



# CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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



*Admissions Viewbook*





# About us

Central Catholic is motivated by a mission much larger than itself – a mission that has its origins in the Gospel. Over three centuries ago, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, inspired with a new vision of what a school could be, founded a religious order dedicated to teaching, that saw education as much more than just the transmission of information and skills. The school years were seen as an important and essential time in the life of boys as they grew into young men. The order he founded would become known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Since 1927, Central Catholic has continued in this time-tested tradition of educating boys through a spirit of accompaniment, the unique Lasallian approach to education.

We meet your young teenager where he is, and journey with him as he discovers his God-given gifts and potential with a personalized and student-centered experience. Your son will be accompanied during the important high school years by highly qualified and caring teachers, Christian Brothers, counselors and coaches who view their work as a ministry and vocation.

Our mission-driven approach to education ensures that over four years, your son will transform into a mature, intellectually motivated and compassionate young man guided by an ethical and moral framework that prepares him to navigate a complex world with confidence and a generous spirit of service.



*“Central Catholic will always be a significant part of my life, and I have never been able to feel more at home anywhere else. I will forever treasure the faculty and staff who have ensured I received a world-class education.”*

*Many freshmen may not understand what the Central Brotherhood is about, but I learned how precious being an Alumnus is throughout my four years. I’m happy with all the things I accomplished, realizing that I’d only get that experience once in a lifetime.”*

*John Paul Daniele, '23*

## Our MISSION

Central Catholic High School, a college preparatory 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 studies and extra-curricular activities in an environment that fosters a life of faith and learning and develops leaders rooted in the Gospel values of integrity, respect, service, justice and peace.





# Central Catholic High School by the Numbers



# Ranked the #1

Catholic High School in the Pittsburgh area.

## FAST FACTS



13-to-1 STUDENT to FACULTY RATIO.

4

FULL-TIME

CERTIFIED TEACHERS  
PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORT.

79%

OF FACULTY  
HOLD  
ADVANCED  
DEGREES.

4

FULL-TIME

CREDENTIALLED  
GUIDANCE  
COUNSELORS.

1

CAMPUS SAFETY

DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH  
POLICE OFFICER.

"BLUEPOINT" ALERT SYSTEM.

1927: The year Central Catholic was founded.

# A tradition of excellence!

At Central Catholic High School,  
there's something for everyone!

OVER 30

CLUBS &  
ACTIVITIES.



Varsity  
SPORTS  
TEAMS.

OVER 60

ELECTIVES  
OFFERED.

OVER 125

COURSES to  
CHOOSE FROM.

\$3.2 Million

IN TUITION ASSISTANCE WAS  
AWARDED IN THE 2024-25  
SCHOOL YEAR.

\$15,750

IS OUR CURRENT TUITION.

\$38,000 IS THE AREA'S AVERAGE  
PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION.



Students from the Class of 2025 matriculated to prestigious schools including: Brown University, Carnegie Mellon University, Duke University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Notre Dame, and the United States Naval Academy.

Fast  
FACTS



# Tradition Never Graduates!

## Our Powerful Alumni Network



From the day he enters as a new student, your son becomes a part of the Central Catholic Brotherhood. Friendships are built during the intangible moments throughout a student's day, and after four years, students leave Central Catholic with bonds that last a lifetime.

Our active and involved alumni network, currently 25,000 strong, not only contribute financially to Central Catholic but also offer networking and internship connection to current students and young alumni. Alumni return to Central Catholic for Career Day programming, to provide mock interview and career advice, and to promote internship opportunities.



The sense of community that is built during a student's time here does not leave him after he graduates. Alumni help open doors and provide guidance to current students and often continue to mentor and provide connections long after they have graduated.

Our alumni social networking group, Central Catholic Alumni Connect, provides graduates with an easy way to stay in touch and gain insight and advice from our powerful alumni network.



