

CENTRAL

BILLINGS CENTRAL CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2024-2025

(Revised 6/12/24)

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MISSION

Billings Central Catholic High School will provide an exceptional Catholic education emphasizing formation in faith, family spirit and academic excellence.

VISION

Make God Smile

FAITH, FAMILY SPIRIT, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

As defined by Billings Central Catholic High School

FAITH

Faith is the fundamental foundation that enables a Christ-centered approach to all aspects of the educational experience, emphasizing the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic faith.

Faith is achieved by providing opportunities for staff and students to model Christ-like behavior, and to learn and grow in an atmosphere that embraces our vision of Making God Smile.

Faith is measured by sincere participation in and contribution to community service, Mass, Mass ministries, retreats, and other daily opportunities to model Christ, and is readily apparent in our school culture of unity and acceptance.

FAMILY SPIRIT

Family Spirit fosters Christian growth and maturity and encourages participation, developing a sense of community and creating strong personal connections that result in lifelong relationships.

Family Spirit is achieved by modeling the Gospel of Jesus through consistent love and support for one another in and out of the classroom, creating a safe, respectful and disciplined environment anchored in core values.

Family Spirit is measured by an unfaltering knowledge and awareness of school culture by staff, students, parents, alumni and all stakeholders, to ensure an ever-present atmosphere of respect, unity and acceptance.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academic Excellence develops honest, responsible and accountable high-achieving learners with Christ-centered values who serve their local and global communities.

Academic Excellence is achieved by consistently teaching relevant classroom content and providing the necessary tools to empower students in a safe environment that fosters strong relationships.

Academic Excellence is measured by utilizing clear, concise, varied and comprehensive assessment methods to verify student progress and mastery.

BILLINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2024-25

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	PIR	PIR	1/2 Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	★	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	PIR	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	1/2 Day	PIR	PIR	19
20	21	22	23	24	Q	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	1/2 Day PTC	PTC	★	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	★	★	★	30

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	★	★	★	★	★	28
29	★	★				

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			★	★	★	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	1/2 Day S	18
19	★	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	1/2 Day	★	★	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	PIR	★	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	Q	29
30	31					

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	★	★	19
20	★	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	PIR	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	★	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	1/2 Day	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

K-12 No School Days	
September 2	Labor Day
September 23	PIR
October 16(1/2 Day)-18	PIR
November 6(1/2 Day)-8	PTC/Break
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 23-January 3	Christmas Break
January 20	MLK Day
February 19(1/2 Day)-21	Break
March 13-14	PIR/Break
April 17-21	Easter Break
May 2	PIR
May 26	Memorial Day

Contact Information			
School	Phone	Address	Administrator
Saint Francis Catholic Early Childhood Center	406.656.2300	1734 Yellowstone Avenue	Director Michelle Trafton
Saint Francis Catholic K8	406.250.5037	2202 Colton Boulevard	Principals Debra Hayes, Jim Stanton
Billings Central Catholic High School	406.245.6651	3 Broadwater Avenue	Principal Nolan Trafton
Billings Catholic Schools Administration Office	406.252.0997	215 N. 31st Street	President Andrew McDonald
Billings Catholic Schools Foundation Office	406.252.0252	215 N. 31st Street	President Adam Liberty

Special Events	
Running On Faith	September 8
Day of Giving	October 10
Art Gala	February 18
Mayfair	May 10
BCCHS Graduation	May 25
SFC Promotion	May 29
Semester End Days	
January 17	June 4
First and Last Days	
K12 Start Date August 21, End Date June 5	
PK Start Date August 22, End Date May 30	

bcs@billingscatholicschools.org
BILLINGSCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG

FAITH ■ FAMILY SPIRIT ■ ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

BILLINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CONTACT LIST

BILLINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Website: www.billingscatholicschools.org
ADMINISTRATION
Andrew McDonald, President
215 N 31st, 59101
P.O. Box 31158, 59107
406-252-0997, Fax 252-5697
E-mail: amcdonald@billingscatholicschools.org

ST. FRANCIS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Preschool
Mrs. Michelle Trafton, Director
1734 Yellowstone Ave, 59102
406-656-2300
Email: mtrafton@billingscatholicschools.org

SAINT FRANCIS
Grades K – 8
Mrs. Deb Hayes, Principal
Mr. James Stanton, Principal
2202 Colton, 59102
406-259-5037
E-mail: dhayes@billingscatholicschools.org
E-mail: jstanton@billingscatholicschools.org

BILLINGS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Grades 9 – 12
Mr. Nolan Trafton, Principal
Mr. Jim Hawbaker, Assistant Principal
3 Broadwater Avenue, 59101
406-245-6651, Fax 259-3124
E-mail: ntrafton@billingscatholicschools.org
Email: jhawbaker@billingscatholicschools.org

FACULTY AND STAFF

Kari Adams	Art/Yearbook
Amelia Bergum	English
Mary Bummer	Spanish
Tyson Byers	PE/Health
Krista Cunningham	Science
Marina Davis	Math
Tony Derrig	Social Studies
Lorena Dicken	Spanish
Shane Fairbanks	Social Studies/Film
Mallory Harris	Office Manager
Jim Hawbaker	Assistant Principal
Marci Hecker	Math
Angela Hirt	Counselor
Nate Kavanagh	Counselor
Karla Kelly	Theology
Kristin Kulaga	Math
Nick Mack	English
Branden Martinez	Choir, Band, Orchestra
Michael Martinson	Theology
Ashley Nelson	Science
Levi Osborne	Computer Science and Business
Father John Pankratz	Theology
Misty Prudhomme	Social Studies
Jeff Richter	School Resource Officer
Meg Rude	English
Mike Ryan	Activities Director
Jennifer Sogaard	Science
Danielle Tate	English
Maggie Thomson	Special Education
Nolan Trafton	Principal
Krista Wahl	Theology
Mark Wahl	Math

ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Art Club	Kari Adams
C.O.R.E	Krista Wahl
Culture Kitchen	Kari Adams
Exchange Club	Angela Hirt
Girls/Boys State	Angela Hirt
Hack Club	Levi Osborne
Jazz Band	Branden Martinez
Kids Connecting Kids	
Music in the Parks	Branden Martinez
Music Ministry	Mike Martinson
Musical	Branden Martinez
National Honors Society	Marci Hecker and Nate Kavanagh
Native American Club	Karla Kelly
Pep Band	Branden Martinez
Pickleball Club	Shane Fairbanks
Rotary Club	Angela Hirt
Science Bowl	Fr. John Pankratz and Jenni Sogaard
Science Olympiad	Krista Cunningham
Student Council	Kristin Kulaga
Youth Leadership	Angela Hirt

HEAD COACHING ASSIGNMENTS

Boys Basketball	Jim Stergar
Girls Basketball	Jetton Ailes
Cheerleading	Tiffany Glennon
Boys & Girls Cross-Country	Greg Brittain
Football	Jim Stanton
Boys & Girls Golf	Tony Derrig
Boys Soccer	Bilechi Sumaili
Girls Soccer	John Krebs
Softball	Coleman Rockwell
Speech/Drama/Debate	Danielle Tate & Ashley Nelson
Boys & Girls Swimming	Robyn O'Nan
Girls Tennis	Dani Lee
Boys Tennis	Stephen Gruener
Boys & Girls Track & Field	Colter Bethurem
Volleyball	Annita Foster
Wrestling	Barry Morgan

BELL SCHEDULES

7 Period Schedule

Period 1	8:10 – 9:00
Period 2	9:05 – 9:55
Period 3	10:00 – 10:50
Period 4	10:55 – 11:45
Lunch	11:45-12: 20
Period 5	12:25 – 1:15
Period 6	1:20 – 2:10
Period 7	2:15 – 3:05

7 Period Mass Schedule

Period 1	8:10 – 8:50
Period 2	8:55 – 9:40
Mass	9:45 – 10:45
Period 3	10:50 – 11:30
Lunch	11:35 – 12:05
Period 4	12:10 – 12:50
Period 5	12:55 - 1:35
Period 6	1:40 – 2:20
Period 7	2:25 – 3:05

Block Days (Tuesday and Wednesday)

Block A

Period 1	8:10-9:40
Period 3	9:45-11:15
Lunch	11:15-11:55
Period 5	12:00-1:30
Period 7	1:35-3:05

Block B

Period 2	8:10-9:45
RAMS	9:50-10:50
Period 4	10:55-12:25
Lunch	12:25-1:00
Period 6	1:05-2:35
Refocus	2:35

Please note all B Days will include a 2:35 dismissal for Refocus Period. There will be no practices until 3:30 on these days to give students a one-hour academic organizational window. All teachers will be in the building during this time. RAMS period will be used for **Relationships, Assemblies, Mass, and Support**.

