



# CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Men of Faith, Men of Scholarship, Men of Service

## 2025-26 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, 50% of our students received over \$2.4 million in financial aid. Students come from the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding suburbs and represent more than 135 grade schools and 56 parishes. Current enrollment is 653 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 .....	653	Faculty.....	59
Class of 2026 .....	176	Christian Brothers .....	7
Class of 2027 .....	173	School Counseling Staff.....	5
Class of 2028.....	148		
Class of 2029.....	156		

# Graduation Requirements

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

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

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 18 **Advanced Placement** courses are available at Central Catholic:

- **United States Government and Politics**
- **Biology**
- **Calculus AB**
- **Calculus BC**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computer Science**
- **Microeconomics**
- **Macroeconomics**
- **English Language and Composition**
- **English Literature**
- **European History**
- **Human Geography**
- **Physics C: Mechanics**
- **Precalculus**
- **Spanish**
- **Statistics**
- **United States History**
- **Psychology**

## Curriculum Offerings

Central Catholic will offer the following course options during the 2025-26 academic year.

H = Honors

AP = Advanced Placement

CHS = College in High School

### Science Department

Biology – 2, 3, H (9)  
AP Biology – AP (11, 12)  
Chemistry – 2, 3, H (10)  
AP Chemistry – AP (11, 12)  
Chemistry II – 3 (11, 12)  
Organic Chemistry – H (11, 12)  
Physics – 2, 3, H (11)  
AP Physics C: Mechanics – AP (11, 12)  
Environmental Science – 3 (11, 12)  
Biotechnology/Bioengineering – H (11, 12)  
Anatomy and Physiology – H (11, 12)  
Natural Science and the Environment – 2 (12)

### Engineering and Innovation

Introduction to Technology for the 21st Century – 3 (9)  
Experiential Engineering – 3 (10-12)  
Engineering I – 3 (10-12)  
Engineering I (EICC) – 4 (10)  
Engineering II (EICC) – 4 (11)  
Engineering III (EICC) – 4 (12)  
Computer Aided Design, 3D Modeling and CNC – 4 (11, 12)  
Engineering Design – 4 (11, 12)

### History and Social Sciences

Human Geography – 2, 3, H (9)  
AP Human Geography – AP (9)  
World History I – 2 (10)  
World History II – 3, H (10)  
United States History – 2, 3, H (11)  
AP United States History – AP (11, 12)  
AP European History – AP (10)  
AP United States Government and Politics – AP (11, 12)  
History of Pittsburgh & Western PA – 3 (11, 12)  
Psychology – 3 (11, 12)  
AP Psychology – AP (11, 12)  
Sociology – 3 (11, 12)  
The Story of World War II – 3 (11, 12)

Sports in America – 3 (11, 12)

### Health and Physical Education

Health – 3 (10)  
Advanced Physical Fitness – 3 (10)  
Essential Concepts in Athletic Training – 3 (11, 12)

### Business

Accounting I – 3, H, CHS (11, 12)  
Personal Finance – 3 (11, 12)  
Business Law & Ethics – H, CHS (11, 12)  
Strategic Leadership and Teambuilding – 3 (11, 12)  
Economics – 3 (11, 12)  
AP Economics – AP (11, 12)  
Honors Accounting (12)

### English

Exploring Literature and Writing I – 2, 3, H (9)  
Exploring Literature and Writing II – 2, 3, H (10)  
American Literature – 2, 3, H (11)  
World Literature – 2, H (11, 12)  
AP English Language and Composition – AP (11)  
AP English Literature and Composition – AP, CHS (12)  
Junior Seminar – 5 (11)  
Scholarship: Senior Thesis – 4 (12)  
World Literature: Topics Courses – 3 (12)  
World Literature and Theater – 4 (11, 12)  
Media and Culture Literacy – 3 (10-12)

### World Languages

Spanish I – 3 (9, 10)  
Spanish II – 2, 3, H (9-11)  
Spanish III – 3, H (10, 11)  
Spanish IV: Language & Culture – H (11, 12)  
AP Spanish – AP (11, 12)  
French I, II, III – 3 (9-11)  
French IV – 4 (12)  
Latin I, II – 3 (9-10)

Latin III – H (11)  
Latin IV – H, CHS (12)

### Religion

Religion I – 3 (9)  
Religion II – 3 (10)  
Religion III – 3 (11)  
Man of Faith – 3 (12)  
Peer Ministry – 3 (12)  
Introduction to Philosophy – 4 (12)

### Performing and Fine Arts

Freshman Choir – 3 (9)  
Studio Art I, II, III – 3 (9-11)  
Studio Art IV – 4 (12)  
Principles of Art and Design – 3 (9)  
Freshman Vocal Music – 3 (9)  
Vocal Music II (Concert Choir – 3 (10-12)  
Advanced Vocal Music (Chambers – 4 (10-12)  
Instrumental Music (Marching and Concert Band) – 3, H (9-12)  
Jazz Band – 3, H (9-12)  
String Ensemble – 3 (9-12)  
Audio Engineering I – 3 (11, 12)  
Video Production – 3 (11, 12)

