



President's Report – February 2024

Please join the community on 3/21/24 at 6:30 at Billings Central Catholic High School for a community presentation by renowned Catholic speaker Chris Stefanick, presented by Billings Catholic Schools and the Mission & Catholic Identity subcommittee.

Building Level Highlights

ECE:

January 25 –Preschool Open House was held January 25, approximately 30 prospective families attended.

January 31- Registration opened. Seven of the ten preschool classes have been filled for the 2024-2025 school year. There are 22 spots available between the 3 remaining classes. The childcare has filled 97 of the 105 full-time available spots. Parent tours have decreased, but I am still meeting and touring with 2-3 interested parents each week.

*Since Christmas Break, six new students have enrolled at ECE. The 2023-2024 current enrollment is 176.

Catholic School Week Highlights:

Monday- BCCHS cheerleaders and Rammy kicked off Catholic School Week. They greeted the ECE children and parents from 7:30-8:30.

SFC 7th and 8th graders visited Monday morning helping preschoolers decorate thank you cards for the neighbors and greeting cards for the preschools throughout the diocese.

Tuesday-Green & White Day Student/Appreciation Day—Ice Cream Party

Wednesday- Career Dress Up Day – dressed up for future vocation.

Thursday- Fancy Dress Up Day --The children in the older preschool classes delivered thank you cards to the neighbors.

Friday- "Souper" Bowl Day. The children dressed in their favorite team gear and contributed canned goods to the Saint Vincent De Paul food bank. We collected over 100 cans of food!

February 14- Ash Wednesday- Wednesday morning, Father Pankratz offered a brief Ash Wednesday prayer service to each morning preschool class and distributed ashes to the preschoolers. Theresa Twichel, the St. Pius Youth Minister brought ashes to the afternoon preschool classes.

February 20--Art Gala art is ready. Preschool will be stationed by the library at SFC. Thank you, Deb Hayes, Jim Stanton, and Katie Day!!

March 6/March 13 Summer Care Registration opens for current ECE families on 3/6. Summer Care Registration opens March 13 for SFC families and any siblings of ECE preschoolers. If space allows, we will offer care to 2024-2025 ECE preschoolers and former ECE preschoolers who attend public school (20+ on the waitlist)

March 20-21- Preschool Conferences 7am-6pm



SFC K-8:

Please see attached for Catholic Schools Week highlights and Lenten plans for SFC K-8!

BCCHS:

Faith

- Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Patrick's
- Lenten prayer opportunities upcoming (Stations, Adoration, Penance, Search)
- Excited to host Chris Stefanick in March. All are welcome!

Family Spirit

- Boys and Girls Swimming are State A Champions! Several individual placers, too
- Wrestling had a 5th and 6th place finish at State
- Drama are State A Runners Up! Several top 3 finished for Speech and Drama
- The 24 Hour Art Challenge Gala was last Thursday at Craft Local
- Divisional Basketball upcoming – will be a busy weekend for BCCHS Admin team

Academic Excellence

- The four National Merit semi-finalists at BCCHS were named finalists! Congratulations Hank Jagodzinski, Casey Rah, Matthew Rah, and Aiden Molloy
- Semester two is off to a great start
- BCCHS admin are collaborating to enhance course offerings at BCCHS for greater academic excellence for all

President Evaluation

Thank you to everyone that participated in the President Evaluation process this year. Your feedback is invaluable and appreciated as I strive to continue to grow as a leader and member of the Billings Catholic Schools community. Thank you!

Admin Leadership Team

The Admin Leadership Team is part of a leadership structure that seeks to utilize the varied talents and experiences of faculty and staff across our schools in consensus-based decision making. There is an Admin level team and local level teams at each school building.

The Admin Team is composed of:

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| • Michelle Trafton | • Leah Gibson |
| • Deb Hayes | • Joanna Brailer |
| • Jim Stanton | • Kathy Harris |
| • Nolan Trafton | • Adam Liberty |
| • Danielle Watson | • Andrew McDonald |

This team meets monthly to discuss various topics, participate in Biblical Leadership discussions, and learn about each person's formation as a leader through shared articles and leadership reflections (see



<https://catholicgentleman.com/2019/01/leadership-is-love/> for the article Joanna Brailer shared and led us through at this past meeting).

In February, we completed our Leadership Reveled Study by focusing on the leadership of Deborah in the book of Judges from the Old Testament.¹ Jim Stanton and Joanna Brailer led us through a leadership reflection using resources that spoke to them in their leadership journey.