"The professional and real world are very competitive. To achieve any goals in life, you need to be able to lock in, focus and grind. Central taught me and my classmates the value of hard work, sacrifice, grit and focus. It gave me the tools to succeed in the real world. Central was competitive in every way. It was competitive in the classroom and outside of the classroom (e.g. sports, music, debate, and any other club or activity). Exposure to this environment at such a young age made the transition to the real and professional world seamless. I believe that young people, especially young teenage boys need to be challenged early and often. Such challenges and obstacles develop character and sharpens the ability to problem solve and find solutions. Central's curriculum and program develops young men eager and ready to take on the challenges of life."

**Eric Charity, '06**

Partner,  
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

"Central Catholic prepared me more mentally than academically for my career path. Anyone who knows anything about Central knows the rich history of traditions, brotherhood, and discipline. When you attend Central you must wear a shirt and tie. You must be clean shaven. After lunch you "walk the quad." These are all traditions that have been passed down to every generation of Central students. A "brotherhood" with your fellow schoolmates. As a police officer, you have the same brotherhood. Traditions are passed down through generations. There is a common bond between the men and women who are police officers."

**Andrew Robinson, '06**

Sergeant,  
Pittsburgh Police



"The old school discipline and high educational standards demanded by the Christian Brothers was critical to my success.

The relationships I built with my classmates, especially my football teammates, are still going strong today. It's not often you can say some of my best CCHS friends are still some of my best friends now.

I think that's what Central is all about."

**Frank Boal, '65**

Former Television  
Sports Broadcaster

"Central recognizes structure, discipline, academic and athletic rigor as a part of the recipe for the foundation of leadership. The Lasallian values taught me to appreciate and better understand the power of faith and service.

As an executive in the government and private sector, Central provided my leadership foundation that helped me make critical decisions that guided my career in a positive direction to include serving four United States Presidents."

**Dr. Ron Layton, '83**

Former Deputy Assistant Director,  
United States Secret Service







# Academics

Central Catholic provides a unique college-preparatory education, balancing a breadth of exposure with an in-depth pursuit of a student's strongest interests.

Understanding the demands of college, we combine our college-preparatory, Liberal Arts education with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum that is among the best in Western Pennsylvania.

Students can choose from over 125 classes, including over 60 electives, honors courses, and advanced placement (AP) level courses.

Regardless of a student's skill level and interest, courses and support services are available.



**Central Catholic offers over 60 electives, including:**

- \* Business Law and Ethics
- \* Computer Aided Design, 3D Modeling, and CNC
- \* Video Production
- \* Biotechnology and Bioengineering
- \* Anatomy and Physiology





# Signature Academic Programs



## 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 answer questions and allow them to 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, providing them with exposure to engineering careers and preparing them for entry into a college engineering program.

Students accepted into the EICC will be part of a cohort that will complete the curricular requirements of the three-year program. The focus of the senior year engineering class will be the completion of a capstone design project.

Along with the EICC coursework, students will be involved in outside-of-the-classroom experiences that include guest speakers, seminars, field trips, and collaboration with a professional mentor.



**Mrs. Stacie Ball,**  
Co-Director,  
Engineering Institute

"It is exciting to have the opportunity to integrate these pieces together with outside the classroom experiences and develop a well-rounded program to help students prepare for engineering in college."



**Mr. Mark Salamacha,**  
Co-Director,  
Engineering Institute

"In terms of developing a standout high school engineering program, Central Catholic has the pieces; faculty with relevant engineering experience, state-of-the-art equipment and a wide network of resources."

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

*communitas docta virtutis*

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 enhance and enrich the academic and cultural experiences of talented and highly motivated students. The program can supplement academic interests in the humanities, social sciences and applied science.

All students in the Scholars Program take part in one trip per year to a major city in the United States. 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.

The 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!



Will Koloc, '21, was awarded Best Thesis at the 2021 Scholars Symposia for his work on the decline and necessity of third spaces, and was awarded the Earl R. Miner Award for Best Senior Thesis at Princeton University, where he earned his Pre-med Bachelor of Arts degree.

Donovan Allen, '23, was awarded Best Thesis at the 2023 Scholars Symposia for his work on Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, and is currently a Nordenberg Leadership Scholar at the University of Pittsburgh Frederick Honors College, where he's pursuing degrees in English, Microbiology, and Chinese.