### Math and Computer Science

Algebra I – 2, H (9)  
Algebra II – 2, 3, H (9, 10, 11)  
Geometry – 2, 3, H (10, 11)  
Precalculus with Trigonometry – 2, 3, H (10-12)  
Calculus – H (10-12)  
AP Calculus (AB) – AP (10-12)  
AP Calculus (BC) – AP (11, 12)  
AP Statistics – AP (11, 12)  
AP Precalculus – AP (10-12)  
AP Computer Science A – AP (11, 12)  
Introduction to Programming with Python – H (11, 12)

# Post-Graduate Plans – Class of 2025 (168 Graduates)

	# of students	% of class		# of students	% of class
Four-year college	149	89%	Catholic Colleges	33	20%
Two-year college	4	2%	Private, non-Catholic Colleges	65	39%
Armed Services	2	1%	Public Colleges	81	48%
Other/Undecided	13	8%	Out-of-State Colleges	60	36%
			Historically Black Colleges	8	5%

## Recent College Matriculations 2021 – 2025

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

**Allegheny College**  
 American University  
 Arizona State University (Tempe)  
 Auburn University  
 Ave Maria University  
 Bates College  
 Bethel University  
 Bluefield State University  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 Brown University  
 Bryn Athyn College  
**Bucknell University**  
 Canisius University  
 Carlow University  
**Carnegie Mellon University**  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
**Catholic University of America**  
 Central State University  
 Chapman University  
**Chatham University**  
 Claremont McKenna College  
 Clark Atlanta University  
 Clark University  
**Clemson University**  
 Coastal Carolina University  
**Colgate University**  
 College of Charleston  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 Colorado School of Mines  
 Columbia University  
**Community College of Allegheny County**  
 Connecticut College  
**Cornell University**  
**Culinary Institute of America**  
 Dartmouth College  
 Denison University  
 DePaul University  
 Duke University  
**Duquesne University**  
**Elon University**  
**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**  
 (Daytona Beach)  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Florida Southern College  
 Florida State University  
 Fordham University  
**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
 Franklin & Marshall College  
**Gannon University**  
 Geneva College  
 George Mason University  
 George Washington University  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Grove City College**  
 Heidelberg University  
 High Point University  
 Holy Cross College  
**Howard University**  
**Indiana University (Bloomington)**  
**Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Main Campus)**  
**John Carroll University**  
 Juniata College  
**Kent State University**

La Roche University  
**La Salle University**  
 Lafayette College  
**Lehigh University**  
 Lincoln University  
 Long Island University (Post)  
 Louisiana State University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Loyola University Chicago  
 Loyola University Maryland  
 Manhattan College  
 Marietta College  
 Marquette University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Mercyhurst University**  
 Methodist University  
**Miami University (Oxford)**  
**Michigan State University**  
 Mississippi State University  
 Missouri University of Science and Technology  
 Montana State University  
 Morehouse College  
 New York University  
 Norfolk State University  
**North Carolina A & T State University**  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northeastern University  
**Ohio University (Main Campus)**  
**Penn State University (Altoona)**  
 Penn State University (Behrend)  
**Penn State University (Greater Allegheny)**  
 Penn State University (Harrisburg)  
 Penn State University (New Kensington)  
**Penn State University (University Park)**  
 Pennsylvania College of Technology  
**PennWest California**  
**PennWest Clarion**  
 PennWest Edinboro  
 Pepperdine University  
**Point Park University**  
 Princeton University  
**Purdue University (Main Campus)**  
 Quinnipiac University  
**Robert Morris University**  
**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
 Rosedale Technical College  
 Saint Francis University  
**Saint Vincent College**  
 Santa Clara University  
 Sarah Lawrence College  
 Savannah College of Art and Design  
 Seton Hill University  
 Seton Hall University  
 Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania  
**Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania**  
 Southern Methodist University  
**St. Bonaventure University**  
**St. John's University**  
 Stanford University  
 Stevenson University  
 SUNY at Albany  
 SUNY College at Cortland  
**Syracuse University**  
**Temple University**  
 Texas Christian University  
 The College of Wooster

**The Ohio State University**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)**  
 The University of Texas at Austin  
 The University of Texas at Tyler  
 Trinity College Dublin  
 United States Merchant Marine Academy  
**United States Naval Academy**  
 University of Akron Main Campus  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California (Berkeley)  
 University of Central Florida  
 University of Chicago  
**University of Colorado Boulder**  
**University of Dayton**  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Illinois at Chicago  
**University of Kentucky**  
 University of Louisville  
 University of Maine  
**University of Maryland (College Park)**  
 University of Miami  
**University of Michigan**  
 University of Mississippi  
 University of Mount Union  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 University of Northwestern Ohio  
**University of Notre Dame**  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pittsburgh (Bradford)  
**University of Pittsburgh (Greensburg)**  
**University of Pittsburgh (Johnstown)**  
**University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh)**  
 University of Rochester  
 University of San Diego  
 University of South Carolina  
 University of South Florida (Main Campus)  
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Tulsa  
**University of Utah**  
**University of Vermont**  
 University of Virginia (Main Campus)  
 University of Washington (Seattle Campus)  
 University of Wisconsin (Madison)  
**Villanova University**  
**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**  
 Wake Forest University  
**Washington & Jefferson College**  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
**Waynesburg University**  
 West Liberty University  
**West Virginia University**  
 Western Michigan University  
 Westminster College  
 Wheeling University  
 William & Mary  
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
 Xavier University  
 Yale University  
 Youngstown State University