



President's Report – November 2023

Beginning of Year Board Survey

Thank you to those that already completed the beginning of year board survey.

Key areas for growth:

- 45.5% ranked the group at neutral or disagree for being guided by goals, updating them, and using them for self-reflection
- 27% were neutral when it comes to communication with constituents
- 40% were neutral or disagree in regard to assessing progress periodically

When you complete the meeting evaluation today, please consider adding a comment about how we could address these issues.

If you would rather have a conversation, please reach out.

Building Level Highlights

You are all invited to our All-System Mass on 11/21 at Central at 9:00 am. Your presence and participation are welcomed and encouraged. This is a great way to see what we are all about!

ECE:

- The furnace replacement is in progress. The furnaces in the 4 preschool rooms and the custodian closet have been replaced. One of the furnaces on the daycare side of the building has been completely replaced and the second replacement is nearly complete. There are 2 more furnaces to install. The project will likely be completed by the end of November.
- The fans have been installed in the gym but are not wired.
- The playground is scheduled to be delivered in late November. The production of one of the slides has delayed delivery. I should receive a confirmed shipping date the week of 11/20.
- The Preschool Home and School Association representative is Malaree Wiltgen. It is encouraging to have the HSA in place again. Malaree and I are pleased with amount of interested preschool parents.
- The Halloween parties on October 30 and 31 were followed by All Saints Day Parades on November 1 and 2. The preschoolers paraded through the halls with their favorite saint banner singing "When the Saints Go Marching In".
- Christmas Programs are scheduled for December 13-15.
- I have started touring with prospective parents interested in the 2024-2025 school year. I have been averaging 5 tours a week.

SFC K-4:

- We welcomed a student teacher, Sydney Olson, who will be student teaching with Lacey Weidman in second grade.
- Congratulations to Logan Hutzenbiler, a Central student, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout! As part of his project to achieve this rank, he designed, built, and installed a bench on the playground that faces Chloe Lai's memorial tree. Chloe was in his class, and he wanted to do something more to honor her.



- Red Ribbon Week was successful and enjoyed by all. The guest speaker was a former NFL player. The counselors did a great job of organizing the activities!
- K-4 Parent Teacher Conferences were attended by 99.9% of the families. Many parents shared positive comments!
- We had an All Saints Day prayer service in the gym. SAINTS groups met and created a book of remembrance with names of family members and special people in our lives that have passed away. Father blessed this book at mass.
- Stella Ziegler treated all the staff to coffee on October 16.
- K-4 participated in Read for the Record. Mrs. Hayes read WITH LOTS OF LOVE to all the students.
- The Book Fair was a success!

SFC 5-8:

- Completed Red Ribbon week with a variety of activities and a guest speaker. The counselors did a great job.
- The counseling team was also in the building conducting SOS evaluations with our students.
- Advent projects are being developed with the goal of our students being givers.
- We celebrated vocations, Fr. Leo has been in talking with classes and a lunch was provided for all priests.
- Girls Basketball and Wrestling will be completing their seasons next week. The girls had around 20 participants and wrestling has some of their largest numbers in years with around 20 as well.
- Conference Participation Rates
 - 5th – 77%; 6th – 73%; 7th – 62%; 8th – 59%; 193/288 = 67% at the middle school level

Central:

- All fall sports have officially wrapped and winter sports begin this Thursday! Volleyball capped off the fall season with a 2nd place finish at State. The pep band, cheerleaders, students, and fans made the trip to Bozeman and supported well!
- Freshman retreat is this Thursday. Please pray for the freshmen. We hope they grow in Faith and Family Spirit learning what it means to be “a Central kid”.
- Earlier this week, Fr. John Pankratz and Krista Wahl accompanied a group of 15 Seniors to the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND for a symposium.
- Speech and Drama is looking for judges for our home meet this year on November 18th at MSUB. It’s a wonderful opportunity to see students in a different light – public speaking is no joke! There will be rounds at 8am/10am/12pm/2pm and Ashley Nelson and I are willing to talk you through any questions you might have about judging. If it’s something new to you, I recommend a drama or speech event (I’d stay away from debate) but either of those other event categories are innate as far as judging HOW they’re speaking! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me! My email is dtate@billingscatholicschools.org. Thank you!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849A4AE2FA5F85-45725372-billings>