## Meet the Directors:



**Mrs. Patrizia Costa, Ph.D**  
Co-Director,  
Brother David S. Baginski, FSC  
Scholars Program



**Mr. Todd Rooney**  
Co-Director,  
Brother David S. Baginski, FSC  
Scholars Program

"Being a Baginski Scholar means immersing yourself in an exciting tradition of scholarship, cultural explorations and dialogue.

So many of our alumni have built on what they started here and made outstanding contributions to the organizations they serve and to society in general."

**Mrs. Patrizia Costa, Ph.D**  
Co-Director,  
Brother David S. Baginski, FSC  
Scholars Program



# Academic Support Services

## 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 and assistant director of the Bishop McDowell Program work with the Central Catholic faculty to help them understand each student's learning style and the related implications for classroom practices.

*"It is most rewarding to watch our Bishop McDowell students succeed and flourish as members of our Central Catholic community."*

**Mrs. Mary Ann Lynch**  
Director,  
Bishop McDowell Program

### Students work on:

- Techniques for approaching faculty with questions and concerns
- Note-taking
- Techniques for test-taking
- Time management
- Organization
- Memorization techniques
- Peer communication
- Appropriate and productive use of technology



**Mrs. Mary Ann Lynch**  
Director,  
Bishop McDowell Program

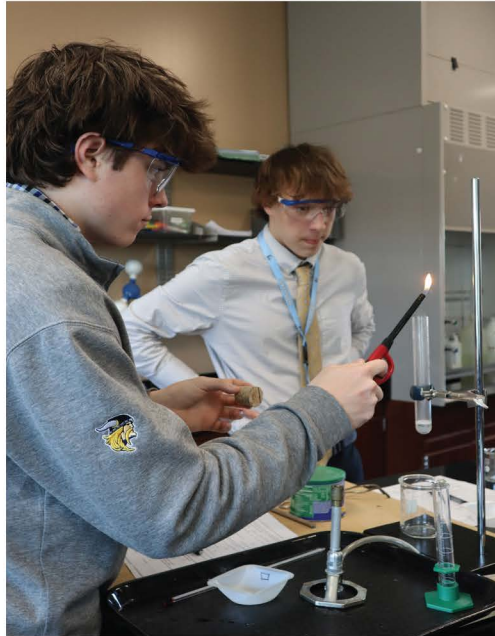


## Academic Support

The goal of the Academic Support program is to nurture and encourage students who can complete a college preparatory program but may need assistance in the development of certain skills, for those in need of basic academic support.

In this peer-to-peer program, fellow students, including members of the National Honor Society, provide individualized guidance and support to students who need assistance.

Additionally, full-time reading and math specialists provided by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) are on staff to offer assistance.



**Mr. Matthew Kizior, '11**  
Assistant Director,  
Bishop McDowell Program





# Counseling Services

The Counseling Department is an integral and essential part of Central Catholic High School’s mission. In collaboration with all stakeholders, members of the department contribute to the human and Christian education and formation of the students entrusted to our care. Programs that address the academic, spiritual, career, and personal development of all students help to ensure that they become responsible leaders in society.

§ Our school counselors have an open door policy and will meet with students at their request. Students are assigned a school counselor by last name, receive guidance from the same counselor throughout their first three years of high school, and then transition to the Director of College Counseling.

The Counseling Department provides a variety of services, including:

- Alumni career day
- Classroom guidance lessons
- Group counseling sessions
- Individual counseling sessions
- Parent informational programs

## College Counseling

- Classroom lessons
- Summer workshops
- Individual meetings
- Mock interviews
- Parent evening informational programs
- Parent information sessions

## Family Support Services

- Student home assessments
- Emotional support
- Support programming

## Psychological Services

- Individual counseling service
- Group counseling



## Meet our Counseling Department



**Mrs. Amy Wienand**  
Dean of Counseling and Family Support



**Mr. Phil DiRenzo, '04**  
Director,  
Counseling Department



**Mrs. Jennifer Toprani**  
Director,  
College Counseling



**Mr. James Eller**  
School Counselor



**Br. Steven Barbaro**  
School Counselor



**Dr. William Hahn, '68**  
Clinical Psychologist



# Lasallian Mission and Ministry

As a school “rooted in the Gospel values of integrity, respect, service, justice and peace,” Central Catholic High School is committed to forming leaders who reflect a fraternity founded in Jesus Christ.

The office of Lasallian Mission and Ministry strives to live out the charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the Catholic faith by serving the poor, celebrating the sacraments, and developing a spiritual life as a son of God the Father.

## Service Opportunities

### Brother Andre’s Café

All juniors have the opportunity to pray, serve and interact with those in the intellectual and developmentally delayed community.

### Red Door Ministry

All freshmen have the opportunity to prepare and serve meals to the homeless population in Downtown Pittsburgh and attend Mass. Our students learn how to become "Men of Faith and Service" while treating everyone with inherent dignity and respect regardless of socioeconomic status or station in life.

### Sacred Heart Elementary School

#### After School Tutoring

Once a week students from Central go to Sacred Heart Elementary School in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh and help tutor students with their homework.

### Faith Formation

- Class Mass on Thursdays (McGonigle Theater)
- After school Mass on Fridays (McGonigle Theater)
- Monthly school-wide Mass (McGonigle Theater)
- Class retreats
- Kairos retreat
- Weekly Eucharistic Adoration
- Morning Prayer
- Advent and Lenten reflection booklet
- Daily praying of the Rosary
- March for Life

### Service Immersion Trips

- Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, MT
- Move a Mountain Mission, Jamaica
- Appalachia Mission Trip



## Mission and Service Events

\* Through the generosity and zeal of the Central Catholic community, almost \$44,000 was raised for those in need locally in the Pittsburgh community, nationally and internationally for our Lasallian community.

\* Approximately \$17,000 was donated to the Little Sisters of the Poor which provides meals for their community for approximately 9 months.

\* Central Catholic led all WPIAL schools in their annual Food and Fund Drive by donating almost 16,000 meals to benefit the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. It was the 2nd largest total in the history of the drive.

\* \$5,000 was raised to benefit our Lasallian schools in California that were effected by the wildfires this year.

\* \$10,000 was raised to assist our brother school, the Child Discovery Center, in Nakuru, Kenya.



Mr. James Donahue  
Vice President,  
Lasallian Mission and Ministry



Mr. Brian Urso  
Director,  
Lasallian Outreach

"Guided by faith, scholarship, and service, my years at Central Catholic have been unlike any other.

The amazing staff and their dedication to guide students toward success and the foundation of morality to help teens grow into adults are only a couple examples of the virtues of our school.

Most importantly, the brotherhood, which sums up the ideology of Central Catholic, represents how God continues to inspire our school and each student individually."

Christian Harhai, '24



# Extracurricular Activities

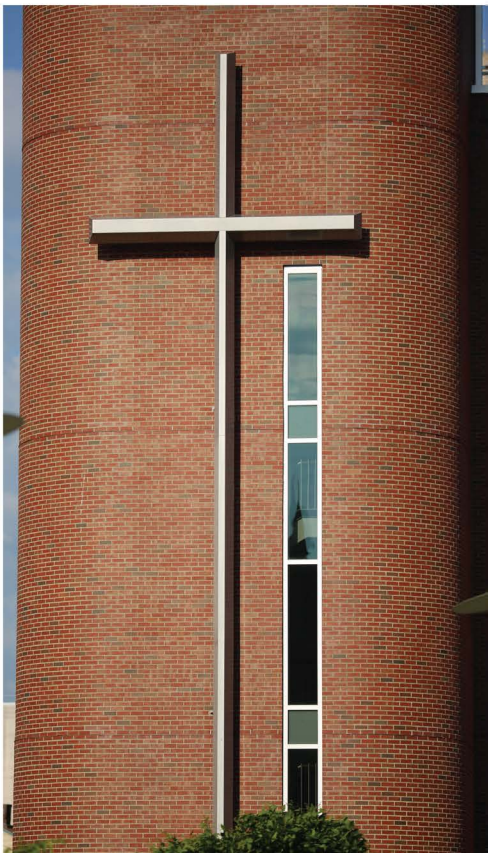
✚ When you step onto Central Catholic’s campus, you are greeted with a vibrant community of students who are working together as a community to achieve their goals. At Central Catholic, students with diverse backgrounds and experiences come together to pursue their passions.

