



THE BROTHER DAVID S.  
BAGINSKI FSC SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM

# BAGINSKI SCHOLARS

Through our Scholars Program, bright students like you will flourish as readers, writers, thinkers, speakers, researchers, and grow in intellectual curiosity and diversity of perspective. We will help you realize our motto of *communitas docta virtutis* (a scholarly community of virtue)—and become compassionate and effective leaders in the service of humanity.

2023-2024





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# ABOUT US



The mission of The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program is to foster intellectual and cultural growth essential to leadership in the service of humanity. We motivate students to reach beyond their individual niches and to understand that they can affect justice in society and, in fact, have a responsibility to do so.











Each year, Central Catholic High School inducts **a small number of outstanding sophomores** into The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program. **This is a highly selective two-year program** for juniors and seniors of exceptional merit and potential.

Established in 2002, **the program is designed to enhanced and enrich the academic and cultural experiences of talented,** highly motivated students. The program can supplement academic interests in the humanities, social sciences and applied sciences.

**It offers challenging curricular opportunities,** encourages interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to learning, **and provides opportunities for travel.** Through their shared extracurricular activities and **dedication to academic excellence,** students become a community of scholars that build **important connections and reinforce the programs commitment to the ethical** application of knowledge and social justice.







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# OUR VALUES

*communitas docta virtutis*

a scholarly community of virtue



1

**SCHOLARSHIP:** We pursue truth  
with courage and conviction

2

**CITIZENSHIP:** We participate in the  
creation of a more just world

3

**DISCIPLESHIP:** We serve others with  
compassion in the LaSallian tradition

[WWW.CENTRALCATHOLICHS.COM/BAGINSKISCHOLARS](http://WWW.CENTRALCATHOLICHS.COM/BAGINSKISCHOLARS)



Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, the Baginski Scholars Program seeks cross-disciplinary connections in order to develop students' natural intellectual abilities and to challenge them to employ those gifts on behalf of the larger community.







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# ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for the Scholars Program,  
complete an application in your Sophomore year.

Decisions are made in March.



1

## Check eligibility criteria

- Have you taken 3 AP or Honors courses?
- Are you able to work at a minimum 3.5 GPA level?
- Will you commit to 3 years of foreign language study?
- Do you have innovative abilities, intellectual curiosity and interest in social causes?

2

## Complete all parts of the application

- Include your best writing sample
- Provide 2 teacher recommendations
- Write a short answer to an assigned prompt
- Submit a copy of your transcript

3

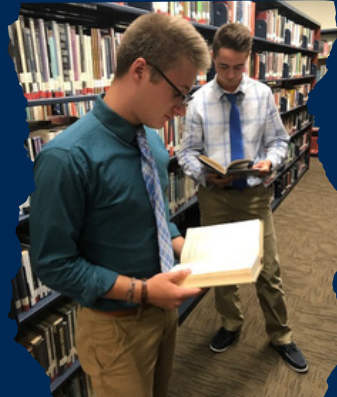
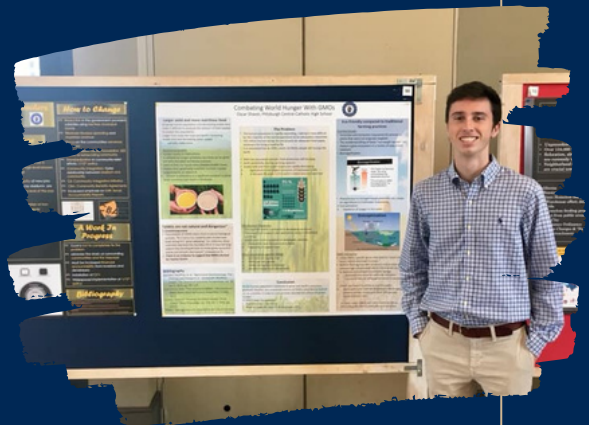
## Schedule an interview

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# JUNIOR SEMINAR

Junior seminar explores some of the most enduring philosophical, ethical, and social questions of humanity through a variety of ancient and contemporary texts. You will reflect on the nature of truth and goodness from varied perspectives. Come find your unique voice and collaborate with others to open new intellectual horizons.





# CULTURAL TRAVEL

All students in Scholars Program take part in one trip per year to a major city in the USA. In recent years, we have visited Boston, New York, Washington DC, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Chicago. We meet with university professors in a classroom setting and enter into dialogue on critical issues in their field. The trips will teach you how to see a city through cultural exploration and the arts too.



# SCHOLARS FORUM

Opera. Famous authors. Discussions. Symphony performances. Films. Gallery exhibitions. Academic enrichment. You will find all of this and much more in our Scholars Forums. The forums provide fun opportunities to engage with field experts and the Pittsburgh cultural community. With as many as 10 events per semester, there is always something to do.





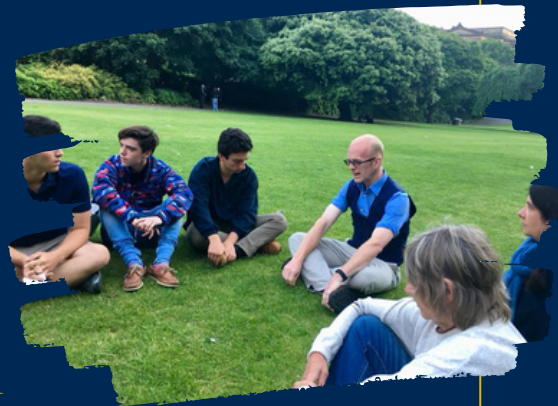
# SENIOR THESIS

Senior Thesis marks the culmination of a student's experience in the Scholars Program. Under the guidance of the Senior Director and a second reader, you will articulate a developed, ethical argument in response to a motivating question or issue. The end goal is to make an independent contribution to human knowledge. You can transform yourself and the world by providing new solutions to big problems!