November Community Newsletter

ADMINISTRATION: 215 N. 31ST ST—FELLOWSHIP HALL—
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The most recent community newsletter was sent to parents during conferences at the beginning of November. Included within is key academic data comparing our students to the county, Montana, and nationally. It also recapped our recent educator conference to inform the community of how the teachers spend the PIR days. If you

did not see the newsletter, it is linked here:

<https://billingscatholicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/BCSPresidentsNewsletter11.23.pdf>

Admin Leadership Team

At our monthly admin leadership team meeting we reviewed the proposed calendar for the coming school year, finalized the evaluation tool and protocol for teachers and staff within our system, reviewed the Mission & Catholic Identity year 1 priorities from the strategic plan to determine progress, and were led in our leadership learning portion by Michelle Trafton while exploring the leadership of Moses within scripture.

Of the goals laid out within the strategic plan for Mission & Catholic Identity, Deb has taken on the organization of the PTO, the MCI committee is working on a speaker event for parents in March, Nolan and the religion teachers have brought back the Freshman retreat, and the diocese has implemented a catechetical formation program that Danielle and I are working on rolling out to staff so that all have completed the program by August of 2024.

Next up we will work to craft a survey to assess understanding of Mission within the system and begin a conversation around service hour requirements for our students.

24-25 Calendar

The admin team also discussed the 24-25 calendar and brought feedback from the local levels to the admin level for discussion. A few key changes/additions to the calendar:

- 1.) Shortened PIR week, school starts midweek
- 2.) Added several half days to allow for PIR/PLC time and staff meetings prior to scheduled days off

The admin leadership team proposes the calendar sent to the school board for the November meeting be approved by the board for the 24-25 school year.

Budget Updates

The finance committee reviewed the estimated budget, cost to educate, and proposed salary scale increases. They recommend a 3% increase to tuition for the 24-25 school year at this time and are supportive of a 3% increase to the salary scale, but would like to wait until February to recommend approval to the board for the increase to salaries as we will have more information on enrollment and actual costs at that time.

Softball Field

We continue to work through the contract agreement with Rocky for the redeveloped Urbaska field and expect the agreement to be finalized in the near future. You have received the most current draft of the proposal. Please submit any considerations to me by Sunday 11/19.



ACE Scholarships Partnership

To offer our donors the opportunity to take advantage of the Montana State Income Tax Credit, BCS Foundation, BCS, and ACE Scholarships are seeking to formalize a partnership via an MOU to outline how ACE and BCS will support one another in offering this benefit to our donors and seeking to increase the funding available for BCS Scholarships.

Safety & Student Reporting Updates

SOS Training for 6th, 9th, and 12th grade students is underway. The parent meeting was not well attended, but for those that were there, it provided a powerful reminder of how important this work is for our students and parents. A question for the school board is how do we encourage parental participation and attendance at events such as this?

Save the Date

The BCS Foundation Christmas Party is on December 13th – please save the date and plan to join the school board and foundation board for a celebration of the Christmas season and a way to say thank you for all you do for Billings Catholic Schools!

UPCOMING DATES:

11/18 – Judges Needed – Speech & Drama home meet at MSUB

11/19 – Ram Jam Cake Auction – 2:30 at Central

11/21 – **All System Mass @ Central 9:00 am**

11/22-24 – Thanksgiving Break

12/4 – SEM Committee

12/5 – Tech Committee

12/6 – BCCHS Staff Meeting (Need a board rep interested in attending to discuss board updates)

12/7 – MCI Meeting

12/12 – Finance Committee

12/13 – FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

12/21-1/1/24 – Christmas Break