7 Period Refocus Day

Period 1	8:10-8:55
Period 2	9:00-9:45
Refocus	9:50-10:35
Period 3	10:40-11:30
Lunch	11:35-12:10
Period 4	12:15-1:00
Period 5	1:05-1:35
Period 6	1:40-2:20
Period 7	2:25-3:05

11:30 Out Schedule

Period 1	8:10-8:35
Period 2	8:40-9:05
Period 3	9:10-9:35
Period 4	9:40-10:05
Period 5	10:10-10:35
Period 6	10:40-11:05
Period 7	11:10-11:35

2:00 Out Schedule

Period 1	8:10-8:50
Period 2	8:55-9:35
Period 3	9:45-10:25
Period 4	10:30-11:10
Lunch	11:15-11:45
Period 5	11:50-12:30
Period 6	12:35-1:15
Period 7	1:20-2:00

This parent-student handbook is intended to provide specific information regarding St. Francis Catholic School. Information contained within the handbook is not intended to contradict information found in the Montana Catholic Schools Policy Manual Section 2000, Student Guidelines and School Operations, which may be found on the Diocesan website, www.dioceseofgfb.org.

RIGHT TO AMEND

BCS Principals and the President of the Billings Catholic Schools have the right to amend the handbook for just cause. Parents will be given prompt notice as changes are made.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students who participate in any extracurricular activity must be eligible according to BCCHS standards and MHSA standards. Montana High School Association standards apply to all association contests and activities. These include all athletic competitions, speech, debate and drama, and all competitive music activities. Added to this list are cheerleading and elected student body officers. The administration reserves the right to declare ineligibility at any time for a serious reason. To be able to participate:

- A student may have no more than one failing grade and a student must maintain at least a 70%, as determined at the end each of the routine six-week grade checks. If this requirement is not met, the student may practice but not participate for five (5) instruction days. The suspension will begin on Monday of the week following the grade check. At the end of the suspension, the Assistant Principal will obtain documentation from the teacher attesting to the student's academic progress before eligibility will be reinstated.
- Eligibility for each student will be determined on the first day of each semester as mandated by MHSA.
- The Principal makes all final decisions regarding student eligibility.

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

If a student's overall grade point average drops below 70% at the end of any semester, the student will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. During the probation period, limitations will be placed on participation in school-related activities that detract from study opportunities and efforts will be made to help the student improve his/her academic performance. If, at the end of the semester of academic probation, the student's overall grade point average is still below 70%, the student will be placed on an academic contract. If the student shows a lack of substantive improvement, it may result in dismissal.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must be qualified to pursue the course of studies they are electing. They are expected to have a record of good standing from their previous school and previous semester. Students who are not living with parents or legal guardians will not be allowed to enroll. Students who move out of the parent/guardian household after enrollment will forfeit their right to attend this high school.

A copy of their official academic transcript and immunization records must be on file along with a teacher/principal recommendation before final acceptance.

All transfer students must present a transcript of grades, and be personally interviewed by administration or counselors prior to acceptance. All students will begin their tenure at BCCHS under a 90-day probationary period. Prospective students should contact the Counselor's office concerning enrollment.

PARENT COOPERATION AS CONDITION OF ENROLLMENT

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the school. Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school administration reserves the right to require the withdrawals of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irretrievably broken.

POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION

Billings Central Catholic High School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Billings Catholic Schools recognize the special needs of students with disabilities and strive to provide for the educational services for all its students to the best of the schools' abilities and resources. The Billings Catholic Schools cannot be expected to meet the learning, physical, and/or emotional needs of students with severe or extraordinary disabilities when the expertise and/or resources needed to educate the child surpass appropriately and adequately those of the school faculty and staff.

SERVICE ANIMALS (Billings Catholic Schools Board Policy 2024-007)

For the purposes of this policy, state law defines a service animal as a dog or any other animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Federal law definition of a disability includes a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. It is Billings Catholic Schools intent to provide the necessary accommodations and modifications to students and staff in the spirit of Section 504 protection and those who meet the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) eligibility. See Board Policy 2024-007.

TUITION POLICY

Families seeking quality education often consider a non-public school. These families understand the benefits of a Catholic education---smaller class sizes, excellent teaching, close student-teacher relationships, a sense of community, and a Christian environment. They are also aware of the costs, and many parents are justifiably concerned about their ability to afford a Catholic school. The Billings Catholic Schools are committed to educating a socio-economically diverse student body. Our financial aid program is designed to promote this goal.

Catholic school education is a choice for families. The school, parishes, and the families make significant financial sacrifices to support this choice. Our policies and philosophy attempt to ensure that each family is subject to the same guidelines as we evaluate the needs of your family relative to the needs of other families in our school.

Financial assistance is provided by the parishes and schools to reduce the cost of our Catholic school education. Few families find it "easy" to pay tuition at Billings Catholic Schools. Most adjust their spending priorities, maximize both parents' earnings, and carefully manage assets to do so. We would like to provide firm guidelines to help you decide whether to apply, but we have found that each family's combination of circumstances is unique. The most helpful guideline comes from your own knowledge of your family's finances.

TUITION POLICY FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

There are no tuition discounts available for foreign students. Foreign students are defined as students who are not U.S. citizens and whose primary residence is outside the United States. Foreign students are a welcome addition to our school system through reputable agencies, but we are unable to provide tuition discounts to them at the expense of resident families.

Billings Catholic Schools operates on limited resources and has limited funds available for tuition assistance. Only families that participate in our system on a full-time basis may be eligible to receive the benefit of these resources.

OUTSTANDING MONEY/DEBT

Report cards and/or permanent records are not issued until all fines, outstanding debts, and replacement fees are paid.

POLICY ON RESPECT

The good name, reputation and personal safety of each student, faculty and staff member is vitally important. In order to protect students, employees, and the institution itself, each student is expected to treat the good name and reputation of other students, school employees and the school with dignity and respect and not engage in any activity or conduct, either on campus or off campus, that is in opposition to this policy and/or inconsistent with the Catholic Christian principals of the school, as determined by the school in its discretion. Any derogatory, slanderous, hostile or threatening remarks or actions directed towards any of the above by a student will be seen as a violation of this policy and an extremely serious matter, whether it is done physically, verbally or electronically through the use of a home or school computer or by remote access during school time or after hours. Some examples include, but are not limited to, text messages, blogging, images or pictures, etc. Any student who violates any aspect of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action according to school policy, including suspension or expulsion from the school and the notification of appropriate law enforcement agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are placed on the digital announcement boards each day. All announcements must be placed on a form from the main office or be emailed to the office and receive authorization from teachers, the activity sponsor/coach or administration.

ASBESTOS

Asbestos is contained in St. Francis Early Childhood Center and Billings Central Catholic High School in limited amounts. All necessary precautions have been taken to ensure your safety as well as your child's. As of August 1989, our buildings have been inspected on an annual basis and plans for proper maintenance and operation have been approved by the State of Montana.

ATTENDANCE

High school attendance, according to the laws of the State of Montana, is the responsibility of the student with support from parents/guardians. BCCHS complies with the mandated pupil instruction days and has established a "10-day policy" governing attendance. All students are expected to be present and punctual for assigned classes, assemblies, retreats and liturgies throughout the school year. Students who attend irregularly will be placed on probation, parents will be notified, and the terms of the probation will be discussed. It is difficult for faculty to assess ability or grant credit to students who are absent beyond the norm. The following attendance policy is designed to assist parents in helping their student recognize the

importance of regular and prompt school attendance as it relates to school progress, and to carry out the policy.

ABSENCE DEFINED

- 1) When the student is not in the assigned room and academically prepared.
- 2) Not present in school liturgy (Mass), assembly, or retreat.
- 3) Present at the beginning of a period, but leaves a class without the teacher's permission.

The parent is responsible to determine when an absence is necessary. In the case of those students who are repeatedly absent and choose not to take school attendance seriously, BCCHS will provide continual consequences that may ultimately end up in student dismissal.

ABSENCE CATEGORIES

Excused Absence, Unexcused Absence, School Related Absence

All excused and unexcused absences are included in the calculation of total absences.

Excused Absences: any absence from school, liturgical events, or other activities that has been authorized by parent/guardian or school personnel.

All work should be completed in advance when possible.

