

"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 FR. CURTIS SEIDEL FOLLOWING HIS FOOTPRINTS

Fr. Curtis Seidel, a 2005 alumni, never expected his life to go the way it has. "I was marginally Catholic when I started at Billings Central my freshman year," he states matter-of-factly. As he goes on, "Attending Central was significant for me. I'm not saying I wouldn't be a priest without Central, but God would have had to do something completely different!"

Like many before him, Fr. Curtis made the transition to Billings Central Catholic High School after completing 8th grade, "Even then, I knew I wanted something different than what I was getting up to that point. I chose Central for soccer and academics!"

What he found at Billings Central was different.

Teachers' expectations were elevated, he explained, "My teachers expected a higher level of learning from everyone. There was a culture of high expectations. What I thought were good grades before were not considered good enough, especially when teachers believed you could do better."

After dropping soccer, Fr. Curtis joined speech and drama, theater, and the pep band. "I only played soccer for one year. I wasn't that good. But I loved being involved in music and the arts!"

Beyond academics and activities, the close relationships built with his fellow students transformed Fr. Curtis into who he is today. "I fell in with a group of guys who were active in the



FR. CURTIS SEIDEL

faith. We became great friends with shared experiences while at Central and we were involved in our church youth group." When he had time, Fr. Curtis took moments of prayer and silence in Central's chapel to be in the presence of Jesus, participated in Search, and made retreats that continually deepened his Catholic faith.

Upon graduation, Fr. Curtis continued his Catholic education and formation at Gonzaga University. Just as he did at Central, he found a fellowship of students to pray, discuss, and live the faith. He joined Gonzaga's College Seminary - Bishop White Seminary - his sophomore year. To complete his major seminary (i.e. graduate studies before being ordained), the Diocese

of Spokane sent him to Washington D.C. at the Catholic University of America. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2014.

After 4 years as parochial vicar in parishes around Spokane, Fr. Curtis was assigned to Walla Walla Catholic Schools. "It was with great excitement to receive the appointment, first as chaplain, teacher, and board member, and then as president of the school system! I get to lead Catholic schools that were so formative for me in who I am." Soon thereafter, Fr. Curtis enrolled in the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program through the University of Notre Dame receiving his master's in educational leadership. COVID-19 struck in his first year as president, navigating unprecedented times that challenged the most veteran of school administrators.

In everything, Fr. Curtis maintains his passion for Catholic Schools. "Catholic Schools are different, forming the entire student in body, mind, and soul! We talk about that a lot at Walla Walla." When asked how his experiences at Billings Central inform his work now, he states, "It gives me a perspective and reference in my work. De Sales High School feels similar to Billings Central. Faith is present, academic excellence is a culture here, and students participate in the extracurriculars. In my experience, those three things are the secret to a great Catholic high school!" **+**

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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FROM ROOTS TO WINGS – MAYFAIR SOARED BECAUSE OF YOU!

This year's Mayfair theme – Roots to Wings – says it all about our hopes and dreams for our students of Billings Catholic Schools.

Every parent strongly desires roots for their kids, to be planted in the rich soil of our Faith, Family Spirit, and Academic Excellence. And one day, spread their wings and fly for a life lived to the full.

Through your support of Mayfair – which just celebrated its 48th year – generations of students are planted, develop, and fly. This year was no exception!

Mayfair raised more than \$865,000 – another record year! With your support of Mayfair, these worthy funds support our Catholic schools by keeping tuition affordable.

SPECIAL PROJECT

As always, the Mayfair special project is a specially dedicated fund within Mayfair each year to address a specific need within our schools!

This year's Mayfair special project addresses the youngest kids of our schools – the preschool and daycare students.

With a new playground and a remodel of St. Francis Early



Childhood, new families to our schools will experience the 3 things all parents want for their kids: **great teachers teaching great things in a great space!**

As our 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old students begin to experience the nutrients of our rich soil of education and formation, this “wing

MAYFAIR MINUTE

development” begins a 13-, 14-, or even 15- year process in our schools.

Just recently did we see the results! The Seniors of Billings Central, whose wings are fully formed, are ready to fly! As our Seniors walked across the stage receiving their diploma, we see them take flight. We send them along with a prayer and blessing.

With the dedication of you, our BCS family, the St. Francis Early Childhood project raised \$335,000 to complete the playground and accomplish all of the inside facility improvements! Our final goal of \$500,000 will improve the outside portions of the Early Childhood facility with needed roof work and painting.

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

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J.R. and Amy Reger



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Joe and Kathy Rude
Yellowstone Bank

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF PHILANTHROPY! 50 YEARS OF IMPACT

For many of our new and current families in our Billings Catholic Schools, many do not know what BACET is. Even fewer know how to pronounce it! (“Back It” in case you wondered)

Fifty years ago, on August 3, 1973, five well-respected Billings Catholic School members put their names and reputations on the line – literally, as

they signed the original trust agreement of the Billings Area Catholic Education Trust (BACET). As the predecessor of the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, we’ll be celebrating this seminal, monumental moment in the history of our Billings Catholic Schools.

