From the Principal

In these months of the Christmas season when the most Holy Family welcomes Jesus into their lives; it reminds me of all of our families’ and your most precious gifts which we serve, your children. At Berks Catholic we are all filled with so many blessings during this Christmas season and we wish you and your family an abundance of Christmas blessings as well.

The students are really enjoying the John R. Post Learning Center. Mrs. Bolton is forming a Robotics Team to work out of the STEM Lab. Over 130 different college admissions representatives have visited Mr. Ditisky and his college and career counseling staff. Mrs. Hannahoe, Ms. Jones, and Mrs. Shahabian are enjoying their new classrooms which overlooks the new turf/track project where so many of our fall athletes competed. The new cafeteria space is also a welcome addition for our students with lots of room to stretch their legs. The McGlinn Commons is probably the favorite new area we have at BC. Senior Jordan Konopelski was recently giving a tour at one of our open houses and said, “When I am in this space it just makes me want to do my work.” We are so thankful to everyone who helped make the John R. Post Learning Center and the stadium turf/track project possible through our Excellence Faith Future Capital Campaign.

On 12/17 the students gather in the gym for a moment of silence and prayer in support of Anthony Myers and all those battling cancer. This was part of the countywide 17Strong effort that day and was a great example of our motto “Unum in Christo” One in Christ. On 12/20 the Pro Life Club partnered with the Keystone Miller Blood Bank for another successful blood drive.

Just before Thanksgiving we had a beautiful Ring and Pin Ceremony for our juniors. Each junior received a pin with the Berks Catholic seal on it to place on their sweater. And many of our juniors also had a ring or necklace blessed as well, each signifying that they are now upperclassmen. We also shared the symbolism behind our seal (please see the symbolism behind the Berks Catholic seal below) with our juniors and their families.

On 12/16 the Saints Honors Choir celebrated Christmas Vespers at Sacred Heart Church in West Reading, which was full of beautiful sounds, songs, prayer song and light. This was truly a celebration of the message from the Angels that Jesus Christ, The Light of the World, is born for us. And our instrumentalists performed a great Christmas on the evening of December 18. Both Christmas Vespers and the Christmas Instrumental Concert were performed for our entire student body on our last day before Christmas break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family! God Bless and Go Saints!

THE SEAL OF BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

The focal point of the Seal of Berks Catholic is what is called a Fleur-de-lis. It is the symbol of one who has conquered. First, Jesus Christ, the Son of God who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and conquered death on the Cross and secondly, as the primer symbol of Christianity, this particular cross recalls the Saints who have conquered this world and who rejoice in the Kingdom of Heaven. This symbol reminds us of the faith we profess in Christ who is at the center of everything we do at Berks Catholic. As the sign of sacrifice we are reminded of all those who have sacrificed to provide for Catholic Education in Berks County. Finally it recalls the journey to sainthood that we, the 21st century disciples are called to make.

At the center of the cross is what is called a Loxengue, it mounts the cross to the shield. It represents the moral virtue for fortitude. This symbol reminds us of how, through honesty and with strength, we face the difficulties that arise and strive toward excellence. It acknowledges our dependence on God for the grace necessary to be morally strong and become the Saints that God calls us to be.

On either side of the Cross are two Fleur-de-lis, they are a stylized form of the lily. They are symbols of light and purity. They represent the two High Schools from which Berks Catholic was formed, Reading Central Catholic and Holy Name. They are also symbolic of the Diocese of Allentown, which also has two Fleur-de-lis on its Coat of Arms. The use of these symbols, for us, goes back to Pope Saint John XXII who established the Diocese of Allentown and had two Fleur-de-lis on his Coat of Arms to remind us of the purity Blessed Virgin Mary and the chastity of Saint Joseph, qualities to which the Saints aspire.

At the base of the Cross are a Lamp and Open Book. The lamp traditionally reminds us of life, light and the spiritual nature of the human person. An open book recalls the manifestation of knowledge. These symbols together remind us of the learning, wisdom and inherent value of a life enlightened by presence of God. These symbols are taken from the Seals of Reading Central Catholic and Holy Name High Schools, on which they both appeared. These schools laid the foundation on which Berks Catholic is built and these symbols provide for the saints guiding principles.