Unexcused Absence: any absence from school, liturgical events, or other activities that has not been authorized by parent/guardian or school personnel, or for unacceptable reasons.

- Failure to sign out of the building during the school day
- Failure of parent to clear an absence by phone before the start of the school day following an absence
- Unauthorized absence including an unexcused tardy beyond 10 minutes.
- Student detained by legal authorities for legal action
- Leaving a classroom without the teacher's permission
- Skip days (truancy)
- Leaving school without prior notification to the attendance secretary by a parent/guardian, or administrator

Additional Procedures:

Students are not permitted to leave campus without reporting to the main office and obtaining permission. It will be counted as an Unexcused Absence. Only the Principal and/or Assistant Principal may give permission for a student to leave the campus during class hours. If an emergency arises, every attempt will be made to notify parents prior to dismissing the student.

For all absences:

- Parent/Guardian is requested to notify the school office (406-245-6651 or mharris@billingscatholicschools.org) on that day and every day of continuous absences.
- Students must make up work through extra assignments or realize the consequences of a reduced or failing grade.
- If a student is to be absent from school during a portion of any day, he/she must present to the school office a note signed by a Parent/Guardian before the school day begins. The secretaries will then issue the student an off-campus permit.
- Upon return, students must report to the Attendance Secretary.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCES

Students must bring a note or send an email in advance, signed by parent/guardian, in the event of an anticipated absence. Please plan personal errands and appointments outside of school time. The Attendance Secretary will issue a pass to leave class and the building. The forging of any parent or guardian signature will result in an unexcused absence status with the appropriate resulting consequences.

ASSEMBLIES

Students are to participate actively in assemblies and pep rallies scheduled at the school. This break in the regular routine provides an opportunity for experiences not available in a classroom. It is also an opportunity to exercise maturity and act in an orderly manner as a student body. Persons on the program are to be accorded proper respect.

TARDIES

It is the responsibility of each student to be in class on time, prepared with necessary materials and ready to learn.

- If a student is not in the assigned room when the bell rings, he/she is tardy.
- If a student is tardy beyond 10 minutes. It becomes an unexcused absence.
- Expectations and consequences will be the responsibility of each classroom teacher. Excessive tardiness will be dealt with by the Principal/Assistant Principal.

TEN-DAY RULE

In the event that more than 10 absences occur during a single semester course, excluding School Sponsored Absences, the following will go into effect:

- First, the student will receive an automatic grade of NC (No Credit). The parent(s) will be notified and administration will arrange a conference between the student, parent(s), teacher, and administration to make a determination regarding course credit. Students and parents will be required to summarize in writing extenuating circumstances that would validate an extension to the policy. A meeting will be required for each subsequent absence for the remainder of the semester to determine credit.
- Second, the student will be required to compensate for absences for the remainder of the semester as deemed appropriate by administration.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of his/her number of absences. Depending on the situation, students may need to attend an Academic Refocus period before or after school to help ensure academic success after frequent absences. This time will be set up and monitored by the Assistant Principal.

VACATION AND TRAVEL

Families are encouraged to coincide family vacations or travel with the various vacation periods scheduled throughout the year. Check the school calendar for dates when students are not in school.

BACKPACKS

Students will not be allowed to bring backpacks into the classroom. All backpacks must be stored in lockers for the duration of the school day.

BUSSES AND TRANSPORTATION

Students who ride the school bus are subject to the rules and regulations governing school transportation and the transportation company. Students who are disorderly and consistently disruptive are at risk of losing bus privileges and of being permanently removed from the bus. Bus drivers will report bus misconduct to the administration for disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

In order that our students grow in the understanding that religion is a total life response to the God who loves them, it is important that all those directly responsible for the child's religious formation---parents, teachers, and parish priests, pastoral administrators---work closely together in guiding the child to an even deeper relationship with God.

CHAPEL

Everyone is welcome to use the Chapel for personal prayer and reflection. The Blessed Sacrament is present, and a respectful attitude is expected from those using this area. This is not a student lounge but a gathering place for prayer. No food, candy, gum, or drink is allowed in the chapel. Mass and other liturgies are celebrated throughout the year and on special occasions. Mass or communion services will be held on many Monday mornings at 7:30 a.m. for students, staff, and parents.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Theology is taught as a formal required subject throughout high school, and all students, regardless of church affiliation, are expected to participate in these classes. In addition, all students must participate in the annual retreat and in the Eucharistic celebrations as well as reconciliation and prayer services.

SERVICE MISSION

BCCHS students, through service to their church, family, school, and community, are expected to fulfill the command, "love one another." John 15:12. Service is intended to encourage students to step outside their comfort level, beyond routine tasks, and follow the Holy Spirit through compassion and love for others.

Grade 9	Focus:	Family/School Community
Grade 10	Focus:	School Community
Grade 11	Focus:	Social Justice
Grade 12	Focus:	Predetermined by student for the year

Students are required to complete 10 hours per semester. This should be done at the following rate: 1st 6 weeks=3 hours, 2nd 6 weeks=3 hours, final 6 weeks=4 hours. Students must log their hours on the Service Log Sheet provided by the classroom teacher. This log includes a short reflection.

CHEMICAL USE POLICY

Philosophy:

- BCCHS recognizes that mind-altering chemicals are a significant health problem for all students, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of each individual. Student use of mind-altering chemicals affects academic growth, achievement, participation in activities, spiritual development, and the development of related skills. Family, faculty, teammates, schoolmates, and others are affected by illegal use of mood-altering substances.
- BCCHS believes the close association of teachers, coaches, sponsors and students in the classroom or in activities, can provide a unique opportunity to observe, one another.
- It is the philosophy of BCCHS that students should be encouraged and supported in their efforts to develop and maintain a chemical free lifestyle.

ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Billings Central Catholic High School holds high standards and high expectations for its students and believes that its students represent the greater Catholic community of Montana. In the event BCCHS is notified by self-referral, positive testing results, a school employee, or federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies that a student has violated laws involving the use, possession or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, marijuana or other mood-altering drugs, BCCHS will enforce its procedures as outlined in the CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF SCHOOL SUBSTANCE POLICY OR TESTING POLICY section below.

Usually, BCCHS does not involve itself in a student's conduct apart from school and school-sanctioned events. However, there may be occasions when the student's conduct, especially conduct involving the use and/or possession of alcohol or drugs, even though separate from school, will be of such nature as to reflect on the good name of the Billings Catholic Schools and will be dealt with accordingly.

BCCHS will support those students who choose to self-report a Tobacco / Alcohol / Drug Use Policy Violation and will provide resources for assistance as well as take into consideration the student's initiative in his/her honesty when consequences are rendered.

BCCHS Reasonable Suspicion Testing Policy:

BCCHS believes the close association of teachers, coaches, sponsors, peers, and parents in the BCS family can provide a unique opportunity to observe and support one another. In the event that the school administration or school resource officer is made aware of behavior related to chemical use by objective information, the school, in concert with the parent/guardian will work towards positive resolve. This may include required testing.

DRUG TESTING

Statement of Purpose and Intent:

Enrollment at Billings Catholic Schools (BCS) is a privilege. Students involved in BCS carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents, and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct, which includes avoiding the use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The goal of this program is to prevent illegal substance use, to educate students to the serious physical, mental, and emotional harm caused by use, to identify students with possible abuse problems, and to strive within BCS for an environment free of illegal substance abuse. In addition, and possibly most importantly, this program will provide a tool by which students can resist the pressure to engage in these dangerous and illegal activities, giving them an out to make the right choice, in a day and time where use and abuse is becoming a social norm. It is vital that educators and parents continually explore ways to encourage a drug and alcohol free lifestyle and it is the hope of BCS that this program will be part of the solution combined with parent communication.

The program is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature. The goals of this program relate solely to creating lines of communication with families and to restricting the extra-curricular or co-curricular involvement of any student found to be in violation of this policy. Academic consequences will only occur on the third violation.

Process:

All BCS students in grades 9-12 are to drug testing, including random drug testing. The testing will be completed by Chemnet, who will manage all aspects of testing including collection, communication with the

school administration and President, appeals, and randomization of participants. All information will remain confidential and comply with HIPAA regulations. Initial and random testing will be paid by the school. Follow-up testing, if necessary, will be paid by the student's parents/legal guardian.

Random tests, generated by Chemnet, will take place sporadically during each month. Students selected randomly will be notified by school administration and will test on campus the day of the notification.

