



**CENTRAL
CATHOLIC**
HIGH SCHOOL

Men of Faith, Men of Scholarship, Men of Service

2024-25

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, 45% 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 702 students with a typical graduating class of about 180 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 | 702 | Faculty..... | 59 |
| Class of 2025 | 169 | Christian Brothers | 7 |
| Class of 2026 | 181 | School Counseling Staff..... | 5 |
| Class of 2027..... | 184 | | |
| Class of 2028..... | 168 | | |

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete the following curriculum, a minimum of 27 credits, to receive a diploma from Central Catholic High School:

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

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.

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 four 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 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 15 Advanced Placement courses are available at Central Catholic:

American Government
Biology
Calculus AB, BC
Chemistry

Computer Science
English Language and Composition
English Literature
European History

Human Geography
Physics C
Precalculus
Spanish

Statistics
U.S. History
Psychology

Curriculum Offerings

Central Catholic will offer the following course options during the 2024-25 academic year.

H = Honors

AP = Advanced Placement

CHS = College in High School

Science Department

Biology – 2, 3, H, AP
Chemistry – 2, 3, H, AP
Chemistry II – 3
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
The Story of World War II – 3
AP Psychology – AP

Physical Education Department

Physical Education – 3
Health – 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
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

Foreign Languages Department

Spanish I – 3
Spanish II – 2, 3, H
Spanish III – 3, H
Spanish IV: Language & Culture – 4, H
AP Spanish – AP
French I, II, III – 3
French IV – 4
Latin I, II, III – 3
Latin III - H
Latin IV – H, CHS

Religion Department

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

Fine Arts Department

Freshman Choir – 3
Studio Art I, II, III – 3
Studio Art IV – H
Principles of Art & Design – 3
Vocal Music (Concert Choir) – 3
Freshman Vocal Music – 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
Video Production – 3

Math Department

Algebra I – 2, H
Algebra II – 2, 3, H
Advanced Algebra II - 3
Advanced Geometry – 3
Geometry – 2, 3, H
Advanced Precalculus with Trigonometry – 2, 3
Honors Precalculus with Trigonometry – 4
Calculus – H, AP
AP Statistics – AP
AP Precalculus – AP
AP Computer Science – AP
Engineering I – 3, 4
Engineering I (EICC) – 4
Engineering II (EICC) – 4
Experiential Engineering – 3
Computer Aided Design (CAD) and 3D
Modeling/CNC – 3, 4
Engineering Design – 4
Introduction to Programming with Python – H

| | # of students | % of class | | # of students | % of class |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Four-year college | 153 | 92% | Catholic Colleges | 43 | 26% |
| Two-year college | 3 | 1% | Private, non-Catholic Colleges | 27 | 16% |
| Armed Services | 1 | <1% | Public Colleges | 86 | 52% |
| Other/Undecided | 10 | 6% | Out-of-State Colleges | 49 | 30% |

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

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Allegheny College | John Carroll University | Temple University |
| Alvernia University | Juniata College | Texas Christian University |
| American University | Kent State University | The College of Wooster |
| Arizona State University (Tempe) | La Roche University | The Ohio State University |
| Auburn University | La Salle University | The University of Alabama |
| Ave Maria University | Lafayette College | The University of Tennessee (Knoxville) |
| Bates College | Lehigh University | The University of Texas at Austin |
| Bethel University | Lincoln University | The University of Texas at Tyler |
| Bluefield State University | Long Island University (Post) | Trinity College Dublin |
| Boston College | Louisiana State University | United States Naval Academy |
| Boston University | Loyola Marymount University | University of Akron Main Campus |
| Brown University | Loyola University Chicago | University of Arizona |
| Bryn Athyn College | Loyola University Maryland | University of California (Berkeley) |
| Bucknell University | Manhattan College | University of Central Florida |
| Canisius University | Marietta College | University of Chicago |
| Carlow University | Marquette University | University of Colorado Boulder |
| Carnegie Mellon University | Mercyhurst University | University of Dayton |
| Case Western Reserve University | Methodist University | University of Delaware |
| Catholic University of America | Miami University (Oxford) | University of Illinois at Chicago |
| Central State University | Michigan State University | University of Kentucky |
| Chapman University | Mississippi State University | University of Louisville |
| Chatham University | Missouri University of Science and Technology | University of Maine |
| Claremont McKenna College | Montana State University | University of Maryland (College Park) |
| Clark Atlanta University | Morehouse College | University of Miami |
| Clark University | New York University | University of Michigan |
| Clemson University | Norfolk State University | University of Mississippi |
| Cleveland Community College | North Carolina A & T State University | University of Mount Union |
| Coastal Carolina University | North Carolina State University | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| Colgate University | Northeastern University | University of Northwestern Ohio |
| College of Charleston | Nova Southeastern University | University of Notre Dame |
| College of the Holy Cross | Ohio University (Main Campus) | University of Pennsylvania |
| Columbia University | Penn State University (Altoona) | University of Pittsburgh (Bradford) |
| Community College of Allegheny County | Penn State University (Behrend) | University of Pittsburgh (Greensburg) |
| Connecticut College | Penn State University (Greater Allegheny) | University of Pittsburgh (Johnstown) |
| Cornell University | Penn State University (Harrisburg) | University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh) |
| Culinary Institute of America | Penn State University (New Kensington) | University of Rochester |
| Dartmouth College | Penn State University (University Park) | University of San Diego |
| Denison University | Pennsylvania College of Technology | University of South Carolina |
| DePaul University | PennWest California | University of South Florida (Main Campus) |
| Duke University | PennWest Clarion | University of Tulsa |
| Duquesne University | PennWest Edinboro | University of Utah |
| Eckerd College | Pepperdine University | University of Vermont |
| Elon University | Point Park University | University of Virginia (Main Campus) |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | Princeton University | University of Washington (Seattle Campus) |
| (Daytona Beach) | Purdue University (Main Campus) | University of Wisconsin (Madison) |
| Fairfield University | Quinnipiac University | Villanova University |
| Florida Atlantic University | Robert Morris University | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University |
| Florida Gulf Coast University | Rochester Institute of Technology | Wake Forest University |
| Florida Southern College | Rosedale Technical College | Washington & Jefferson College |
| Florida State University | Saint Francis University | Washington University in St. Louis |
| Fordham University | Saint Vincent College | Waynesburg University |
| Franciscan University of Steubenville | Sandhills Community College | West Liberty University |
| Franklin & Marshall College | Santa Clara University | West Virginia University |
| Gannon University | Sarah Lawrence College | Western Michigan University |
| Geneva College | Savannah College of Art and Design | Westminster College |
| George Mason University | Seton Hill University | Wheeling University |
| George Washington University | Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania | William & Mary |
| Georgia Institute of Technology | Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania | Worcester Polytechnic Institute |
| Grove City College | Southern Methodist University | Xavier University |
| Heidelberg University | St. Bonaventure University | Yale University |
| High Point University | St. John's University | Youngstown State University |
| Holy Cross College | Stanford University | |
| Howard University | SUNY at Albany | |
| Indiana University (Bloomington) | SUNY College at Cortland | |
| Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Main Campus) | Syracuse University | |
| | Tallahassee State College | |