tony, and I have three daughters, and we're especially excited that one of them will be joining the BCS family as a ninth grader this year. As a family, we love spending time in the Great Smoky Mountains and relaxing on Florida's beautiful beaches. When I'm not in the classroom, I enjoy cooking, gardening, traveling, and spending as much time with my family as possible. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a Specialization in Middle School Literature from the University of Florida. Throughout my career, I've continued to grow professionally by participating in summer programs at Harvard University, Florida Southern College, and Columbia University. Most recently, I completed cooperative learning training with Kagan Professional Development. I have a heart for serving others and am grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside BCS students as they continue to grow academically, spiritually, and in their relationship with Christ. I can't wait to see what God has in store for this school year!



4th Grade ELA

Melissa Lobozzo

Melissa Lobozzo

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I'm Gage Shelmidine, and I'm excited to be a part of the Bradenton Christian School family as the Upper School Dean of Students. God has blessed me with the opportunity to serve in Christian education at both the K-12 and college levels in a variety of roles, including assistant principal, athletic director, resident director, teacher, college assistant basketball coach, and high school varsity basketball coach. Each experience has strengthened my passion for helping students grow academically, spiritually, and personally.

My wife, Sydney, and I were best friends for eight years before getting married, and we are so thankful for the family God has given us. We have two daughters, Selah (4) and Eden (2), and we're eagerly anticipating the arrival of another little girl this December! When I'm not at school, you'll usually find me spending time with my family, enjoying a day at the beach, visiting amusement parks, or playing basketball.

I'm looking forward to building meaningful relationships with students and families, encouraging young people to grow in their faith, and being part of the Christ-centered community that makes BCS such a special place.



Upper School Dean of Students

Gage Shelmidine



Gage Shelmidine

Welcome

TO THE TEAM

I'm Melissa Chambers, and I'm blessed to serve BCS as the Marketing and Community Engagement Coordinator. A Florida native, I was born and raised on Anna Maria Island and graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University with a degree in Business Marketing.

After beginning my career in alumni relations, I returned to Bradenton and have enjoyed a diverse professional background in education, event planning, interior design, and apparel. Since 2016, I've had the privilege of volunteering at BCS through classrooms, events, and athletics, and I'm excited to now officially be part of the BCS team!

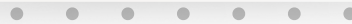
My husband, Jason, is a proud BCS alumnus, and our two daughters, Landry and Harper, are BCS students. Outside of school, I enjoy cheering on my daughters at their sporting events, playing tennis, boating, and spending time with family and friends. Our family attends First Baptist Church of Palmetto, where we serve in the nursery.

I'm passionate about serving others and am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve our BCS families, students, school, and community. I'm excited to get to know our BCS family and be part of all that God is doing at Bradenton Christian School!



Marketing & Community Engagement Coordinator

Melissa Chambers



Melissa Chambers

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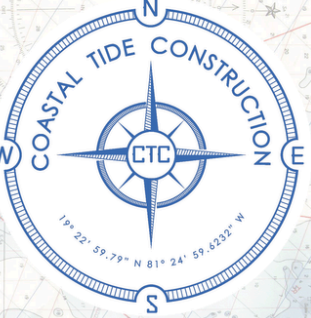
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