# STUDY ABROAD

Studying abroad at the high school level is a unique opportunity. Not only does it anticipate possibilities available at the university level, it also exposes you to a diversity of culture and the excitement of international travel. The academic preparation in the months before the trip will teach you to view travel as more than a touristic venture, and to view it as transformational to the human spirit.







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# AN EXCEPTIONAL PREPARATION

After two immersive years, Baginski Scholars go far. They leave to study at leading colleges in the USA and abroad. Some enroll in Honors Colleges to continue learning through seminars, advanced research and enriching cultural programs, whether in the humanities, sciences or engineering. The formational experience of the Scholars Program emboldens students toward advanced interdisciplinary studies, visionary leadership and a purposeful life.





# FRIENDSHIPS



FOR LIFE

There are relationships that will accompany you through important stages in your life. In the Scholars Program, you'll find fun, down-to-earth and supportive people who will become friends for life! These friendships are sustained and strengthened by the Scholars experience.







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# ALUMNI VOICES

“The Scholars Program has helped me a lot at Howard University. The critical thinking skills and fast paced writing that I learned in Junior Seminar has really helped with papers and in-class assignments. Then the longer papers and research methods that I learned in Senior Thesis have also given me an edge above a lot of other people.” ~Kaleo Rodriguez, [Howard University](#)

“It broadened my intellectual scope and taught me how to think analytically about different perspectives.” ~ Matthew Zagrocki, [Notre Dame](#)

“The Scholars Program gave me the freedom to turn a serious academic lens to my personal passions. For the first time, I was searching for answers because I found the questions important. In this way, it was the ultimate preparation for college life.” ~ Ryan McNelis, [Notre Dame](#)

“The Scholars Program greatly improved my ability to discuss and communicate ideas within a group of diverse opinions and fostered a motivated, close-knit, and impact-driven community that continues to hold strong today.” ~ Nathan Jordan, [University of Pittsburgh Honors College](#)

“In the Baginski Scholars Program, I developed a robust philosophical framework that helped me grow as a student, Catholic, and individual, and writing my thesis sparked a passion for research and academic writing that I will carry with me for my entire life. The Scholars Program is always one of the centerpieces of my resume.” ~ Will Koloc, [Princeton University](#)

“I think the best thing about the program for me was how it exposed us to the classics and great thinkers but didn’t confine us to them. The Scholars Program is both modern and timeless, classic and dynamic.” ~Simon Hebert, [Penn State, Schreyer's Honors College](#)

“This is a program that has meaning which extends outside the boundaries of the humanities as a discipline and enters into all others.” ~ Gino DiMatteo, [Virginia Tech](#)

“The Scholars program gives those with a love for learning the opportunity to better understand the human experience—how they interact with the communities they surround themselves with as well as those they are yet to encounter.” ~ Christian Farls, [Notre Dame](#)

“In a sea of qualified candidates, the Scholars Program and senior thesis is what set me apart in college admissions.” ~ Nicholas Weising, [Cornell University](#)

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# ADVISORY



**Patrizia Costa PhD**  
DIRECTOR



**John J. Allen MA**  
DIRECTOR



**Sara Budacki MS Ed**  
FACULTY, ENGLISH



**Todd Rooney MAT**  
FACULTY, ENGLISH



**Glenn Campbell**  
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**Justin Belardi PhD**  
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FACULTY, ENGLISH



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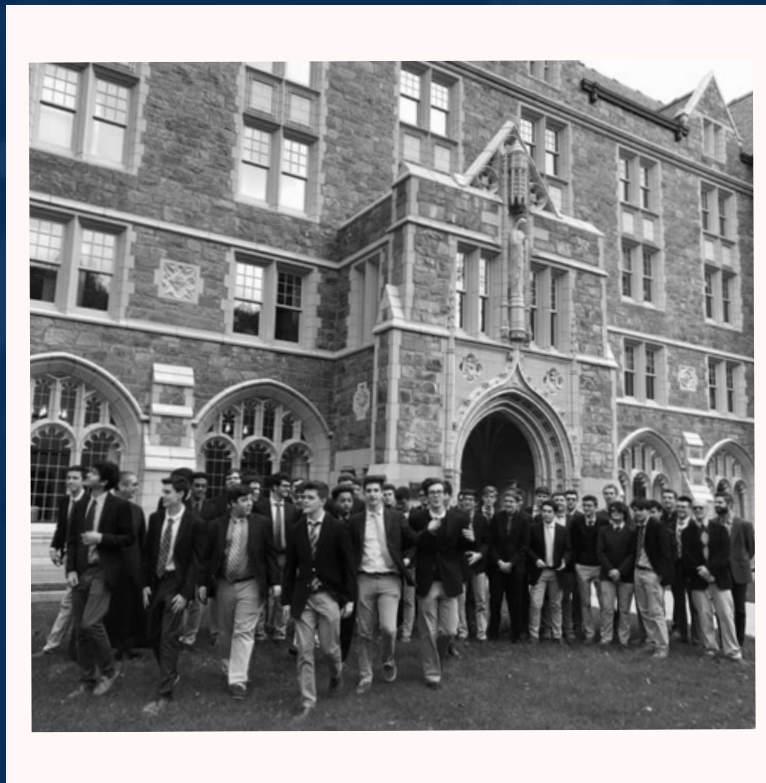






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# REALIZE YOUR POTENTIAL



## CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Central Catholic High School

4720 Fifth Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

 @cchs\_baginski\_scholars



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