The black band around the Seal identifies the Name of the School and contains sheaves of wheat. In heraldry sheaves of wheat typically represent ones hopes and dreams being secured. In Catholicism wheat also represents the Holy Eucharist: the true presence of the body, blood, soul and divinity of the Son of God on which we are fed. The wheat sheaves remind us of the constant and unfailing presence of Christ in our school through the Eucharist. A gold outer ring encircles the entire seal to remind us of the gold halos that are used in the depiction of Saints in art. A halo is a ring of light that indicates the sacred. It is a reminder of the light of God shining through into the world through that which it surrounds. We pray that it is through our school the light of the divine may shine on in and through all we do.

The motto, “Unum In Christo” completes the Seal of the School. It is in Latin, the universal language of the Catholic Church, and is taken from the reading Saint Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 3 Verse 28 and translates directly as, “One in Christ.” This motto captures the integration of the two school communities, which came together to form Berks Catholic. Each one, rich in tradition, is united as one family by the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who gathers all together in Himself. This motto also encourages us to live as a family that aspires to the reality of our hearts and minds working together as one and growing in holiness. It leads us to our ultimate goal, to live eternally as One in Christ as His Saints.
From the Chaplain

“A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...” This well-known textual introduction belongs to one of my favorite cinematic sagas and probably the greatest and most famous science fiction films of all time: Star Wars. If for some sad reason you’ve seen or even heard of Star Wars or of its famous introduction, then you may indeed be from a “galaxy far, far away.” No, I’m totally kidding, please don’t take that personally. But seriously, if you’ve never seen Star Wars, you need to get on that ASAP.

Right now, I’d like to modify that famous introduction to the Star Wars movies just slightly: A long time ago, in fact almost 2,000 years ago, in our own galaxy, on this beautiful planet called Earth, in a small village named Bethlehem, located in the Middle East in what was then referred to as Roman Palestine but is now called the West Bank, a baby, named Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born to a young mother named Mary and her husband Joseph.

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of this baby because this small, defenseless, precious baby is the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah, the Redeemer of the human race who would save all people from sin and death. In fact, Jesus’ own name, which in Hebrew means “God saves,” is a fundamental expression of His identity and His mission. The celebration of Christmas is all about the birth of this little baby in Bethlehem named Jesus—this little baby who would literally transform the world forever.

And unlike Star Wars, which is a great science-fiction story designed to entertain us, the Nativity Story recounting the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is based on a true story, which means that it actually happened. This isn't some “fairy-tale” that was devised by “evil people with evil motives.” There’s absolutely no evidence of that. In fact, all of the available evidence is to the contrary, indicating that this truly happened. Four summers ago, I was blessed as a deacon to travel to Bethlehem in the West Bank and see the exact spot located within the Church of the Nativity where most historians and scholars maintain Jesus was born. Suffice it to say it was one of the most powerful experiences of my young life.

Brothers and sisters, our Catholic faith is rooted in human history—in actual historical events that took place within space and time and involved real people. And not only that, but the 12 Apostles, their disciples, their successors, and members of the early Church were all willing to die, and many of them were killed, for the sake of this Nativity Story, which recounts the birth of our infant Savior.

Now on a very human level, any mother and father would probably agree that having a baby naturally changes everything. In fact, a baby not only transforms the lives of their parents, but can also transform the lives of everyone around them. And most would say that a baby changes lives for the better—that a baby improves the lives of their parents and families in that the child makes them more loving, more selfless, more compassionate, more patient, etc.

Well this baby named Jesus whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, was born to change lives in the most serious, dramatic, and supreme manner. This fundamental reality is what makes Christmas very personal because this baby named Jesus was born for you and for me. This precious little baby in Bethlehem was born to change my life and your life—to transform our lives forever! And while we celebrate the birth of this baby named Jesus, this was a child who, paradoxically, was born to die. More specifically, He was born to die for you and for me, for my sins, for your sins, and for the sins of the entire human race. This baby was born so that we could be reborn in Him to a new life of holiness, love, freedom, peace, joy, and happiness.

This is why Christmas is a memorial call to evangelization in that the birth of the Son of God, the birth of the Savior of the human race, demands that we share this Good News with as many people as possible. Pope Benedict XVI said it best, when he stated, “God is so great that He can become small. God is so powerful that He can make Himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love Him.”

Brothers and sisters, God’s infinite power is ironically expressed through His profound humility. Our salvation and hope lies in the defenseless and vulnerable baby born into poverty, in a dirty manger where animals fed, to a young couple who were rejected in Bethlehem in Roman Palestine almost 2,000 years ago. Even at His human birth, God clearly didn’t waste time entering into the brokeness of our existence.

Ultimately, it doesn’t matter how corny this might sound, it’s the truth: our Lord Jesus Christ is the “Reason for the season.” This infant Savior is the greatest gift we could ever receive. In the midst of our broken world that seems to be infected with so much hatred, division, violence, selfishness, and fear, and in the midst of our dysfunctional and imperfect lives, with all of our own problems, sinfulness, woundedness, and struggles, this little baby named Jesus is our redemption, our freedom, our peace, our light, our hope, and our joy. The weak and defenseless baby in the dirty manger in Bethlehem is the meaning of our lives and as Love incarnate, He is the meaning of life itself.

Christmas reminds us that God is not some impersonal, abstract, and distant Being, but rather a compassionate and merciful Father Who lovingly reaches out to His children, embraces them, and unites Himself to their suffering and pain in order to save them. God did not abandon us to the misery of our own sins or to the power of death, but rather He lovingly sent His only-begotten Son into our world in order to give us the authentic love and freedom that we as human beings naturally desire and were created for.

God became one of us so that we might become one with Him in true happiness now and forever in Heaven. So brothers and sisters, this Christmas, don’t just go through the motions. Don’t just come to mass and then leave it at that. This baby named Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate this season, is knocking on the door of your hearts. This baby is inviting you into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him in and through His Church. This baby named Jesus wants to grow closer to you so that He can bless your life with so much grace, peace, freedom, joy, and love. So stay close this baby through prayer and the sacraments, most especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This baby wants to sanctify you and ultimately save you. I hope and pray that you and your families have a very blessed and merry Christmas and a happy New Year! May our newborn Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, bring you and your families much joy and peace, now and forever!
In the Event of Snow:
If there is a delay due to snow, students will still report for their exams, just two hours late, or at the time that their school district transportation. Students will be dismissed at 2:30. Lunch will be served during regular lunch periods. The only change with a delay will be that student's will arrive later and be dismissed at normal time.

If school is closed due to snow, students will report the following day and take the exams that had been scheduled on the day that school was closed.

Second Quarter Grade Information:
Mid-quarter for the second quarter was December 12. Please check Canvas for your child's progress. Do not hesitate to contact the teachers regarding your child's grades. The teachers' e-mail addresses are listed on the website under "Quick Links." The quarter will end January 18. Report cards will be issued on Tuesday, January 29. Be on the lookout!

First Semester Grades:
Many parents may not be familiar with the Diocesan grading policy and the importance of adequately preparing for exams. The semester average is calculated as follows:

- Quarter 1: 40%
- Quarter 2: 40%
- Semester Exam: 20%

2018-2019 Course Selection:
It is amazing, but true, Berks Catholic is starting to prepare for next year! A new Course Selection Book is in the works. Students will be receiving their course selection and registration materials during the first week of February.

Advanced Placement (AP):
Any student who is enrolled in an AP class is required to take the AP exam. All AP exams are administered during the first two full weeks of May. The fee for each exam is $94. Students and parents will receive additional information about the AP Program and the exams in January. Parents will be billed for the exam after the beginning of the New Year.

Other News:
The Fall Mathlete Competition for the students in our partner schools was held on November 6, 2018. The students were challenged to show their math skills in a written format. The winning team was from St. Catharine of Siena School. The members of the team, coached by Mrs. Suzie Cieniewicz, were Evelyn Nguyen, Eddie Oscar, Jennifer Beaver, Mayo Sing, and Kaitlyn Nguyen. The second place team members, from Sacred Heart School, were Angelina Chi, Christian Changco, Kylie Weiger, Jackson Gasperack, and Meghan Munter. Christian Changco, a member of Sacred Heart's team, earned a perfect score. These students were guided by Mrs. Jennifer Munter. Congratulations to these students and all of who participated.
Congratulations to the BC Math team members that competed in the Berks County Interscholastic Math Competition on November 17, 2018 at the Schmidt Training and Technology Center at Reading Area Community College. Team members from Berks Catholic included Hillary Good, Khahn Nguyen and Ethan Stoney. The BC team placed 6th of 16 schools in the county competition. Well done BC!

Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Kathy Moult, Khahn Nguyen, Ethan Stoney, Hilary Good, and Dr. Susan Looney, President RACC.

From the Guidance Counseling Office

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Guidance Office!

“The Blessings of Peace. The beauty of hope. The spirit of love. The comfort of faith. May these be your gifts this Christmas Season!”

PSATs:

PSAT Scores were made available to students electronically on Monday December 10. Your Saint should have received an e-mail with instructions on how to log-in and obtain their score. Results will be discussed after the first of the New Year. Details to follow.

From the Campus Ministry Office

Junior Class Retreat

The Junior Class Retreat took place on October 26 at Alvernia University. The students began the day participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and then were divided into 3 groups: one for ice-breakers/peer bonding, one for a service project which was focused on making supply kits for the homeless, and one to listen to witness talks from Alvernia students. These talks focused on continuing one’s Catholic practice in college. After lunch the day concluded with Adoration. A special thank you to the Retreat Staff of Alvernia University for their assistance with this fruitful day.
Advent has been marked at Berks Catholic in the staff morning meetings with a daily lighting of the Advent candle. Little Blue Prayers books were distributed for daily reflection. The student body will have the Sacrament of Penance made available to them at the Advent Prayer service on Monday, December 10.

Vesper Service

A Vespers Service was held on Sunday, December 16 at Sacred Heart Church. The Berks Catholic Choir performed inspirational music for reflection, which was accompanied by readings and prayer. The entire student body had the opportunity to witness the songs and readings at as assembly the day before Christmas break.

Community Service

Please remember that all service requirements must be completed by March 1, 2019. Students who do not complete their 10 hours of service will not be permitted to attend the prom on May 3. The freshmen have a service requirement of 5 hours also due by March 1. One Call emails are sent to all BC parents/guardians each time a service opportunity becomes available, and notice is also given to the students during announcements.

Kairos Retreat

The Kairos Retreat was held from November 7-9 at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Wernersville. Twenty-eight seniors, under the guidance of seven student leaders and seven adult leaders learned how important it is to have God’s friendship in their lives. The next Kairos Retreat will be March 6-8, this retreat will be open to members of the Junior Class.

Ring & Pin Prayer Ceremony

On Monday, November 19, the junior class gathered for a prayer service that included the blessing of their class rings and class pins. All members of the junior class received class pins inscribed with school seal. Members of the junior class and their families enjoyed a reception in gym after the ceremony.

A Christmas Prayer for You

When prayers are said each evening, this happy time of year,
Wishes turn to family, friends, and everyone held dear.

May your Christmas days be merry
And your New Year days be bright-
May peace and goodwill bring you joy
And His blessings much delight.
College & Career Counseling

As we approach Christmas Break all we can say is WHEW! This has been on busy Fall!

137 REP VISITS: From September – December BC hosted 137 college rep visits, and military recruiters-including a college mini-fair on October 1. These visit opportunities are College Visits and College Mini-Fairs. While typically reserved for Juniors and Seniors, a few underclassmen took advantage of the opportunity to meet with reps during their study hall, Activity Period, and even lunch.

Among the schools visiting in person and virtually include: Notre Dame, Boston College, NC State, Boston University, Bucknell, Lehigh, Lafayette, Colgate, Univ. of Alabama, Univ. of Tennessee, Univ. of Oklahoma, Syracuse University.

CAMPUS VISIT: Campus visit opportunities are offered to Juniors every spring. This year we got an early jump by visiting Temple University on December 4. Stay tuned for more info on campus visit opportunities for Spring 2019.

PROGRAMS: From August through December the Office of College and Career Counseling ran evening, morning, and Saturday programs covering the following topics: COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS, US SERVICE ACADEMY ADMISSIONS and ROTC PROGRAMS, COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID and SCHOLARSHIPS, HOW COLLEGES REVIEW APPLICATIONS, CHARTING A COURSE FOR SUCCESS in HIGH SCHOOL. These programs were offered to students and families of all grade levels and were often supplemented by the grade-specific programs, school-day programs listed below.

Planning for a full Spring of programming and campus visits is already underway - details will be sent via email.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: A list of Seniors being offered admission and the schools offering admission will be sent under separate cover. This is indeed an exciting time of year!

Athletics

Golf News

Longtime Golf Coach, Mike Spear, informed the Athletic Office he would be retiring at the end of the 2018 season. Mike is retiring after a very successful career at BC that included multiple undefeated seasons, five straight section championships (2014-2018) and a BCIAA Championship in 2014. Mike was an all-time favorite at BC. We are going to miss him dearly. With that being said, we are very excited to announce that we have hired a veteran to take over our program.

I am thrilled to announce that the next Head Coach of Berks Catholic Golf is Chris Gallo. Chris comes to Berks Catholic with over 20 years of high school coaching experience. Coach Gallo is a 1990 Muhlenberg graduate, where he excelled in golf, basketball, and baseball. He went on to Shippensburg University, where he played Golf. Upon graduation, Coach Gallo got his start coaching junior high and JV basketball and later became the longtime head coach for SV Boys Basketball. He was the head boys basketball coach at SV for 15 years and continues to coach basketball, serving as an assistant boys basketball coach for the past 5 years at Wilson under head coach, Matt Coldren. Chris is an incredible asset to Berks Catholic Athletics. In a day and age where it’s sometimes impossible to find qualified candidates, we have been fortunate to get one of the best. Chris was previously hired to serve as an assistant baseball coach at BC under new head coach, Brandon Shurr. We welcome the Gallo family and are excited that they are now a part of the Berks Catholic family. It’s a great day to be a Saint!

Congratulations to our Fall Athletes:

Golf
Nick Fioravante: Berks Catholic, Sr., 13th, BCIAA; 4th, 3A district; 18th, regional; 28th, state.

ALL-BERKS II
Michael Fioravante Berks Catholic Soph.
Honorable mention: Berks Catholic: Andrew Gombar, John Iswalt;

Water Polo
All Berks Second Team
Mateo Lamos, Sr.

Girls Cross Country
ALL-BERKS II
Abby Wolf, Berks Catholic, Fr.
Alexa Junikiewicz, Berks Catholic, Jr.
Jordan Yerger, Berks Catholic, Jr.
Field Hockey
Bella Bressler: Berks Catholic, Sr., Had 37 goals and 26 assists to help Saints qualify for PIAA Class 2A playoffs

ALL-BERKS II
Julia Bressler Berks Catholic Fr.
Olivia Martz Wagaman Berks Catholic Sr.
Sydney Grim Berks Catholic Soph.
Mia Corbacio Berks Catholic Sr.

Honorable Mention:
Mackenzie Partsch, Shawn Menden, Lilly Derr

Girls Volleyball
Katie Cressman: Berks Catholic, Sr., Finished with 302 kills, 17 aces, 26 blocks, 98 digs for Berks II champs

ALL-BERKS II
Olivia Berry Berks Catholic Jr.
Kaylie Vu Berks Catholic Jr.

Girls Soccer
Gabriella Kurtas: Berks Catholic, Soph., Delivered eight goals, four assists

ALL-BERKS II
Forwards
Courtney Ohlinger, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Zariya Holt, Berks Catholic, Soph.
Midfielders
Koryn Reinhart, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Defenders
Caroline Doyle, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Lia Riccione, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Goalkeepers
Antonia Pichardo, Berks Catholic, Jr.
Honorable mention
Berks Catholic: Ashley Vozella, Alyssa Fontana

Boys Soccer
ALL-BERKS II
Forwards
Nick Gaspari, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Midfielders
Colin Balash, Berks Catholic, Jr.
Defenders
Casey Jack, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Goalkeepers
Ethan Kinyo, Berks Catholic, Sr.
Honorable mention
Berks Catholic: Matthew Young, Matthew Morelli, Gio Olivares

In the News........................

Recycling Club
A Recycling Club, or the BC Green Team, has been newly-formed this year. Seniors: Kit Schoder and Ide Doran-Jones felt the need to bring an awareness to the BC Community about paper and plastic recycling in the building. The result was an enthusiastic club of 30 plus students who created collection boxes for each room in the building. At an assembly on November 21, earth-friendly facts were presented and the boxes were distributed. Each week Green Team Club members will collect and recycle the material. The club plans to participate in spring clean-ups and Earth Day events.

Blood Drive 2018

BC in conjunction with Miller Keystone Blood sponsored a Blood Drive on Thursday, December 20. Thank you to all the Saints who donated and Mrs. Staub and the Pro-Life Club for organizing the event.

Baking Club

Kudos to moderator Mrs. Hoffman and the rest of the baking club for the sweet treats baked at Open House in November and all the delicious cookies for the Santa visit.
Important Calendar Dates

December
7  School Mass
10  Advent Penance Service
11  PTO Shop & Greet
13  11AM Dism
16  Vespers @ Sacred Heart Church
18  Christmas Instrumental Concert
19  School Mass
20  Blood Drive
21  Vespers - 11 AM Dismissal
24-31  Christmas Break

January
1-2  Christmas Break
3  School Resumes
4  School Mass
14-17  Mid-Term Exams
18  March for Life, Wash. D.C.
21  MLK-School Closed
     In-Service/Retreat Day
22  3rd Quarter Begins
24  Step Up Day
27-31  Catholic Schools Week

BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Allentown Diocese Protection
of Youth Requirements

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator
Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., MS, LFMT
610.332.0442 ext. 19

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator
Ms. Wendy Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC
Direct telephone: 800-791-9209

Berks Catholic Safe Environment Coordinator
Mrs. Danielle Fowler
Direct telephone: 610.374.1695

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to
anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a
priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the
Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and
survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged
to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more
information about this program. The fullness of
compassion should be extended to these victims by
the Church.

#Team17Strong

December 17, the Berks Catholic Community along with students from around the county
united at 8:17am many clad in 17Strong T-shirts or in gray clothing for brain cancer awareness,
for a moment of silence followed by a prayer for Anthony Myers and for all those in our
communities who are courageously battling this awful disease. No one fights alone.
It's a great time to Be A Saint! Future Saints Class of 2023 you are invited to spend the day at Berks Catholic and experience what it's like to be a freshman at Berks Catholic. Your FUN filled day will begin with a prayer service. You will have the opportunity to meet future teachers and classmates and of course hear from current Saints on what it's like to Be A Saint. You will have the opportunity to see our beautiful new John R. Post Learning Center which features a STEM Lab, a dedicated College Counseling Suite, and a Learning Commons that has a collegiate like feel. You will enjoy lunch provided by us in our new cafeteria (but feel free to pack your own). We look forward to spending the day with you on January 24th.

GoFutureSaints!!
Berks Catholic
Step Up Day Class of 2023

Date: January 24, 2019
Arrival: Between 7:45 - 8:00 am please enter at the Auditorium (straight back on the left in the rear when you pull into the Berks Catholic complex
Dismissal: 1:00 pm Main Entrance

Lunch is provided for free. (Students may pack, refrigeration is not available. Microwaves are available. Students may bring money to purchase snacks items).

✧ Partner School students: should wear their school uniform, no gym uniforms please.

✧ Students with allergies or medical needs please contact the BC school nurse prior to January 24, 2019 tstricker@berkscatholic.org or 610.374.8361 ext. 237

✧ Students with siblings at Berks Catholic please do not assume you can ride the bus with your sibling. Please contact your public school district to discuss any changes to the bus schedule. The bus will not just “let you on”. Arrangements need to be made prior to the Step up Day. Also, your sibling school day ends at 2:30 and will not be dismissed early.

✧ Step Up Day is considered an excused absence at your school and an official school visit. Berks Catholic reports attendance to each Partner School.

✧ Please avoid scheduling Doctor or Dental appointments on this day. The Berks Catholic Main Office staff does not have the means of communicating with the Class of 2023 throughout the day.

✧ Students are permitted to bring cell phones. Phones must be kept on silent or turned off and should only be used at dismissal. No texting, making calls or picture taking will be permitted.

✧ Please contact Mrs. Smith with any questions nsmith@berkscatholic.org or 610.374.8361 ext.244
If you know a friend, family member or anyone looking for a high-quality, Christ-centered education for their children, you could receive a $500 credit toward your child's tuition at Berks Catholic.

Families who refer someone to Berks Catholic receive a $500 credit towards their child's tuition.

In order for the parental referral program to be a success, we need information for individuals who may be interested in joining the Berks Catholic family. All you need to do is fill out the form below. During the enrollment process, if you are listed as the referring individual for a friend or other enrolling individual, we will credit your child's account with $500 upon completion of their first full year at Berks Catholic.

It really is that simple. So go ahead.

Please complete the form below and allow us the opportunity to do what we love - helping to develop, nurture and encourage children so they may grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially. Mail or email the form to us and we will take it from there!

Mail to address Berks Catholic, Attn: Nicole Smith, 955 E. Wyomissing Blvd., Reading, PA 19611
Email to address Nicole Smith, Director of Admissions, nsmith@berkscatholic.org

*Parental referral program is open to all parents of current Berks Catholic students. Tuition credit to be paid out $50 per month for up to 10 months that the referred student is enrolled.
Tuition credit not available for referring your own children. And applies only to students from non-parish schools. $500 credit is only good toward tuition on student's account.
Credit applied to student's account only, no cash given, non-transferable.

REFER A FRIEND

YOUR NAME

YOUR STUDENT'S NAME

CURRENT GRADE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

NAME OF STUDENT YOU ARE REFERRING

CURRENT SCHOOL AND GRADE OF STUDENT

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: STREET

CITY ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

COMMENTS OR NOTES ABOUT THIS STUDENT

GOD | FAMILY | ACADEMICS | FUN
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WINTER BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED</td>
<td>WINTER BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED</td>
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<td>Popcorn Chicken</td>
<td>French Bread Pizza</td>
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<td>Mashed Potato Bowl with Corn, Gravy &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>Freshly Prepared Italian</td>
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<td>House Salad</td>
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<td>Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit</td>
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<td>Milk Variety</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Chicken Tender Corn</td>
<td>Nacho Platter with Taco Meat, Shredded</td>
<td>Gen Tso's Chicken</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Stuffed Crust Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pasta Salad</td>
<td>Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce &amp; Tomatoes and Salsa</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>Sausage or Bacon, Egg &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>Freshly Prepared Spring</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Fresh or Chilled Fruit</td>
<td>Steamed Rice</td>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Croissants</td>
<td>Mix Salad Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit</td>
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<td>Milk Variety</td>
<td>Steamed Corn</td>
<td>Hash Brown Rounds</td>
<td>Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit</td>
<td>Fruit</td>
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<td>Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit</td>
<td>Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit</td>
<td>Milk Variety</td>
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<td>MID-TERM EXAMS NO LUNCH SERVICE</td>
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<td>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY NO SCHOOL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Chicken Parm
- Buttered Noodles
- Green Beans
- Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit
- Milk Variety

- Triple Tacos with Taco Meat, Shredded Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce & Tomatoes and Salsa
- Steamed Rice
- Steamed Corn
- Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit
- Milk Variety

- Pasta & Meatballs
- Dinner Roll
- Broccoli
- Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit
- Milk Variety

- Bacon Cheeseburger
- Cheddar Burger on a Bun
- Sweet Potato Fries
- Assorted Fresh or Chilled Fruit
- Milk Variety
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 School Closed</td>
<td>2 Faculty Adv</td>
<td>3 School Mass</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Faculty Meeting</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Mrs. Smith visits Partner School</td>
<td>9 Mrs. Smith visits Partner School</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exams 1 &amp; 6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Mid-Term Exams 2 &amp; 5</td>
<td>16 Mid-Term Exams 7 &amp; 4</td>
<td>17 March for Life Wash DC</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Open House Catholic Schools Week</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Report Cards Issued Priest Appreciation Day/School Mass</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EVENTS**

Christmas Break – Jan 1 & 2
School Closed – Classes resume on Thursday, January 3, 2019
School Mass - Jan 4
Mid-Terms – Jan 14-17
Mid-Term Schedule will be announced
March for Life - Jan 18
Wash, DC
MLK – School Closed - Jan 21
Third Quarter Begins - Jan 22
Step Up Day - Jan 24
Open House – Jan 27
2pm to 4pm
Catholic Schools Week – Jan 27 – Feb 2
School Mass/Report Cards – Jan 30