Information on Confidentiality and Communication:

- All information will remain confidential and comply with HIPAA regulations.
- Communication regarding testing will be provided by Chemnet to BCS administration and President.
- Positive results will require a meeting with BCCHS administration and parents/guardians.
- BCS employees will not comment regarding results or suspension.
- All drug screen documentation will be destroyed upon graduation of the student.
- Initial refusal to test is a choice to not attend BCCHS while refusal of random testing is a choice to not participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities at BCCHS.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

1st Offense

- Conference with Student, Parent/Guardian, Administrator and Coach/Sponsor.
- Mandatory conference with medical professional or drug addiction counselor.
- 2 Days In-School Suspension, 20 Pupil Instruction (PI) days suspension from school related activity and provide a negative test result, paid by the student's parent/legal guardian, prior to participation. (Carry over to the next activity)

2nd Offense

- Conference with Student, Parent/Guardian, Administrator and Coach/Sponsor when applicable.
- Student must obtain a professional evaluation for substance abuse, paid by the student.
- 4 Days In-School Suspension, Suspension from all school related activities for the remainder of the year or 45 Pupil Instruction (PI) days suspension from school related activities carried over to the following school year. (Whichever suspension is longer)
- Student must obtain a professional evaluation for substance abuse, paid by the student's parents/legal guardian.
- Student will complete random testing throughout the school year(s), at the discretion of the administration, until graduation as a condition of enrollment paid by the student's parent/legal guardian. (No less than once and no more than three times per quarter)

3rd Offense

- Conference with Student, Parent/Guardian and Administrator to develop academic/behavior contract and determine a plan for professional help or a required withdrawal student from BCCHS.
- Student must obtain a professional evaluation for substance abuse, paid by the student.
- Student may be suspended from school related activities for the remainder of high school.
- Student may be required to withdraw from BCCHS.

Chemical use policy violation consequences apply to all of the following activities: Athletics, Cheerleading, Drill Teams, Competitive Speech and Drama, Competitive Music Events, School functions/Activities (Dances), Clubs, Field trips (outside of classroom curriculum), Homecoming activities, and all other privileged activities.

NOTES:

- The selling or dealing of drugs will result in immediate expulsion.
- Students and their property are subject to search & seizure at any time there is reasonable suspicion
- Drug and Alcohol offenses will accumulate and carry over from year to year.

TOBACCO

BCCHS is tobacco free and the use and possession of tobacco in any form is prohibited at all times. This includes possession of e-cigarettes, vapor pens and/or other inhalant devices and includes all students enrolled at BCCHS regardless of age (including those 18 or older). Violation may result in the following consequences:

First Offense:

1st Offense

- Conference with Student, Parent/Guardian, Administrator and Coach/Sponsor when applicable.
- 1 Days In-School Suspension, 1 Day participation in the INDEPTH class conducted by Riverstone Health. 10 Pupil Instruction (PI) days suspension from school related activity.
- 10 hours of community service.

2nd Offense

- Conference with Student, Parent/Guardian, Administrator and Coach/Sponsor when applicable.
- 3 Days-In School Suspension, Suspension from all school related activities for the remainder of the year or 25 Pupil Instruction (PI) days suspension from school related activities carried over to the following school year. (Whichever suspension is longest)
- Student must obtain a professional evaluation for substance abuse.
- 20 hours of community service.

3rd Offense

- Conference with Student, Parent/Guardian and Administrator to develop academic/behavior contract and determine a plan for professional help or a required withdrawal student from BCCHS.

NOTE: Tobacco use violations will accumulate and carry over from year to year.

COMMENCEMENT

All students meeting the requirements for graduation are required to participate in commencement ceremonies. Formal graduation takes place May 26, 2024, at a Eucharistic liturgy. There is no early graduation.

DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT

- Defiance of authority is defined as the refusal to follow the reasonable requests of school personnel or language that is used to cause disruptive, personal attacks. This also includes cheating.
- Disorderly or disruptive conduct is defined as behavior language, which is disruptive to the orderly educational procedures of the school.
- Cell phones are allowed for academic use designated by each classroom teacher. Abuse or disruptive use of phones will be a violation.

Any violations of the above may result in the following consequences:

First Offense:

- Conference with student, administrator and teacher
- Detention or appropriate consequences

Second Offense:

- Conference with student, administrator and teacher
- Parent/guardian notification
- 3 Detentions or appropriate consequence

Third Offense:

- Conference with student, parent/guardian, administrator, and teacher
- 5 Detentions or appropriate consequences
- Activity suspension for 1 school week

TRUANCY

An absence of a student from school, school Mass, retreats, or other activities that has not been authorized by parent/guardian or school personnel, or for unacceptable reasons, may result in the following consequences:

First Offense:

- Student conference with administrator
- Parent/Guardian notification
- 3 Detentions or appropriate consequences
- Activity suspension for the day

Second Offense:

- Conference with student, parent/guardian and administrator
- 5 Detentions or appropriate consequences
- Activity suspension for 3 days

Third Offense:

- Conference with student, parent/guardian and administrator
- 2 days suspension
- Activity suspension for 2 school weeks

Suspension from school may include either “in-school” or “out-of-school” as determined by the school administration.

HARASSMENT/VANDALISM/THEFT

- Harassment is defined as intentionally intimidating or threatening another person, by word or conduct, or attempting to place another person in fear of physical injury, as well as any form of sexual harassment. This includes both verbal and physical hazing on school premises, going to and from school, while riding on any school transportation, or attending or participating in a school sponsored activity while within the jurisdiction, supervision and control of the school.
- Vandalism is defined as willfully damaging, defacing, or destroying property owned or under the responsibility of the school, school officials or others. Serious acts of vandalism, such as arson or breaking and entering, may bring an automatic recommendation for expulsion on the first offense.

- Theft is defined as taking, giving, or receiving property not owned by the student.

ASSAULT/FIGHTING

- The intentional, unauthorized physical contact with another person that causes injury or threatens the safety of others.

Any violations of the above may result in the following consequences:

First Offense:

- Conference with student, parent/guardian and administration
- Parent/Guardian notification
- 2 days suspension
- Restitution
- Activity suspension for 2 school weeks

Second Offense:

- Conference with student, parent/guardian and administration
- Parent/Guardian notification
- 3 days suspension
- Restitution
- Activity suspension for 4 school weeks

Third Offense:

- Required withdrawal from BCCHS

Suspension from school may include either “in-school” or “out-of-school” or “Saturday School” suspension as determined by the school administration.

NOTE: Any physical assault upon a staff member may bring an automatic recommendation for expulsion on the first offense.

WEAPONS/EXPLOSIVE DEVICES/ARSON

Possession and/or use of a dangerous instrument, including but not limited to firearms, BB guns, knives, clubs, explosives (including fireworks) or any instrument which may inflict bodily injury on another may result in the following consequences:

First Offense:

- Conference with student, parent/guardian and administrator
- Immediate Expulsion

DRESS CODE

The attire for BCCHS students should demonstrate a sense of personal dignity, Christian modesty and an understanding of what is appropriate for the school/workplace environment. Clothing must be clean, mended and worn in the manner for which they were designed. It will not refer to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, sex or display a gothic/morbid theme. The administration reserves the right to deem any other fashion statement inappropriate. Consequences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- Pants will be clean and properly fitted. Sweatpants, yoga pants, leggings, pajama type pants, and athletic pants are not permitted. “Distressed” jeans are ok if no skin is showing above the mid-thigh and the tears do not take away from what is appropriate for the school/workplace environment.
- For female students, shirts and blouses must meet the 3-finger rule at the shoulder and must be long enough that no skin is showing. Crop tops are not permitted. Visible bra straps are not acceptable. Sheer or see-through tops are not allowed unless the shirt underneath meets the 3-finger rule. For male students shirts must have sleeves.
- Shorts may be worn throughout the school year. Gym shorts, mesh shorts, running shorts, and biking shorts are not allowed. Shorts must be below the mid-thigh for male and female students. Underwear should not be visible.
- Male students are to be shaven.
- Male students may wear stud earring no larger than 1 carat.
- Gang related jewelry or chains and spiked or studded attire will not be permitted.
- Hats, hoods, sunglasses, and other assorted forms of headwear are not to be worn in the building.
- Hair deemed bizarre or disruptive because of style is not permitted. Colored or “dipped” hair is not allowed. Natural highlighting is acceptable.
- Facial and tongue piercings are prohibited except for a small, discreet nose stud or discreet hoop will be allowed.
- Dresses will meet the 3-finger rule at the shoulder. Skirts and dresses must be below mid-thigh.
- Strapless tops and dresses are not allowed.
- No cut-off tops (t-shirts cut on the side)
- Visible tattoos must be free of vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive, or gang related material and must not refer to or depict drugs, alcohol, weapons, or tobacco, degrade race, gender, sexual orientation or religious affiliation. Visible tattoos must meet all the standards related above, tattoos which do not comply with these standards or are a distraction in any other way as deemed by the school must be covered while the student is at school or school activities.