The agenda included:

- Review & update the Hiring Toolkit and participate in an interview exercise
- Mid-year check in on Staff Evaluations and the new protocol and documents
 - 100% of staff completed a goals form for the current year; all admin staff have completed a mid-year check-in with those ongoing at each building. The staff have expressed support for the goals forms and the process we implemented this year. Informal, growth entered observations are ongoing throughout all buildings with summative evaluations beginning in April.
- Follow up on recruitment strategies discussed with the priests during the January meeting
- Paylocity/Timekeeping updates from Leah Gibson
- PowerSchool: ECE addition to Messenger & potential addition/use of PowerSchool
- New Teacher mentorship/induction planning
- Enrollment & Admissions flowchart follow up from Kathy Harris
- Staff intent to return feedback & staffing plan discussion
- A Global Café (discussion protocol) review of Family Spirit & areas of success and those for improvement/growth strategies within that aspect of the BCS Mission Statement

Education

The schedule plays a significant role in the educational offerings we are able to provide throughout our buildings. Across the system, we are engaged in conversations about schedule changes that will improve our ability to deliver instruction, increase elective offerings, and allow us to further differentiate curricula for all learners. Schedule updates have been presented to teachers at SFC and are being discussed amongst staff at BCCHS. We are incorporating feedback from the staff that will be most impacted by these schedule changes prior to releasing them to the community but anticipate communication to be forthcoming within the next several weeks.

Danielle Watson is working with Social Studies staff from across the grades to compile and update our social studies standards while also incorporating the Catholic Faith and habits of mind directly into the grade level standards. We expect this project to be completed at the conclusion of this year with the standards distributed to teachers so they have time to prepare for implementation in the Fall following the same timeline we used when reviewing and updating the science standards during the 22-23 school year.

Additionally, we have convened a team of teachers to develop a Philosophy of Assessment. This document will explore Billings Catholic Schools' beliefs around why we assess students, how we use that data, and why assessment plays a pivotal role in our pursuit of academic excellence. This philosophy will the move to the Administrative Leadership Team for review and revision before going to the local level leadership teams at each building. We expect to make this philosophy statement available to the community via our webpage once this process is complete.



Finally, the Student Evaluation Team (SET) will meet on 2/28 to revise the process of qualifying students for accommodations within our schools, tracking what accommodations are provided, and the process of implementing those plans for individual students within the classroom. I am grateful for the support and input of: Nate Kavanaugh (BCCHS), Angela Hirt (BCCHS), Olivia Umphrey (BCCHS), Tonya Stewart (SFC), Kathy Wilkinson (SFC), Kristin Colloton (SFC), Mark Venner (SFC), Danielle Watson (Admin), and our building principals as we work to standardize this process throughout all of our buildings.

Community Partnerships

Adam Liberty and Andrew McDonald were interviewed by Leif Welhaven for the Kickin' It with Leif morning show on 98.5 on February 7th and will present to the Downtown Rotary Club on 2/26. Rachel McClain, the 6/7 religion teacher at St. Francis joined Andrew and Roy Brown on KJCR – Billings Catholic Radio to promote the upcoming Mission & Catholic Identity Committee Christ Stefanick event for the community on Thursday, 2/15.

Softball Field

We received a revised version of the MOU with Rocky Mountain College for the use and renovation of Urbaska Field which has been provided to you as board members for your review. We are incredibly grateful to both the donors and our partners at Rocky Mountain College for the opportunity to strengthen our partnership through the Urbaska Field project.

Baseball Sub Committee

The baseball subcommittee met for the first time a few weeks back and is eager to present their findings to the board. It appears that adding baseball by Spring 2025 with the conditions the board placed upon its addition to our extracurricular offerings are much more reasonable than first suspected. The subcommittee is planning to present their findings and a proposal to the board at our March meeting.

Financial Aid Information

In working with the parishes, BCS revised the way families will qualify for and receive the parish grants. Information on this process and all other financial aid opportunities was sent to families on February 5th. Information is also available on the website. Thank you to both Leah Gibson and Patty DelZotto for all their efforts to coordinate the application process and collect all the information on financial assistance in one place.

Facilities Committee

Members of the facilities committee met with McKinstry to discuss capital planning and a facilities plan that could identify all the major infrastructure items, outline replacement costs and replacement timelines, and provide reporting software to aid in the planning of capital improvements and emergency preparedness with regard to large expense items for a period of up to 30 years.

UPCOMING DATES:

- 2/21-2/23 – Regional Basketball @ Metra
- 2/26 – Downtown Rotary Presentation – Noon @ Northern Hotel
- 3/1 – SEARCH Retreat – **Need help with serving dinner on Saturday at 7:00 pm**
- 3/4 – SEM Committee – 4:00 @ Central



3/4 & 3/5 – Andrew out of office (Chairing GFCHS Revisit for Accreditation)
3/12 – Finance Committee Meeting – 4:00 @ Admin
3/13 – BCSF Board Meeting -4:00 @ Central; followed by Fitness Center Unveiling @ 5
pm (Please join us)

3/14 – Nominations & Governance Meeting – 4:00 @ Admin
3/15 – Admin Leadership Team Meeting – 9:30am-1:30pm @ Admin
3/19 – KJCR Billings Catholic Radio Event – 5pm
3/20 – School Board Meeting – 4:00 @ Admin
3/21 – Chris Stefanick Community Event – 6:30 pm @ Central
3/22 – Staff PIR Day – Chris Stefanick Retreat
3/28-4/1 – Easter Break

¹ <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/27842-leadership-revealed/day/6>