

*"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the LORD."
Ephesians 2:20-21*

MEET CAYDEN MERCHANT: BASKETBALL, AND SO MUCH MORE!

If you follow Billings Central Ram's basketball, you know Cayden Merchant. Cayden is leader and senior on this year's Men's Rams squad.

Speaking of one of his fellow seniors, "Brock is terrible, he was supposed to help me!" Cayden says with a twinkle in his eye and a grin on his face – knowing fellow Senior Brock Blatter is focused on his future baseball career at the University of Alabama.

Cayden transferred to Billings Central during his junior year. It was a welcome return to Catholic schools for Cayden, a member of the Crow and Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, as he attended St. Charles School in Pryor through 2nd grade. Cayden moved to Billings after and attended public schools until last year. His previous school, "just wasn't a good fit," he said.

Cayden is now a second-generation Central student. His father, Darcy Merchant, won a championship for Central's 1995-1996 state championship team as a sophomore starter on the team. Of course, Cayden

matched his father right away with 2021's state basketball championship. He looks to one-up his father this year. But he knows it's a tough road with a newer team.



CAYDEN MERCHANT

But as Cayden talks more, it becomes clear basketball is not his primary motivation in life. When asked if he is being recruited to play college ball, Cayden has no interest, "I don't plan on playing basketball after high school."

For him, academics come first, "I take more after my mom,"

Cayden says, "She always pushes me academically, that's part of the reason I came to Central."

He mentions the small class sizes, the high expectations, and the relationships he has with his teachers like Mr. Fairbanks. Cayden is currently taking Western Civilization – a college dual-credit class. In fact, Cayden takes all the honors and dual-credit classes he can. Currently, he is sporting a 3.9 GPA. By the time he graduates high school this spring, he expects to have 20 colleges credits under his belt!

When speaking of his future, Cayden plans to attend MSU Bozeman. He is interested in becoming a pediatrician. "I love my little siblings, I love little kids, they're just fun!" he says, "I'd love a career where I get to work with kids."

And family is never far from Cayden's mind – his parents, little brothers and sister. It's why he chose MSU Bozeman to stay close. After all, his little brother Darcy Jr. is a freshman at Central next year. Don't be surprised to see Cayden cheering from the stands! **+**

Welcome to The Cornerstone, your quarterly newsletter from your family at the Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation. In these pages, you will read stories of tremendous students, families, and alumni; school updates and happenings; invitations to events; and of course, ways to continue your support of our schools.

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FUTURES BUILT HERE!

MAYFAIR SPECIAL PROJECT TO ADDRESS BCS SCIENCE NEEDS.

By this time next year, our Billings Catholic School's students will ask questions, form hypotheses, observe and experiment, collect data, and draw conclusions with the latest STEM curriculum. As an institution dedicated to academic excellence, teaching the scientific method forms our students in the lifelong journey of discovering the truth of our world.

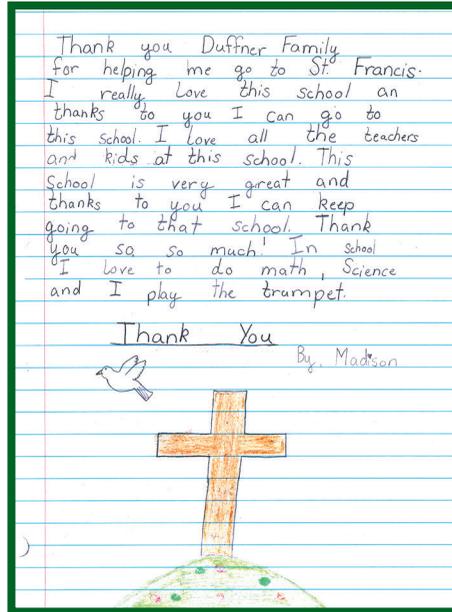
To be frank with you, our science labs are dated, our materials old, and our equipment limps along. Our science teachers and their students make do with what they have. Often, the incredible things they learn are in spite of the materials they have in front of them. Our teachers do incredible work!

Now, imagine what new equipment and learning materials will open for our students. These days, learning does not just happen from a book – often outdated in just a few years. It takes place in

the world and out in nature. With new scientific breakthroughs seemingly every day, digital materials are necessary for the latest information.

Experiments that were once confined to university laboratories only a short time ago can now happen within our high school. Even better, science kits are designed for the youngest among us – even down to the Preschool students of St. Francis Early Childhood.