In the year ahead, these pages of the Cornerstone will tell the story of BACET.

To give you a preview, our history begins with a question from well-known philanthropist and local area businessman, Mr. Phillip Fortin: “Have I made a difference?”

The answer to that question continues 50 years later with significant impact for our schools today! Join us as we tell BACET’s story, celebrate its significance for our



students today, and its importance for the future of our Billings Catholic Schools!

Stay tuned for 50 Years of BACET – Then, Now, Tomorrow!



FAITH • FAMILY SPIRIT • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

YOU TRANSFORMED RAMS STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH NEW FITNESS CENTER

Your dedication to Rams Athletics matches our Rams student-athletes' dedication to their sport! This past September, Billings Central Catholic High School began the transformation of the weight room into a wholistic fitness center to support the modern training needs of our Billings Central Rams.

With an initial \$25,000 gift from **Stockman Bank**, Rams Athletics launched their campaign as a part of our Billings Catholic Schools Rams Day of Giving Initiative on Thursday, October 20. Throughout the 24-hour fundraising blitz, you, our Rams Athletic supporters, raised another \$15,000. With additional major contributions from the Dean and Connie Studer Fund, The Fortin Foundation, AMP Montana, and Scheels the project surpassed its fundraising goal of \$75,000.

Athletic training looks very different today for the modern athlete than it did 15 years ago. Because of the old equipment, our Rams were often directed to off-site facilities for modern, safe training. Much of it was big, bulky machines taking up too much floor space.

Today, modern athletic training is more focused on core strength, agility, adaptability, and flexibility – not just putting on the muscle with isometric floor machines! Through the transformation, BCCHS fitness center



purchased squat racks, strength bands and jump ropes, jump boxes, and a speed lap timer. This equipment is flexible within the space, allowing for greater movement in small quarters.

Already, our Rams Student-Athletes are using the new equipment to ready themselves for the upcoming 23/24 sport seasons – Go Rams!



"Thank you Stockman Bank, The Dean and Connie Studer Fund, The Fortin Foundation, AMP Montana, and Scheels for your contributions to the new Fitness Center at BCCHS!"

FAITH, LEGACY, TRADITION, EXCELLENCE IN GRATITUDE OF YOU, MR. HANSER

When you hear Mr. Shel Hanser speak, you often hear the words **faith, legacy, tradition, and excellence**. To Mr. Hanser, these words run deep. These virtues are woven into his very fabric, formed as a student and legacy of our Billings Central Catholic High School.



MR. SHEL HANSER

When Mr. Hanser returned as principal in 2002, he found Billings Central in disarray. Through his leadership, Central renewed its commitment

to the virtues that we know and love – that make our Catholic High School what it is today!

There simply was no better person to call Billings Central Catholic High School back to itself.

After 21 years as Principal, Mr. Hanser leaves an incredible testament at Billings Central for another legacy with a long history; his family's business – Hanser's Automotive.

To Mr. Hanser, from your Billings Catholic Schools family; thank you for all you have done for our Billings Central Catholic High School. The faith, legacy, tradition, and

excellence that you instilled lives on!

As his last class, the Class of 2023 is leaving a departing gift to Mr. Hanser - a grotto dedicated to our Blessed Mother. It will be constructed in the courtyard of Billings Central, in honor of Mr. Hanser. If you would like to honor Mr. Hanser for his years of dedication, please consider a donation to this project by directing your gift to the "grotto project" or "Mr. Hanser".

Supporter Information

Yes! Keep me in the loop with the latest from Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation.

name: _____

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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:

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

YOUR BCS FAMILY SUMMER GOLF OUTING!

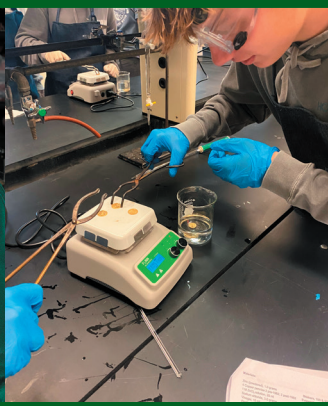
THE 16TH RAMSCRAMBLE IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

Join your "Ramily" for the annual summer RamScramble Golf Outing! Gather your team of 4 for an afternoon of golf. The BC Rams golf team will extend drives, mirror putts, and more for fun and games. Includes 18 holes of golf at Pryor Creek Golf Course,

Range Balls, Cart, and Dinner. Can't golf? Hole Sponsorships and Flag Prizes needed!

Pryor Creek Golf Course, 12:00 pm Shotgun Start, Dinner to Follow.

Teams - \$500; Hole Sponsor - \$350; Flag Prize - Donated Item/\$100



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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events*:

upcoming

RamScramble	Friday, August 11
1st Day of School	Monday, August 21
Fall Sports Begins.....	Monday, August 21
Running on Faith/Ram Family Picnic	Sunday, September 10

*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)
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