Individual teachers will determine whether a particular aspect of the dress code has been violated and communicate that to the Dress Code Committee. Students violating the dress code will be sent to Committee Members to make necessary adjustments. Consequences for violations will fall under Defiance of Authority and Disruptive Behavior.

MASS ATTIRE

Students at BCCHS are required to wear a solid black collared shirt or solid black 1/4 zip top for all Masses. The shirts can be long or short sleeved, with or without the BC logo. Manufactured logos (Nike, Under Armor, etc.) must be smaller than 2x2in. Shirts with the BC logo may be purchased at Billings Central.

Mass attire bottoms are also required for all Masses. Khaki, black, white, or grey pants are acceptable. Short are acceptable in the same colors. Holes in pants are unacceptable. The administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate. Violation of the dress code will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

HYGIENE

Practicing good hygiene aligns with Catholic social teaching by promoting the dignity of every person and the common good. By maintaining cleanliness and preventing the spread of illness, we show respect for our own bodies and the well-being of others. To ensure a healthy school environment, all students and staff must practice good hygiene by washing hands regularly, covering coughs and sneezes, and maintaining personal

cleanliness. Non-compliance with these guidelines will be addressed promptly to maintain the well-being of our school community.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

BCCHS has a comprehensive procedure guide to follow in the case of emergency. Safety drills are conducted on a regular basis. In case of a school-wide emergency, the Billings Catholic Schools Administration office will notify parents via the SchoolMessenger telephone system. In the event of a crisis do not go to the school or call the school for information. Wait for instructions from your SchoolMessenger phone call or call the BCS Administration offices at 252-0997.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Activities are an integral part of our educational program at BCCHS. Their value is in the striving for individual excellence through competition, with oneself as well as the opponent, and the sacrifice of oneself for the team. A wide variety of clubs, music, speech, journalistic, and athletic activities are available to all our students. Parents are encouraged to keep lines of communication open with the school, the coaches and sponsors, and the student. If a problem arises, please address it swiftly with the coach/sponsor and/or the administration before it escalates. Coaches/sponsors will address the needs of their activities with students and parents.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE AT BCCHS ACTIVITIES

- Activities will be conducted with the highest ethical and moral standards.
- Inappropriate behavior and/or use of inappropriate language or gestures will not be tolerated.
- Religious activities are an “integral” part of the Billings Catholic School. Coaches, sponsors and parents are encouraged to support our students in all religious activities including attendance and participation, without reservation, in the Masses held before school or during the school day, as well as the retreats and various religious activities and functions provided in the school setting.
- A cooperative spirit, exemplary conduct on and off the playing field, and a desirable level of competition among participants must be preserved.
- While activities meet the standards imposed by the MHSAA, it must be understood that the discipline standards established at BCCHS must be met as well.
- Participants must have a physical examination and concussion forms turned in before engaging in an athletic activity.
- Students are expected to wear modest appropriate clothing as outlined in the dress code.
- All activity participants and his/her parents/guardians must submit a signed activity consent/release form to the Activities Director prior to activity participation.
- All students in the Billings Catholic Schools are insured for school related accidents. Leaflets explaining this coverage are provided in registration packets at the beginning of the school year or may be obtained in the school office.

MHSAA ELIGIBILITY

BCCHS is a member of the Montana High School Association (MHSAA) and is subject to all that organization’s rules and regulations. In order to participate, students in a MHSAA activity must:

- Maintain status as a participant;
- Be passing the required courses and maintain at least a 70% at the time of participation;
- Be eligible relative to age and school district attendance. (Students reaching their 19th birthday before September 1st will not be eligible for competition in any MHSAA sponsored events.)

- Be in attendance at school for the full day of the scheduled activity or practice. Exceptions are pre-arranged (prior to that day) excuses as determined by the Administration.

EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPATION

It is the policy of Billings Catholic Schools that 8th grade students will only be allowed to participate in BCCHS athletic activities as a member of a team if:

- Their participation is necessary to roster a varsity team,
- They do not fill a roster spot that would otherwise be filled by an eligible 9-12 grade student,
- They meet all MHSА eligibility requirements for participation in MHSА activities.

If 8th grade participation becomes necessary, it will be at the discretion of the coach with the approval of the Athletic Director and BCCHS Principal.

TITLE IX

There will be no discrimination against any student on the basis of sex, race, or creed, in providing access to extra-curricular activities. It is the purpose of our activities programs to provide equal access, share in equal use of facilities, transportation, coaching/sponsorship, and support services. Complaints are to be presented to the school administration.

TRAVEL

Students are subject to the direction and authority of the coach or advisor while involved in activity travel. Behavior must be exemplary while visiting other communities/schools. When traveling on buses, the same behavior is expected in the bus as in the classroom. Students will be expected to remain seated at all times and refrain from shouting. Absolutely no R-rated or sexually suggestive PG-13 rated movies will be shown on buses. The head coach must approve all movies shown on buses.

BCCHS is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff during overnight travel. Gender-specific room assignments will be strictly enforced, and no students of the opposite gender are allowed in each other's rooms at any time. Additionally, behavior expectations consistent with school policies and values must be upheld at all times. This policy ensures that all travel opportunities support educational goals while prioritizing the safety and moral development of our students.

FUNDRAISING

Purpose: This policy and procedures are to ensure maximal value of charitable gifts, good donor relations, coordination of asks, and appropriate donor stewardship to benefit the entirety of Billings Catholic Schools and its mission.

Responsibility and Priorities of Fundraising: The primary responsibility of fundraising on behalf of the Billings Catholic Schools is the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation. As the development office of Billings Catholic Schools, the Foundation retains authority and responsibility to oversee all aspects of fundraising.

As a part of this responsibility, certain fundraising initiatives take priority. The primary fundraising initiatives of the Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation is towards the operational vitality of the Billings Catholic Schools, and support of its students, parents, teachers, and staff. This includes unrestricted contributions towards the mission of the schools, tuition assistance, scholarships, and endowment donations.

Extracurricular Activities are vital programs of the Billings Catholic Schools and its mission of faith, family spirit, and academic excellence. Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation desire that all extracurricular activities (e.g. academic clubs, athletics, events, travel, etc.) are appropriately resourced to meet their needs. To this end, fundraising is encouraged. The Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation understands and acknowledges that it

cannot take on all fundraising related activity on behalf of every activity related to the Billings Catholic Schools. However, appropriate coordination of fundraising related activity is desired and beneficial for all. When fundraising is undertaken by a BCS activity or program, the responsibility for all aspects of fundraising rest with the designated activity or program lead (i.e. teacher, coach, club lead, fund controller, committee lead, etc.).

Procedures for BCS Related Fundraising: The following details the procedures every activity lead must follow to ensure appropriate coordination of fundraising across Billings Catholic Schools:

1. Fill out a fundraising form detailing your fundraising activity. See Appendix B for Fundraising Form.
2. Form will be submitted at minimum 2 weeks prior to fundraising activities.
3. Submit form to your appropriate administrator to receive permission to proceed – i.e. BCCHS Principal, SFC Principals
4. If approved by administrator, administrator will forward form to BCS President and Foundation President to receive additional approvals.
5. Once decided, administrator will communicate decision and any related conditions to the activity lead.
6. If approved, activity lead may begin fundraising activities.
7. Contributions of cash, check, or other cash equivalents must be delivered to the appropriate office immediately or as soon as reasonably practicable to be deposited into the appropriate account.
8. Once fundraising activity is complete, the activity lead will ensure an appropriate thank you and tax receipt is issued to the donors if needed.
9. Once fundraising activity is complete, a list of donors and the amounts donated will be submitted to the BCS Foundation for appropriate donor tracking.

Types and Kinds of Fundraising: There are various kinds and types of fundraisers including, but not limited to: direct solicitation of contribution, sponsorships with benefits, selling of goods and services, auctions and raffles, fundraising events, grant requests, and in-kind equipment and services.