It is with enthusiasm our kids explore careers in the sciences, such as doctors, chemists, biologists, foresters, geologists, engineers, and computer scientists. It is our goal to explore early and discuss often the possibilities for our students in this ever-expanding field.



Give our budding scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians at Billings Catholic Schools what they need. Give to the Mayfair special project! +

How Do I Support MAYFAIR 2022?

First, will you help volunteer? Mayfair needs your time! Does seeking out sponsorships or asking for charitable items appeal to you? Will you help us at the event itself? Contact the Foundation to ask about volunteer opportunities through Mayfair.

Second, will you, your business, your employer sponsor Mayfair? Many local businesses want to get their products and businesses in front of people. Does yours? We have sponsorship packages starting at Silver (\$1,800), Gold (\$1,300), Platinum (\$5,000), and Premier (\$10,000).

Third, will you donate to the auction? Do you own a cabin? Do you provide a service? Would you put together a gift basket - date nights, experiences, families, athletics, and themed baskets are very popular! Don't know what to donate - give cash, and we'll do the hard work of putting together a basket for you!

Fourth, COME TO MAYFAIR! Win the auction items! Support the Special Project! It's all for our kids! Join your Billings Catholic Schools family for an incredible night of festivities. +



WHAT'S MAYFAIR?

For new families in our Billings Catholic Schools, the first question I'm often asked is, "What's Mayfair?" I usually retort, "WHAT! You haven't heard of Mayfair!" I usually have their attention after that.

As I tell every Catholic school parent that will suffer with me, Mayfair is our BCS Parents' event – not the school's, not the foundation's. Mayfair only does as well as our parents want it to! It is an event that directly benefits our children and their schools.

47 years ago, a group of Billings Catholic Schools parents and alumni gathered to help our Billings Catholic Schools who were struggling at that time. An idea was hatched, a gala dinner and auction that was popular in other parts of the country but had yet to make its way to Billings. This event would be held in the spring, around May 1st to support the schools and its students. The first Mayfair had 150 live auction lots! The best live auction lot from that first Mayfair - an actual pony!

More than just a fundraiser, Mayfair is a great time for our Billings Catholic Schools family. Think of it as our annual BCS family reunion. For Mayfair newbies, gather your friends for food, drinks, and some competitive bidding. You'll be into it, trust us! For

Mayfair veterans, it's been too long, join your family once again.

So why Mayfair? Let's think about our schools without Mayfair. Without Mayfair, tuition would be much greater. Without Mayfair, our students would lack a 21st century learning environment. Without Mayfair, our schools would not exist as they do today.

Mayfair needs you – our Billings Catholic Schools family. The more funds raised from Mayfair means greater growth for our kids at our Billings Catholic Schools.

We'll see you at Mayfair!



Adam Liberty



THANK YOU MAYFAIR "EARLY BIRD" SPONSORS!

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note: we will never share your personal information.

Gift Information

I/We want to support the Billings Catholic Schools & Foundation with a gift:

Mayfair Mayfair Special Project Mayfair Auction Items Other: _____

\$50 \$100 \$300 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other: \$ _____

Call about Mayfair Sponsorships!

DRESSING THEIR BEST!

Billings Catholic School's Student's present the annual St. Francis Art Gala and Recital

This year's St. Francis Art Gala is Tuesday, March 8 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at St. Francis Catholic School. Join the St. Francis students in your life, dress up in your finest, enjoy the heavy hors' devoirs, be inspired by the art, and let your spirit soar with the music.

All art is "for sale." Your "purchase" of your students' art and entrance "fee" for the music recital qualify as a charitable contribution to the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation and is tax deductible.



The Students of St. Francis Catholic Present The First Annual Fine Arts

PLANNING A REUNION? CALL US!

60-, 50-, 40-, 30-, 20-, and 10-Year Class Reunions, are you planning a summer 2022 reunion! Let us, the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, know now. We can help with your class lists, party planning, notifications, and tour scheduling. Call or email the BCS Foundation to help you plan your reunion!

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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events*:

upcoming

March 8	St. Francis Art Gala
April 30 - May 7	Mayfair Virtual Auction Opens
May 7	47th Annual Mayfair Gala Dinner and Live Auction
May 29	BCCHS Graduation
Summer 2022	Alumni Reunions

*Events are subject to change. If you're signed up, check your email for the most current information; or sign up for email updates today!

Payment Information

- Check (Please make check payable to Billings Catholic Schools Foundation)
- Credit card (Please fill out information below)
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