Generations of Viking friendships formed and bonded within our campus have outlasted the tests of time and give credence to our commitment of being an authentic community – what we call the Central Catholic brotherhood.

## Activities include:

- Black Student Union
- Blue Knights Jazz Band
- Chess Club
- Color Guard
- Environmental Club
- Finance Club
- FIRST Robotics
- Fly Fishing Club
- Forensics Society (Speech & Debate)
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Gaming Club
- Harlequin Literary Magazine
- Intramurals
- Lasallian Ministry
- Marching Band
- Masque Drama Club
- My Brother’s Keeper
- National Honor Society
- Outdoor Odyssey
- PA Junior Academy of Science
- PA STEM First Competition
- Photography Club
- Quiz Bowl
- Service Academy Club
- Ski Club
- Stage Crew
- String Ensemble
- Student Ambassador Program
- Student Council
- Students Against Destructive Decision-Making
- Towers Yearbook
- Viking News Network
- Viking Newspaper

**\*\* Now offering E-Sports**



## Athletics include:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Football
- Golf
- Ice Hockey
- Inline Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Wrestling





# The Value of a Central Catholic Education

## Financial aid

A Central Catholic education and all of the opportunities that come with it is a significant financial investment for many families, but it is also a significant investment in your son’s future. We believe that Central Catholic is the premier high school in Western Pennsylvania for boys, but it is also the best dollar for dollar value in the Pittsburgh area’s private education market.

Central Catholic High School is committed to keeping our program affordable and accessible to all who desire a faith- based, college-preparatory education. Therefore, financial aid is available for qualified families. Financial aid packages could include funds from a variety of sources including the Central Catholic Fund, the Bishop’s Education Fund, the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) programs.

Central Catholic High School, historically, has been able to meet approximately 70% of a family’s calculated need.

For the 2024-25 school year, more than \$3.2 million was awarded to 350 families.

## The Financial Aid Processd

Families are asked to complete the FACTS Grant & Aid Application, which is available online in January. Your income tax documents will be required for completion of the FACTS Grant & Aid Application. The deadline for completion is March 15. Late applications will be accepted until the funds have been diminished. Financial aid awards will be announced in May.

If, after receiving an initial financial award, a family feels that their situation has changed or that certain extenuating circumstances were not accounted for in the FACTS Application, an appeal may be made in writing to the Central Catholic Financial Aid office.



## De La Salle Merit Scholarship

\* Awarded to the top scorers on the placement exam.

## Jack Twyman, '51 Leadership Scholarship

\* Awarded to strong and confident leaders in the community.

## James Wheeler Scholarship for Military Heroes

\* Awarded to the sons of active duty or retired military.

## Paul Sciuillo II, '91 Scholarship

\* Awarded to the sons of full-time members of law enforcement, fire and EMS services.

## Viking Merit Scholarship

\* Awarded to students that demonstrate good character and academic achievement.

## Transportation Options

### District Busing

The following school districts provide school buses to Central Catholic.

- |                     |                   |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Allegheny Valley  | • Gateway         | • Shaler               |
| • Avonworth         | • Hampton         | • South Allegheny      |
| • Baldwin-Whitehall | • Keystone Oaks   | • West Jefferson Hills |
| • Bethel Park       | • McKeesport      | • West Mifflin         |
| • Carlynton         | • Montour         | • Woodland Hills       |
| • Chartiers Valley  | • North Allegheny | (certain areas)        |
| • Cornell           | • North Hills     |                        |
| • East Allegheny    | • Penn Hills      |                        |
| • Fox Chapel        | • Riverview       |                        |

### Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) Bus Passes

Formerly Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAT)

The following school districts provide PRT bus passes for students:

- |                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • City of Pittsburgh | • Woodland Hills (certain areas) |
| • Wilkinsburg        | • Sto-Rox                        |

### Private Buses

The following districts do not provide transportation, however, Central Catholic High School coordinates private busing for a fee.