Exclusions and Prohibitions: The following exclusions and prohibitions will be followed in all fundraising activities:

1. Student Participation: No student will be mandated or coerced for a fundraising fee associated with participation in an activity. Fundraising goals may be appropriate, but there is no implied guarantee of meeting said goal.
2. Donor Rights: No donor will be coerced through harassment or other inappropriate solicitation to contribute. Donors who refuse to give will be respected for their decision.
3. Corporate Sponsors: No activity will approach a corporate or business sponsor with a direct solicitation over \$150. Corporate and business sponsors are coordinated through the Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation.
4. Foundation and Grant Requests: No activity or person will submit a grant request to a private or public granting entity (i.e., foundation, trusts, etc.) without approval of the Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation.
5. Vendor Approval: Activity leads will use the appropriate vendors as outlined by Billings Catholic Schools to ensure appropriate branding. Vendors include suppliers for uniforms, spirit wear, marketing materials, etc. Please coordinate with community engagement coordinator regarding use of appropriate vendors and brand assurances.

6. 3rd Party Fundraising Platforms: Any 3rd party fundraising platform (i.e. VerticalRaise, eTeamsponsor, etc.) must be approved by Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation before engagement in fundraising activity. All contracts for engagement are signed by the Billings Catholic Schools administrator.
7. Sponsor Benefits: Activity leads or their delegates will not directly nor indirectly imply sponsor benefits for a contribution to the activity. Any benefit levels must be discussed with administration prior to solicitation or acceptance of gift.
8. Gift Recognition: Recognition of gifts must be approved with administrator before recognition is given through marketing materials (i.e. posters) or various events.
9. No Implied Consent: Each fundraising initiative must seek approval before activity takes place. There is no implied consent year over year for fundraising, and each activity must submit a new form each time activity takes place.

Timeline: Timelines for fundraising activities must be approved by the Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation as a part of seeking approval. Fundraising activities should have begun and end dates for each fundraising initiative proposed.

Conditions: Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation may place conditions upon fundraising initiatives at its discretion.

SOLICITING ON THE BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS

Billings Catholic Schools prohibits the use of School trademarks and provided or originated contact lists (mailing lists, phone lists, e-mail lists, directories, and the like) for the solicitation of funds to benefit specific individuals as individuals do not have designated non-profit status. This does not preclude fundraising efforts to recognize an individual associated with BCS/BCSF where the resulting funds are used to benefit BCS/BCSF (e.g. classroom to honor a retiring faculty member or a book fund to memorialize a deceased staff member or student).

Our school system depends heavily upon the ongoing and generous financial support it receives each year from alumni, friends, local businesses, foundations, and other donors. These gifts provide financial aid for our students, salaries for faculty and staff, and other crucial operation expenses. To ensure that this support continues and grows, it is essential that BCS/BCSF be aware of all fundraising appeals that are in any way connected to BCS/BCSF, in order to make sure that they do not inadvertently jeopardize our relationships with our important supporters. Whether as a student, faculty, staff, or school affiliated organization, we all play an important role in these relationships, and we ask that you work with others at BCS/BCSF to maximize the results for all of us.

GRADING

Grades are the means for a teacher to report how a student is progressing after assessing the work done throughout the course of a semester. The grading rubric for each class will be determined by the individual teacher and communicated to students at the beginning of the school year through the "Full Disclosure-Syllabus" document. A copy of the "Full Disclosure-Syllabus" is on file in the principal's office. Grade percentage average (GPA) will be determined on a cumulative basis.

All incomplete work must be made up within 10 school days, or an amount of time determined by admin, following each semester grading period or the student receives a 'fail' for the course in question. ONLY final semester grades, attendance records, and results of placement and achievement will become part of the permanent record of a student on file in the school.

GRADING SYSTEM

BCCHS adopted the percentage grading system for the class of 2016 and beyond. Students will receive the numeric grade for which they have earned and no conversion to a letter grade will take place. Failing will be below 65%. The transcript will simply reflect the percentage earned. To be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, students must take 7 classes for GPA credit. A calculation of the highest percent GPA and the most honors level classes will be Valedictorian. Salutatorian will be the second student with the criteria. In the case of ties, each person will receive the honor. Honor classes will accumulate all 4 years and include all classes designated with honors recognition on the transcript, all classes designated with AP designation on the transcript, all 3rd and 4th year fine art classes, and all college level classes. Final determination for Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be made by the school administration.

FINAL ASSESSMENT WEEK

BCCHS believes that Semester and Final Performance Assessment is a critical component in the academic process. Assessment must measure a student's mastery of the subject matter and the ability to prepare for testing so as to successfully demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter. The assessment should measure the student's ability to recall and retain information and to demonstrate through his or her own words or actions comprehension of that information. The means for assessment may vary, but in all cases will measure cumulatively the material covered in the time period for which the assessment is being given. Every student is expected to be present on these days. Parents/guardians are advised to be aware that these are fixed days and only exceptional circumstances should prevent students from taking exams on these days (i.e., serious illness, funerals, etc.).

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to complement and reinforce the learning process. It is the responsibility of the student to see that it is completed and turned in on time. The teacher may deem incomplete or late assignments unacceptable. Students are expected to pace the completion of long-range assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to ask the teacher for make-up assignments when the student has been absent. Arrangements for make-up assignments should be made on the day the student returns to school or preferably in advance if possible.

HONOR CODE

The Billings Central Catholic High School Academic Honor Code is signed by every student for every class and states: I pledge that I will neither give or receive unauthorized assistance during completion of academic work or tolerate those who do. I also pledge that I will not participate in unauthorized video or audio recording of students, staff, and others associated with BCCHS.

Unauthorized assistance is defined as: Plagiarism—Use of someone else's ideas or expressions, from any source, including print and electronic origins, as one's own writing, either verbatim or paraphrased, without acknowledgement of the person or source. Cheating—attempting to receive help in any way not approved by the teacher while completing a test, quiz, or homework assignment. Helping or attempting to help others commit academic dishonesty is also considered cheating. Unauthorized video or audio recording is defined as video or audio recording without permission.

Cheating of any form is a serious offense. It results in a student's loss of integrity and intellectual growth. All cheating will be reported immediately by the teacher to the administration. The student will immediately receive a zero on the assignment/test in question and will serve a minimum of 4 hours of detention.

Unauthorized video, recording, or pictures of any form is an illegal and a serious offense. All instances will be reported immediately to the administration. Consequences may include detention, suspension, required withdrawal from school, and/or legal action.

I understand the definitions of cheating and plagiarism as set forth by BCCHS and the expectation of the school and staff to provide authentic work. I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance during completion of academic work, nor tolerate those who do. I also understand the definition of unauthorized video, recording, and pictures and the expectation of the school and pledge I will not participate in such behavior.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES

The counselors will assist with educational, vocational, social, and personal concerns in a confidential manner. A student has the right to privacy and to expect confidentiality. This confidentiality will not be broken except where there is a perceived clear and present danger to the student and/or to other persons.

Information on careers, advanced education, and financial aid may be obtained from the counseling staff. Scheduling, class changes and testing programs are managed, also, within the Counseling Center. Students must have a pass from the counselor and/or teacher to visit the counseling office during the day.

COURSE CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS

Students are given the opportunity to decide their classes in consultation with parents, counselors, and/or teachers. Once a student is enrolled in a class, he/she is expected to remain there for the duration of the semester or school year. Only under extraordinary circumstances may a student change a course schedule, and this must take place within the first 10 days of the semester.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All graduates are expected to earn a minimum of 24 credits including Theology. A full credit is awarded for successful completion of a two-semester course. In addition, students are required to engage in 20 hours of volunteer service in their parishes/churches/community during each school year. This volunteer work plus any written assignments for their project will be recorded in theology classes.

Minimum Credits for Graduation:

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit
Health Enhancement	1 credit
Practical Arts	1 credit (Computer Programming ½ credit)
Electives	4 credits
Total Required	24 credits

GENERAL REMINDER

Course requirements for entrance into four different types of colleges are listed below. The academic prerequisites, typical of colleges in each of the categories listed may change from year to year. You should use this list as a general guideline. It is important to remember that the State of Montana has its own curriculum requirements that you need to satisfy to graduate. Specific information must be obtained directly from the

college you are interested in attending. Students should be aware that colleges have returned to a preference of a traditional and classical college preparatory curriculum which includes:

	Public Universities	Private 4 Year Colleges	Highly Selective Colleges	CC (2yr)
English	4 years	4 years	4 years	Varies
Mathematics	3 years	4 years	4 years	Varies
Science	3 years	3-4 years	4 years	Varies
Social Science	3 years	3-4 years	3-4 years	Varies
Foreign Lang.	2 years	2-4 years	4 years	Varies
Academic Electives	Varies	2 years	2 years	Varies

SUMMER SCHOOL – OUTSIDE CREDIT

Any student who fails a sequential course or one that is required for graduation and plans to attend an alternate school and return to BCCHS, will be obliged to meet the course requirements of BCCHS. Written consent by the administration is needed if a student intends to use this work in fulfilling graduation requirements. Summer school grades, evening high school classes, or online classes will not be utilized in determining rank or grade point average.

