Informational programming along with individualized planning meetings are at the heart of the college / career advising at Berks Catholic H.S. For the convenience of our students and families, programs are offered throughout the calendar year. The reason for extensive programming is to inform and educate students and families in order to make them savvy to the college / career search and to help students and families be comfortable with the professionals who will be influential in the college process.

Because programs are presented by college and career professionals as well as the BCHS counseling staff, programming serves the multiple purposes of educating students and families as to current trends and best practices, cultivating and strengthening relationships between Berks Catholic and the college admissions and professional communities and raising the profile of Berks Catholic HS locally, regionally, and nationally.

Berks Catholic traditionally offers more than 30 related college and career programs in a given calendar year, in addition to hosting over 120 college rep visits. Between the programs offered and individual college representative visits, primarily in the Fall, Berks Catholic annually welcomes more than 200 professionals whose sole purpose for visiting is meeting and interact with BC students!

What follows is a list of programs typically offered at Berks Catholic throughout the calendar year. The amount, frequency, topics, and types of programs offered are constantly modified and improved.

### PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW by GRADE LEVEL:

#### THEME / PROGRAMMING FOCUS:

**GR: 9  WHAT YOU DO NOW AFFECTS YOU LATER**
- CHARTING A COURSE TO SUCCESS: Establishing positive academic, engagement, and behavioral habits that will benefit through high school and beyond.
- ACADEMIC PULSE CHECK / STUDY SKILLS OVERVIEW: Conducted in November, after 1st Quarter grades released and again in Spring prior to Final Exams.
- COURSE SELECTION: Hit the Books and challenge yourself appropriately!

**GR 10: GRADES UP! / STAY INVOLVED / MAKE GOOD DECISIONS**
- CAREER / COLLEGE EXPLORATION: Continued from 9th Grade via Naviance Database.
  - Career Research Project (Spring)
- ACADEMIC PULSE CHECK / STUDY SKILLS OVERVIEW: Conducted in November, after 1st Quarter grades released and again in Spring prior to Final Exams.
- PRELIMINARY COLLEGE PLANNING MEETINGS: May begin as early as Spring of Sophomore Year by student/family request.

**GR 11: LET THE COLLEGE SEARCH BEGIN!**
- INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE PLANNING MEETINGS: With college counselor, families are always welcome.
- MEETINGS with COLLEGE ADMISSION OFFICERS VISITING BC: Beginning in Fall of SR Year.
- ACADEMIC PULSE CHECK / STUDY SKILLS OVERVIEW: Conducted in November, after 1st Quarter grades released and again in Spring prior to Final Exams.
- SAT PREP: SAT Prep-specific class as well as heightened integration into English and Math Classes
- CAMPUS VISITS: See below
- COLLEGE FAIR ATTENDANCE: Entire Junior Class attends the spring college fair at Alvernia University
- TELLING YOUR STORY and STANDING APART: Various workshops which help students with college essay, interview skills, maximizing campus visits, etc.
- CAREER EXPLORATION IN PERSON: Career Day is all about the Juniors!

**GR 12: ALL HANDS ON DECK!!**
- From individual meetings to group presentations to on-site college and other interviews and college essay editing- we offer a wide variety of advising and networking opportunities for our Seniors!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program (Time Offered)</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Target Grades / Audience(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALL - WINTER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>College Application Night (evening)</td>
<td>11, 12 Families</td>
<td>College Admission Officers from a variety of different institutions discuss how to craft impactful college applications and demonstrate the application review process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of College Application Process (school day)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Follow up to College Application Night. Focus on application procedures and policies at BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Representative Visits (school day)</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Annually, Berks Catholic hosts college representatives from over 100 college representatives in various capacities including college visits, classroom information sessions, discussion groups, etc. A sample of recent admissions visitors includes: Johns Hopkins, Georgia Tech, Univ. of Miami, Univ. of Arizona, Villanova, Colgate, Tufts, Univ. of Tennessee, Univ. of Rochester, Notre Dame, Penn, and many more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaCcaaO College Fair / Maximizing College Fairs (school day)</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Representatives from the 23 Catholic Colleges in PA meet with BC Seniors and Juniors. Prior to the fair, counselors conduct a workshop on how to make a positive first impression and maximize the time spent at a college fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road to College (evening)</td>
<td>8 - 11, Families</td>
<td>This program focuses on the &quot;Big Picture&quot; of the College Search Process. Topics include what colleges want in applicants, identifying what a student wants in their college experience, and undertaking a productive and appropriate college search</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Pulse-Check / Study Skills (school day)</td>
<td>9 - 11</td>
<td>Program theme: “Are you where you need to be to get where you want to go?” Students gain understanding of what goes into a g.p.a., the importance of taking appropriately challenging courses, engaging in their high school experience, and qualifying college options based on current academic standing. Presented to grades 9, 10, 11 on separate days with grade appropriate modifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naviance Login and Training Overview (school day)</td>
<td>9 - 11</td>
<td>Students are trained on accessing and utilizing the Naviance database for college and career research, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WINTER - SPRING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT / ACT Combo Practice Test (weekend) not offered in 2015/16</td>
<td>10 - 11</td>
<td>This test by Kaplan Test Prep allows students to be exposed both the SAT and ACT test formats in order to determine if they have a strength or preference for one or the other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Overview (evening)</td>
<td>9 - 12</td>
<td>A Financial Aid Officer from one of the five Berks County colleges/universities discusses the big picture and small details of the College Financial Aid process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Overview (school day)</td>
<td>12 all</td>
<td>Follow-up to Fin. Aid Night. Focus on timelines, types and sources of financial aid, scholarship search, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA Completion Night (evening)</td>
<td>12, Families</td>
<td>College Financial Aid Officers work with BC Families to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Program offered on multiple dates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate Course Selection (evening and school day)</td>
<td>8 – 11, Families</td>
<td>College admissions officers and BC counseling and academic advising staff discuss the importance of taking an increasingly rigorous curriculum appropriate to the abilities and goals of the individual student. Program offered on multiple dates in evening and as College Coffee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Visits (school day)</td>
<td>11, Families</td>
<td>Juniors and parents are invited to join the College Counseling staff in touring a variety of schools Spring Visits began in 2013 and have included: Alvernia, Albright, Elizabethtown, Lafayette, Lebanon Valley Lehigh, Millersville, Penn, RACC, Temple, West Chester. <strong>SPRING 2016 VISITS: Temple, Reading Hospital School of Health Science, Shippensburg, Mount St. Mary’s, Gettysburg College.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning the College Search (evening)</td>
<td>10, 11, Families</td>
<td>Insight on how to conduct a focused and productive college search. Introduction to web-based resources designed to identify connect with appropriate colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med School Admissions Overview (offered in 2016 as part of Career Day)</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Bill Houder, Associate Director of Admission, Stanford Medical School discusses keys to med school admission via a successful undergraduate experience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WINTER - SPRING - continued