#### North Hills Areas

- Mars
- Moon Area
- Seneca Valley
- Pine-Richland
- Quaker Valley

#### South Hills Areas

- Canon-McMillan
- Peters Township
- Upper St. Clair
- South Fayette
- Mt. Lebanon

#### Valley Areas

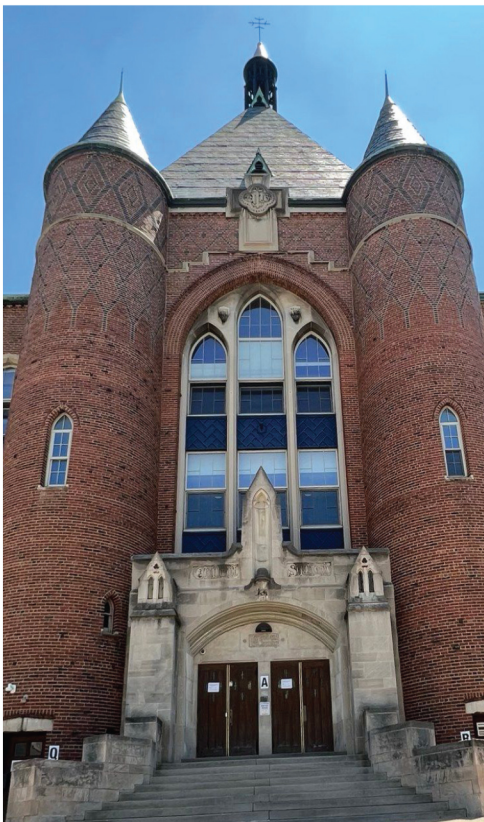
- New Kensington-Arnold
- Burrell
- Kiski
- Highlands Area
- Plum
- Freeport Area

#### Plum-Murrysville Areas

- Franklin Regional
- Plum

For more information on bus stop locations, timing, and fees, please contact Mr. Steven Bezila:

412.208.3425 | [SBezila@CentralCatholicHS.com](mailto:SBezila@CentralCatholicHS.com)





# The Oakland Experience

## Attractions and partnerships with Central Catholic High School

Nestled in the heart of Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, Central Catholic High School is within walking distance of academia and amenities. Flanked by colleges and universities, a shopping district, and restaurants, our school is surrounded by resources for both students and families.



Saint Paul Cathedral, one of Pittsburgh's most well-known places to worship, is the traditional place for Central Catholic's Baccalaureate Mass, the spiritual celebration prior to graduation of our seniors.



Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall is the venue for our annual Commencement ceremony.



The University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University offer courses and programming for our students to gain a wealth of knowledge from top notch professors.



# Academic Experiences

Many of our academic programs benefit from our close proximity to Pittsburgh's many outstanding higher education institutions. Central Catholic students can benefit from first class resources that include:

- Carnegie Mellon's College of Science
- Carnegie Mellon's College of Engineering
- University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Research Laboratories
- University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing
- University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering
- Duquesne University's School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Phipps Conservatory and Center for Sustainable Landscapes
- Frick Environmental Center
- Pittsburgh Zoo







*Men of Faith. Men of Scholarship. Men of Service.*

*Have Questions? Contact Our Admissions Team:*



**Mr. Andrew A. Macurak**  
Vice President of Enrollment Management  
412.208.3417  
amacurak@CentralCatholicHS.com



**Mr. Brian Miller**  
Director of Admissions  
412.621.7505 | 412.773.7024 (fax)  
bmiller@CentralCatholicHS.com

**CentralCatholicHS.com**

*Central Catholic High School*  
4720 Fifth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2952



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