Students are not allowed to take courses that are offered at BCCHS elsewhere, whether the classes are evening high school, summer courses, or online classes unless they have failed the course being considered or have written permission from the building principal for extraordinary circumstances.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts will be sent at no charge for students attending BCCHS.

LOCKERS

The office assigns lockers. Students are encouraged to use the locks to protect their personal effects and schoolbooks. BCCHS is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Absolutely no writing or diagrams of any sort will be permitted to be drawn directly on lockers without previous approval by the administration. This includes both the inside and outside of the locker. Any inappropriate material displayed in a locker, including but not limited to sexually suggestive material, will be removed. Students will be held accountable financially for loss or defacement of any assigned school property which includes the lock and the locker. The school reserves the right to search student lockers at any time.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find a misplaced article are asked to take the item to the office. If you have lost something, contact the office. Lost articles, which are not claimed within a reasonable amount of time, will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

LUNCH

Hot lunch is provided daily at BCCHS. High school students are invited and encouraged to participate in the program. Sack lunches may be eaten in the cafeteria. All students are asked to abide by the following:

- Deposit all lunch litter in waste containers provided.
- Leave tables and floor clean for those who follow.
- Courteous conduct is expected from all students who use the cafeteria.

Applications for free and/or reduced lunches are available to students through the lunch program

FOOD AND DRINK

- Lunchtime: dispose of all sacks and cans in the appropriate bins and clean up any spills for which you are responsible.
- Students should be familiar with each teacher's classroom rules regarding food and drink.
- Students are responsible for cleaning their own litter and spills.

OFF-CAMPUS LUNCH RESTRICTIONS

BCCHS campus is closed from the beginning until the end of the school day for students. This includes lunch and passing time between classes. Off campus privileges will be accorded to seniors and juniors at the discretion of BCCHS administration. No other off campus lunch privileges will be permitted. Seniors and juniors are expected to follow the procedures outlined by the administration. Leaving campus outside of these guidelines and without permission will be treated as truancy. The privilege may be rescinded in the event of violations.

MAYFAIR

Mayfair is held the first Saturday of May. It is the main fundraiser for the Billings Catholic School System. All parents are encouraged to volunteer for and support Mayfair. (Contact the Mayfair office — 252-5731)

MEDICATIONS

High school students are responsible for taking their own medication(s) if in small doses. High school students are allowed to carry only a small amount of necessary medication in properly labeled containers. All medication must be carried in the original container. Large amounts of medication must be stored in the main office.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is under auspices of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. It is governed by both a National constitution and a Chapter constitution specific to BCCHS.

The Aquinas Chapter of NHS at BCCHS honors students who maintain high academic standards. Equally important at both the national and local level is an expectation of student members to continuously demonstrate service, leadership, character, as well as academic excellence. These are referred to as the "four pillars" of NHS. Each plays an equal role in the selection process.

The selection process for membership in the Aquinas chapter of NHS is as follows:

- In December, all juniors and any nonmember seniors are invited to apply for membership, if their cumulative G.P.A. is 92% or higher.
- Interested applicants are asked to turn in an activity sheet listing their school and community involvement.
- A February Induction ceremony is held, swearing in the new members.

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The school abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, a school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the academic records and to other school-related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with an official copy of the court order.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are a valuable means of communication, providing an opportunity to get acquainted, share common problems, and understand one another better. Conferences are held in November however, parents and teachers are free to visit each other at any time during the school year. Parents should call the high school or email the teacher to make arrangements for unscheduled conferences.

PARKING

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not right. There are a limited number of places available; therefore, we encourage car-pooling. Available parking lot spaces will be assigned to students based on seniority. Students may not park in the BCCHS lot or Dahl's Funeral Chapel lot without a parking pass from administration. Students may not park in fire lanes or on grass areas. If parking on the streets, please do not block driveways at the risk of a parking violation and possible towing charges.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

The Diocesan Policy requires that all adults who have contact with children, including volunteers, take the Recognizing Child Abuse Course. Go to <https://safeandsacred-diocesegfb.org> to access this course. The Diocese monitors compliance and those not in compliance may be released from employment or volunteering. Please ask our building principals if you have questions about this program.

SCHOOL AND FACILITIES

The proper care of BCCHS and classrooms is essential to maintain a school of which we can all be proud. Visitors and other schools judge us on our appearance and on our behavior. The following procedures will help us create the best school possible and promote Ram pride, respect, and spirit!

SEXUAL ISSUES

Billings Central Catholic High School is a Diocesan Catholic Secondary school. The mission, policy and regulations of the school are consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Church through its Bishops has addressed topics of moral and ethical concern. These include issues of life, dignity and respect for the life of every person. Students who seek help in areas of personal concern will be afforded an atmosphere of respect, trust and confidentiality.

ABORTION

Within its philosophy and mission, the school opposes abortion, the deliberate destruction of human life. The school will provide all available resources and nurturing support for a pregnant student in respect for the absolute dignity of life in bringing the child to term. In the event the school becomes aware, despite its support, that one of its students has willfully chosen to obtain an abortion, the student may be dismissed. For the same reason, other members of the BCCHS family, including the father, may be dismissed if they have encouraged an abortion.

Public Displays of Affection: BCCHS forbids public displays of any kind in the school environment and during school activities. Students are to refrain from inappropriate touching or contact. Students in violation will be sent to an administrator.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

BCCHS will not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind. Sexual harassment shall be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- submission to or rejection of such conduct results in or from an imposition, or the threatened imposition of academic or disciplinary or other sanctions on a person;

- the verbal or physical conduct is such that it would be offensive to a reasonable person;
- such conduct has a purpose or the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following types of behaviors either first hand or via technology:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, imitations, or comments.
- Visual contact such as staring, ogling, leering, derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, or gestures.
- Physical contact such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movements, or interfering with work, study, or play because of sex.
- Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of grades or other benefits or to avoid some other loss, and offers of benefits in return for sexual favors.
- Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report sexual harassment.

Any individual who experiences sexual harassment or unwelcome sexual conduct should report it immediately to the counselor or administration. All allegations will be taken seriously and promptly investigated by the counselor or administration. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent permitted by law in concern for all parties involved. If the allegations are true and the conduct is found to be sexually harassing, disciplinary action, as deemed appropriate for the situation, will be taken. If the offender is an adult, diocesan policies will be applied. If the offender is a student, disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, contacting parents, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, mandatory counseling and/or expulsion. Insofar as it is able to be accomplished, no contact will be allowed between the perpetrator and victim.

PREGNANCY POLICY

Billings Central Catholic High School does not condone premarital sexual activity. However, we take our responsibility of educating the pregnant student in a Catholic environment seriously and will assist the student academically and spiritually to make the most of the situation. The school curricula will continue to emphasize Catholic religious beliefs, morals, and values about sexual issues as well as how to take responsibility for life choices.

A pregnant student and the expectant father are welcome to remain in the high school or, as new registrants, may be accepted for admission. The student will receive the support, nurturing, and guidance necessary to succeed academically. However, certain guidelines will apply for the duration of the pregnancy. Billings Central Catholic High School teaches and upholds the moral values and standards of the Catholic Church and prides itself on being compassionate, caring, and Christ-like to the students and families it serves. A pregnancy in the school evokes strongly mixed feelings as well as sharply conflicted reasoning about religious values and teachings. While there is joy that the student has chosen life, there is concern that the pregnancy ignores the moral teachings of the Catholic schools and presents everyone with genuine moral dilemmas.

Any expectant parent, if he or she is a student at BCCHS, is required to receive counseling approved by administration. The parents or legal guardians of the expectant student must participate in this counseling process as well. The counseling service will communicate with the administration to assure that the requirements have been met.

Any expectant parent may participate in extra-curricular activities at the discretion of the administration. In the case of athletics, the pregnant student may participate only with the written permission from her doctor and with the documented understanding that the school is absolved of neglect or liability.

