



**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

	# 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%

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

Alderson-Broaddus College

Allegheny College

American University

Andrews University

Arizona State University

Baldwin Wallace College

Bates College

Baylor University

Boston College

Boston University

Bucknell University

California University of Pennsylvania

Canisius College

Carlow University

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

Chatham University

Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Clark Atlanta University

Clarkson University

Clemson University

Coastal Carolina University

Colgate University

College of Charleston

College of the Holy Cross

The College of St. Joseph the Worker

College of William and Mary

Colorado College

Colorado School of Mines

Columbia University

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Denison University

DePaul University

Dickinson College

Drexel University

Duke University

Duquesne University

East Carolina University

Elon University

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

(Daytona Beach)

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida State University

Fordham University

Fort Lewis College

Franciscan University of Steubenville

Gannon University

Geneva College

George Mason University

George Washington University

Georgetown University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Gettysburg College

Gonzaga University

Grove City College

Hamilton College

Hampton University

Haverford College

Heidelberg University

High Point University

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Hofstra University

Howard University

Indiana University at Bloomington

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Ithaca College

James Madison University

John Carroll University

Kent State University

Kenyon College

La Salle University

Lackawanna College

Lafayette College

Lincoln University

Long Island University, Post

Louisiana State University

Loyola University Chicago

Manhattan College

Marietta College

Marist College

Marquette University

McGill University

Mercyhurst University

Miami University (OH)

Mount St. Mary's University

New York University

North Carolina A&T State University

North Carolina State University

Ohio University

The Ohio State University

Penn State University – Multiple Campuses

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Pepperdine University

Point Park University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Quinnipiac University

Robert Morris University

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rollins College

Saint Francis University

Saint Joseph's University

Saint Vincent College

Seton Hall University

Seton Hill University

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Southern Methodist University

St. Bonaventure University

St. John Fisher College

St. John's University – Queens Campus

Stanford University

SUNY Albany

SUNY Buffalo State College

Swarthmore College

Syracuse University

Temple University

Trine University

Trinity College (Dublin)

Tufts University

United States Coast Guard Academy

United States Military Academy

United States Naval Academy

The University of Akron

The University of Alabama

University at Albany

The University of Arizona

The University of Montana, Missoula

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Los Angeles

University of Chicago

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado at Boulder

University of Dayton

University of Delaware

University of Florida

University of Kentucky

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Massachusetts – Multiple

Campuses

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Mississippi

University of Mount Union

University of North Carolina – Multiple

Campuses

University of Notre Dame

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh – Multiple

Campuses

University of Rochester

University of South Carolina

University of Southern California

University of Tennessee

The University of Texas at Tyler

University of Toledo

University of Utah

University of Vermont

University of Washington

University of Wyoming

Vanderbilt University

Villanova University

Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia

Tech)

Wake Forest University

Washington & Jefferson College

Washington University in St. Louis

Waynesburg University

Wesleyan University

West Virginia University

Western Michigan University

Westminster College

Wheeling University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Xavier University

Yale University

Youngstown State University