INTERACTING WITH ADMISSION COUNSELORS (school day) 11 all
Focus on importance of strong communication, “soft” interpersonal skills and making a good first impression. Conducted immediately prior to the Berks Co. Spring College Fair at Alvernia University

ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FAIR (school day) 11 all
All Juniors are transported to the Alvernia College Fair. Over 130 representatives from 2 and 4 year institutions, military, trade and technical schools, etc. The fair provides something for all.

Mini COLLEGE FAIR (school day) All grade levels
Approximately 20 college representatives attending the Alvernia Fair met with BC students. For many institutions this was their first visit to Berks Catholic HS.

CAREER DAY (school day) 11 all, 12 optional
80+ individuals from a wide spectrum of professions discuss career paths, offer career, educational, and networking advice. Program includes a mandatory “networking and resume writing” session.

COLLEGE ADMISSION APPLICATION CASE STUDIES (evening) 8-11, Families
Admissions officers from nationally re-knowned colleges / universities give insight into how to differentiate oneself in the holistic college admission process. This program has something for all students!

ACADEMIC PULSE-CHECK / STUDY SKILLS (school day) 9.-11
Program theme: “Are you where you need to be to get where you want to go?” Students gain understanding of what goes into a g.p.a, the importance of taking appropriately challenging courses, engaging in their high school experience, and qualifying college options based on current academic standing. Presented to grades 9, 10, 11 on separate days with grade appropriate modifications.

SUMMER

ESSAY WORKSHOP (day) 12
College Admission Officers provide feedback, editing, and brain-storming tips on college essay ideas. This program is a follow up to the mandatory Essay Workshop for all Juniors in Spring of Junior Year. A mandatory follow-up in Fall of Senior Year. Program offered on multiple dates.

CAMPUS VISIT / INTERVIEW WORKSHOP (day) 10 - 12
College Admission Officers discuss how to maximize time spent and making a positive impact when visiting college campuses. Also offered are practice college interviews and interviewing tips to BC students. Individual simulated interviews with College Counseling Staff available upon request. Actual, on-site interviews with college admission officers available by appointment. Program offered on multiple dates.

SAT PREP CLASS - MATH (day) 11, 12
BC Math Faculty provide intensive practice, preparation and strategy geared to increase understanding and maximize potential for success on the math portion of the SAT.

YEAR ROUND

COLLEGE COFFEEs (school day mornings) 8-12 / Families
Monthly, morning programs covering various college and career related topics. Some topics will require attendance by all students in a particular grade. EX: September: Charting A Course To Success. PSAT Results Give Back. Other topics include but are not limited to: Appropriate Course Selection, Service Academy Admission Process, SAT / ACT Prep and Practice, Developing Marketable Skill Sets, etc.

INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE PLANNING MEETINGS (school day, after school, select evenings) 11-12
All students meet with a member of the college counseling staff to craft an individual post graduation plan for college admission, trade or technical school enrollment, military enlistment, employment, etc. These meetings typically begin in the Junior Year, but may be held earlier if requested. Students are given a plan of action during the initial meeting and are instructed to keep in contact with the counselor as to their progress or if assistance is needed. To ensure maximum personal attention, students are assigned a counselor for the initial meeting, but are free to meet with anyone on the college counseling staff for assistance as needed.

SAT / ACT PREPARATION (school day) 9 - 12
BC is committed to providing SAT preparation to every student. MATH CLASSES: Beginning in 9th Grade, students are introduced to SAT math problems, homework and projects in Semester-long program part of each Junior’s schedule conducted by B.C. Faculty member. ENGLISH: Beginning in 9th Grade students are introduced and employ SAT style writing for “timed” essays, vocabulary study, reading comprehension, etc. English Faculty trained by College Board in scoring of SAT essays. ALL JUNIORS take a one semester SAT Prep Class at BC in place of Study Hall