Non-compliance with the full policy will result in immediate dismissal from this high school.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students have a right to an education in an orderly, safe environment. They are expected to take full advantage of their educational opportunities and, with the help of a dedicated staff, to become more self-disciplined at school, in school activities, and outside of school. It is the duty of the administration to establish and enforce regulations that contribute to a productive, orderly, and safe school. The methods used in enforcing the discipline require professional judgment that should be:

- Consistent from day-to-day and student-to-student.
- Balanced against the severity of the conduct.
- Appropriate to the student's prior behavior.
- Fair to the student, parent, and others.
- Effective.

Students must recognize their responsibilities and abide by the rules and policies of BCCHS as well as state and federal law. Students are expected to follow the conduct code at all school events and activities. In addition, the administration has the option to notify police authorities and press charges. The administration is required to notify police authorities in the case of major violations.

Conduct code violation consequences apply to all of the following activities: Athletics, Cheerleading, Drill Teams, Competitive Speech and Drama, Competitive Music Events, School functions/Activities (Dances), Clubs, Field trips (outside of classroom curriculum), Homecoming activities, and all other aspects of student life.

DANCES CODE OF CONDUCT

Dance

1. The expectation:

It is expected that all Billings Central Catholic High School students and guests will exhibit/demonstrate respect and courtesy on the dance floor at all times. The manner of dance should be appropriate for a BCCHS school function. We expect students to have fun, but at the same time demonstrate good character and appropriate dancing at all times.

2. Prohibition:

Vulgar/provocative dancing will not be allowed, nor any form of dance which is sexually suggestive, or mimic sexual acts. Dances will be chaperoned by School Administration.

3. Consequences:

A student exhibiting this form of dance will be referred to the Principal or Assistant Principal at which time (s)he will be asked to leave the dance. Any student who is insubordinate will be subject to further disciplinary action. If a student is asked to leave a dance in a school year, (s)he may not be allowed to attend dances for the remainder of the school year.

- Dress
Students are expected to follow the dress code guidelines as stated in the student handbook or specifically designated for a particular dance. Students not dressed appropriately will not be allowed

to enter the dance and may be referred to the Principal or Assistant Principal. The Principal or Assistant Principal will determine further disciplinary action.

- **Drugs, Alcohol, and/or Tobacco**

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco are prohibited. BCCHS will have an Officer at all dances. Legal consequences and school consequences will be enforced.

- **Entering & Exiting**

The doors will close exactly one hour after each dance is scheduled to begin. After that point, no students are allowed to enter the dance. Once students choose to leave a dance, they must leave the campus or facility and may not re-enter. Dances hours will be posted and will end no later than 11:30.

- **Music**

The Principal will approve all music played prior to the dance. Requests will not be allowed by DJ's without administrative permission.

- **Visitors**

Visitors are allowed at selected dances. Visitors must be enrolled in high school unless approved in advance by the Principal. Students enrolled in junior high will not be allowed. If a student chooses to bring a visitor to a dance, he or she must complete the dance visitor form and submit it on time.

Incomplete or late visitor forms will not be accepted. The list of approved visitors will be posted one day prior to the dance. Students may only bring one visitor to a dance. Dance Guest Forms are available in the attendance office.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS, DISPLAYS AND PRODUCTIONS

School publications, productions or displays that are part of the school curriculum or activities, are subject to review and evaluation by school administrators. The final decision about the suitability of any material in question shall rest with the Administration, after review and consultation with the teacher/advisor and the student representative(s), prior to publication, production or display. Such publications, productions, or displays shall be reviewed in light of the high school's legitimate educational concerns which include, but are not limited to:

- Whether the material is or may be defamatory or libelous
- Whether the material is appropriate for the age, grade level, and/or maturity of the audience
- Whether the material is poorly written, inadequately researched, or unduly prejudiced
- Whether the material is or may be disruptive to the school environment; e.g., if the material condones the commission of unlawful acts, or advocates violation of school policy, etc.
- Whether there is an opportunity for a named individual or individuals to make a response
- Whether specific individuals may be identified even though the material does not use or give names

TECHNOLOGY

Students may use the school computer and iPad system only for legitimate educational purposes, which include classroom and independent academic research that is supported by the subjects studied in school. Students shall not access entertainment sites, such as social networking sites or gaming sites, except for legitimate educational purposes under the supervision of a teacher.

Maintaining or posting material to a web site or blog that threatens a likelihood of disruption in the school or whose messages and/or intent is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church and mission of the school, including harming or interfering with the rights and reputation of students, employees, alumni, or the school itself, is a violation of the student code of conduct.

See [Montana Catholic Schools Acceptable Use Policy](#) for more information.

VISITORS

Parents are always encouraged and welcome to visit BCCHS. Appointments should be made in advance to see a teacher, counselor, and administrator or to visit a student's class by calling the main office. All visitors must report to the high school office before proceeding to a classroom. Guests of students will not be allowed to accompany them to class without administrative and faculty permission, which must be secured a minimum of one school day in advance. Trespassers who do not have legitimate business in the school building or on the school grounds will be requested to leave the premises.

VOLUNTEERS

BCCHS welcomes parent volunteers; your involvement is so valuable. Please call the school and let us know how you are willing to assist in the services we provide your students. If you have a particular gift/talent, please share that with us as well. All volunteers must complete the Safe and Sacred training program and have a background check completed. Please see the Principal for details.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

To officially withdraw from school, a student must have parental permission and obtain a withdrawal form from the high school office. The withdrawal slip and textbooks must be presented to each teacher for a signature and current grade. The completed form must be returned to the office. Upon parental request, school records are forwarded to the next school the student attends.

MONTANA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Montana Catholic Schools supports the rights of students and staff to have reasonable access, in school, to various information formats and believes it is incumbent upon students and staff to use this educational advantage in an appropriate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the campus administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decisions will be final. This user agreement will be signed upon hiring/admission and will remain in effect. Montana Catholic Schools reserves the right to modify all changes in subsequent years.

- I accept that using computers and accessing the Internet is an educational advantage afforded me by the Montana Catholic Schools and that inappropriate use of computers, smartphones, iPads, and other devices may result in my loss of their utilization and other possible disciplinary action.
- I accept that the primary use of computer resources and the Internet is to support research and education.
- I will follow all copyright regulations and will not copy programs or pirate software. I will not take, modify, or degrade hardware, software or computer supplies provided by the school.
- I will not invade the privacy of others or access the network or files of any business, person, or agency with intent to steal, subvert, destroy, or view information which is not appropriate.
- I understand that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system have access to all mail and that all Internet activity can be monitored.
- I will not access information which is considered dangerous or potentially damaging, such as instructions on the preparation of illegal or dangerous mechanisms or activities.
- I will not conduct business transactions, commercial activities or political lobbying.
- I understand that for my safety I will not give out my full name, home address or telephone number, or school information to strangers that I meet online. I agree not to meet with any stranger that I have met online. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors is prohibited.
- I will be polite and use appropriate language. I will not swear, use vulgarities, harass others, use ethnic or racial slurs, access inappropriate websites, engage in hacking or vandalism, or transmit or view obscene or offensive material.
- I understand that I am prohibited from downloading or installing any personal software with inappropriate material on school technology.
- I will not degrade or disrupt school or Internet network services or equipment, as such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law; this includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware and software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses or attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services.
- I understand that Principals, or their designees, will be responsible for disseminating and enforcing policies and enforcing procedures in the buildings under their control and will ensure that all users complete and sign an agreement to abide by the policies and procedures. All such agreements are to be maintained at the building level.
- I understand that Montana Catholic Schools will cooperate fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the district's system or network.
- I will not record (video or audio) staff members or students without their permission. I will not distribute any recordings via social media or other channels/methods without permission.
- I understand that should I break this contract my access to the Internet will be revoked and disciplinary actions taken.

Montana Catholic Schools will abide by the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2011 (CIPA). Specifically, these criteria will be followed:

- Filtering will be provided for all Internet-enabled computers used by students, patrons, and staff.
- Filtering will be disabled only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. ☐ Online activities of minors will be monitored for appropriate use.
- Safe and secure use by minors of direct electronic communications (including e-mail, chat rooms, and instant messaging) will be assured. All students will receive instruction on the safe use of the Internet, including safety precautions for e-mail, online chat, instant messaging, texting and other online behaviors.

CEN+RAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT PER SCHOOLADMIN REGISTRATION AGREEMENT WHICH STATES:

“We have read and understand all policies and expectations outlined in the BCCHS Student Handbook and agree to abide by the policies and expectations outlined. We understand that additions and revisions may be made to the handbook throughout the year and that the current handbook is available at billingscatholicschools.org”.

BILLING CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2024-2025

MONTANA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY