



**CENTRAL  
CATHOLIC**  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Men of Faith, Men of Scholarship, Men of Service*

**2023-24**

# SCHOOL PROFILE

## School & Counseling Leadership



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## School & Community

Central Catholic High School, a Catholic college preparatory high school for boys, is guided by the educational principles of Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The school strives to provide a challenging, relevant, and diverse program of academics and extracurricular activities in an environment that fosters a life of faith and scholarship while developing leadership rooted in the Gospel values of integrity, respect, service, justice and peace. Upon graduation, the graduates of Central Catholic will have become Men of Faith, Scholarship, and Service.

The student body reflects the rich ethnic, cultural, economic, and racial diversity of the Pittsburgh area. Last year, 35% of our students received over \$2.0 million in financial aid. Students come from the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding suburbs and represent more than 150 grade schools and 105 parishes. Current enrollment is 746 students with a typical graduating class of about 195 seniors each year. Traditionally, 96% of graduates continue their education beyond high school.

Located in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, the school is in the center of the educational and cultural district of the city, within walking distance of the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Carnegie Museums. The school's location allows students to take advantage of nearby museums, cultural centers, libraries, and places of historical interest.

Central Catholic High School is accredited by the PA Department of Education and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The U.S. Department of Education has recognized Central Catholic as one of the nation's "outstanding secondary schools."

## Students & Faculty

Total Enrollment .....	712	Faculty.....	59
Class of 2024 .....	166	Christian Brothers .....	7
Class of 2025 .....	173	School Counseling Staff.....	5
Class of 2026 .....	183		
Class of 2027.....	190		

# Graduation Requirements

Students must complete the following curriculum, a minimum of 26 credits, to receive a diploma from Central Catholic High School:

**(5) Electives**    **(4) Mathematics**    **(3) Social Studies**    **(2) Foreign Language**    **(0.5) Fine Arts**  
**(4) Religion**    **(3) English**    **(3) Science**    **(1) Health / Phys Ed.**    **(0.5) Technology Elective**

Year-long courses earn a student 1 credit. At minimum, students are required to take the equivalent of 6 year-long courses, in addition to half-year courses such as Physical Education, Health, Music, and Art.

## Academics and Signature Programs

### Academic Weighting and Grading

The courses taught at Central Catholic High School are weighted to reflect the difficulty of the course content. **All courses are divided into five levels of difficulty.** Over the course of their four years and within the same academic year, many students select courses from more than one level of difficulty.

Level 1 = Regular    Level 2 = Intermediate    Level 3 = Advanced    Level 4 = Honors    Level 5 = AP

### Grading Philosophy

The faculty of Central Catholic does its best to limit grade inflation in our core academic courses. **It is rare for any student to graduate with all A's in their academic classes over the course of four years.** Some core courses award very few 'A' grades.

### Cumulative GPA Weighting

**The Cumulative GPA reported on the transcript is on a weighted 4.0 scale.** Central Catholic does weight advanced courses (Honors, AP, etc), so it is possible for a student to earn a weighted cumulative GPA above a 4.0. However, the basis for our grading scale in standard-track course is that an A = 4.0. As a result, for most of our students, **earning all A's throughout high school would result in a GPA above a 4.0 but below a 5.0.**

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100-98	97-95	94-93	92-90	89-87	86-85	84-82	81-78	77-75	74-73	72-71	70	<69

### The Bishop McDowell Program

Designed to facilitate student success through the development and reinforcement of necessary skills, the Bishop McDowell Program encourages students, through a variety of individually designed activities, to become thoroughly familiar with their own learning styles. Students in the Bishop McDowell Program attend regular classes and participate fully in the co-curricular life of the school, but have scheduled time for assistance and skill-building to enable them to progress in the college preparatory curriculum. When students understand how they learn best, they can then begin to apply strategies that work for them in the classroom, while completing homework, and when preparing for exams. Concurrently, the Director of the Bishop McDowell Program works with the Central Catholic faculty to help them understand each student's learning style and the related implications for classroom practices.

### The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program

The goal of the Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program is to prepare students for advanced studies at the university level through a liberal arts curriculum that is interdisciplinary and multi-faceted. Students work closely with their advisors, teachers and peers on exploring the humanities and understanding their intersection with science and technology through issue-oriented investigations. Having shown an interest in the liberal arts, students apply to the program in the spring of their sophomore year through a competitive process. Once admitted, students enroll in a humanities seminar in their junior year to engage in critical inquiry and social justice perspectives. In their senior year, they write, defend and present a college-level, research-based thesis. Students in the program also participate in a multitude of enrichment activities offered by the Scholars Forum in addition to traveling domestically and abroad, thus, their intellectual development is bridged with a responsibility to be global citizens.

### The Engineering Institute at Central Catholic

The goal of the Engineering Institute at Central Catholic (EICC) is to provide students opportunities, through a combination of coursework, resources and outside of the classroom experiences, to help them make informed decisions about pursuing an engineering career. EICC students will be engaged in an intellectually challenging, hands-on and relevant curriculum with coursework and experiences designed to foster creativity, problem-solving, teamwork and communication to give them exposure to engineering careers and prepare them for entry into a college engineering program. Students interested in the EICC will complete the application process during the second semester of their freshman year. Accepted EICC students will take a one-semester engineering course each of their sophomore, junior and senior years. The focus of the senior year engineering class will be the completion of a capstone design project.

# Advanced Placement Courses

For most AP courses, only one section of each course is taught each year.

All students enrolled in an AP class are required to sit for the AP Exam.

It is uncommon for a student to graduate with more than 4-5 AP courses.

Students must meet prerequisites and be recommended by a teacher to enroll in any Advanced Placement course.

The following 17 Advanced Placement courses are available at Central Catholic:

**American Government**  
**Art History**  
**Biology**  
**Calculus AB, BC**

**Chemistry**  
**Computer Science**  
**English Language and Composition**  
**English Literature**

**European History**  
**French**  
**Human Geography**  
**Physics C**

**Spanish**  
**Statistics**  
**U.S. History**  
**Psychology**

## Curriculum Offerings

Central Catholic will offer the following course options during the 2023-2024 academic year. Level 1-3 courses are indicated below. Available AP courses are also listed separately on the opposite page.

H = Honors

AP = Advanced Placement

CHS = College in High School

### Science Department

Biology – 2, 3, H, AP  
Chemistry – 2, 3, H, AP  
Chemistry II  
Organic Chemistry - H  
Physics – 2, 3, H, AP (C)  
Environmental Science – 3  
Biotechnology/Bioengineering – 3, H  
A&P – H

### Social Studies Department

Human Geography – 2, 3, AP  
World History I - 2  
World History II – 3, H  
United States History – 2, 3, H, AP  
AP European History – AP  
American Government – AP  
History of Pittsburgh & Western PA -3  
Psychology – 3  
Sociology – 3  
AP Art History – AP  
The Story of World War II – 3  
Introduction to Leadership – 3  
AP Psychology – AP

### Physical Education Department

Physical Education – 1  
Health – 3  
A Personal Approach to Physical Education  
& Nutrition – 3  
Advanced Physical Fitness – 3  
Essential Concepts in Athletic Training – 3

### Business Department

Accounting I – 3, H, CHS  
Intro to Technology for the 21st Century – 3  
Financial Algebra – 3  
Principles of Entrepreneurship – 3  
Personal Finance – 3  
Business Law & Ethics – 3, CHS

### English Department

Exploring Literature and Writing I – 2, 3, H  
Exploring Literature and Writing II – 2, 3, H  
Survey of American Literature – 2, 3, H  
Survey of World Literature: 2, H  
AP Language and Composition - AP  
AP English Literature – AP, CHS  
Junior Seminar – AP  
Scholarship: Senior Thesis – H  
World Literature: Topics Courses - 3  
Creative Writing – 3  
Yearbook Design – 3

### Foreign Languages Department

Spanish I – 3  
Advanced Spanish I – 3  
Spanish II – 2, 3, H  
Spanish III – 3, H  
Spanish IV: Advanced Language  
Development – 4  
AP Spanish – AP  
French I, II, III – 3  
French IV – 4  
Latin I, II, III – 3  
Latin IV – H, CHS

### Religion Department

Religion I - 3  
Religion II - 3  
Religion III – 3  
A Man of Faith – 3  
Peer Ministry – 3  
Honors Intro to Philosophy – 4

### Fine Arts Department

Freshman Choir – 3  
Freshman Digital Art - 3  
Studio Art I, II, III – 3  
Studio Art IV – H  
Principles of Art & Design – 3  
Vocal Music I (Viking Chorus) – 3  
Vocal Music II (Concert Choir) – 3  
Instrumental Music (Band) – 3, H  
Vocal Music (Chamber Singers) – H  
Instrumental Music (Honors Band) – H  
Jazz Band – 3, H  
String Ensemble – 3  
Audio Engineering I: Live Sound  
Reinforcement – 3  
Audio Engineering II: Recording and  
Production – 3  
Digital Arts Basics – 3  
Video Production – 3

### Math Department

Algebra I – 2, H  
Advanced Algebra I – 3  
Algebra II – 2, 3, H  
Advanced Algebra II - 3  
Advanced Geometry – 3  
Geometry – 1, 2, 3, H  
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus – 2, 3  
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus – H  
Calculus – H, AP  
AP Statistics – AP  
AP Computer Science – AP  
Engineering I – 3, 4  
Engineering I (EICC) – 4  
Experiential Engineering – 3  
Principles of Robotics – 3, 4  
Algorithmic Thinking & Computer  
Programming – 3, 4  
Computer Aided Design (CAD) and 3D  
Modeling/CNC – 3, 4  
Engineering Design – 4

# Post-Graduate Plans – Class of 2023 (194 Graduates)

	# of students	% of class		# of students	% of class
Four-year college	184	95%	Catholic Colleges	32	16%
Two-year college	7	4%	Private, non-Catholic Colleges	69	36%
Armed Services	1	<1%	Public Colleges	93	48%
Other/Undecided	2	3%	Out-of-State Colleges	89	46%

## Recent College Matriculations 2019 – 2023

Names in bold indicate colleges where three or more graduates have matriculated in the most recent five-year period.

Alderson-Broaddus College	<b>High Point University</b>	United States Coast Guard Academy
<b>Allegheny College</b>	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	United States Military Academy
<b>American University</b>	Hofstra University	<b>United States Naval Academy</b>
Andrews University	<b>Howard University</b>	<b>The University of Akron</b>
Arizona State University	<b>Indiana University at Bloomington</b>	<b>The University of Alabama</b>
<b>Baldwin Wallace College</b>	<b>Indiana University of Pennsylvania</b>	University at Albany
Bates College	Ithaca College	The University of Arizona
Baylor University	<b>James Madison University</b>	The University of Montana, Missoula
<b>Boston College</b>	<b>John Carroll University</b>	University of California, Berkeley
<b>Boston University</b>	<b>Kent State University</b>	University of California, Davis
<b>Bucknell University</b>	<b>Kenyon College</b>	University of California, Los Angeles
<b>California University of Pennsylvania</b>	<b>La Salle University</b>	University of Chicago
Canisius College	Lackawanna College	University of Cincinnati
<b>Carlow University</b>	Lafayette College	<b>University of Colorado at Boulder</b>
<b>Carnegie Mellon University</b>	Lincoln University	<b>University of Dayton</b>
<b>Case Western Reserve University</b>	Long Island University, Post	<b>University of Delaware</b>
<b>Chatham University</b>	Louisiana State University	University of Florida
<b>Clarion University of Pennsylvania</b>	Loyola University Chicago	<b>University of Kentucky</b>
Clark Atlanta University	Manhattan College	<b>University of Maryland, College Park</b>
Clarkson University	<b>Marietta College</b>	University of Massachusetts – Multiple Campuses
<b>Clemson University</b>	Marist College	University of Miami
Coastal Carolina University	Marquette University	<b>University of Michigan</b>
Colgate University	McGill University	University of Mississippi
College of Charleston	<b>Mercyhurst University</b>	University of Mount Union
College of the Holy Cross	<b>Miami University (OH)</b>	University of North Carolina – Multiple Campuses
The College of St. Joseph the Worker	Mount St. Mary's University	<b>University of Notre Dame</b>
College of William and Mary	New York University	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>
Colorado College	North Carolina A&T State University	<b>University of Pittsburgh – Multiple Campuses</b>
Colorado School of Mines	North Carolina State University	University of Rochester
Columbia University	<b>Ohio University</b>	University of South Carolina
<b>Cornell University</b>	<b>The Ohio State University</b>	<b>University of Southern California</b>
Dartmouth College	<b>Penn State University – Multiple Campuses</b>	University of Tennessee
<b>Denison University</b>	Pennsylvania College of Technology	The University of Texas at Tyler
DePaul University	Pepperdine University	University of Toledo
Dickinson College	<b>Point Park University</b>	University of Utah
<b>Drexel University</b>	Princeton University	<b>University of Vermont</b>
Duke University	<b>Purdue University</b>	University of Washington
<b>Duquesne University</b>	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Wyoming
East Carolina University	Quinnipiac University	Vanderbilt University
<b>Elon University</b>	<b>Robert Morris University</b>	<b>Villanova University</b>
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach)	<b>Rochester Institute of Technology</b>	Virginia Military Institute
Florida Atlantic University	Rollins College	<b>Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech)</b>
Florida Gulf Coast University	Saint Francis University	<b>Wake Forest University</b>
Florida State University	<b>Saint Joseph's University</b>	<b>Washington &amp; Jefferson College</b>
<b>Fordham University</b>	<b>Saint Vincent College</b>	Washington University in St. Louis
Fort Lewis College	<b>Seton Hall University</b>	Waynesburg University
Franciscan University of Steubenville	<b>Seton Hill University</b>	Wesleyan University
<b>Gannon University</b>	<b>Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania</b>	<b>West Virginia University</b>
Geneva College	Southern Methodist University	Western Michigan University
George Mason University	St. Bonaventure University	<b>Westminster College</b>
George Washington University	St. John Fisher College	Wheeling University
<b>Georgetown University</b>	St. John's University – Queens Campus	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Georgia Institute of Technology	Stanford University	<b>Xavier University</b>
Gettysburg College	SUNY Albany	<b>Yale University</b>
Gonzaga University	SUNY Buffalo State College	Youngstown State University
<b>Grove City College</b>	Swarthmore College	
Hamilton College	Syracuse University	
Hampton University	<b>Temple University</b>	
Haverford College	Trine University	
Heidelberg University	Trinity College (Dublin)	
	Tufts University	