

ALUMNI, FRIENDS, & FAMILY

EDITION 2025

We Are BC

Magazine



A Message from our President

Dear Butte Central Family,

This Fall will mark the 144th year of Catholic education in the Butte community. Over 17,000 young men and women have earned diplomas from Boys Central, Girls Central, and now Butte Central Catholic High School. When you look back at this proud history it is truly remarkable to reflect on the incredible impact BC graduates have had on our community and beyond. Doctors, nurses, military members, lawyers, teachers, clergy, engineers, business and community leaders, judges, and hundred of other noble professionals have gotten their start in Catholic education. For almost a century and a half Butte Central Catholic Schools have been a vital part of Butte and Southwest Montana.

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, I am excited to report that there is great optimism and momentum in Butte Central Catholic Schools. For the fourth straight year, our enrollment is growing, and more families and students are joining our community of faith. Our projected enrollment this Fall will be 475 students in preschool through high school. This means our enrollment has increased by an exciting 25% since 2022.

We are very proud of our programs, and we look forward to the many challenges ahead for both our elementary and high school. Our school system will enter the second year of a 4-day school week schedule. This innovative change has been a popular success with our school community.

Our students continue to excel in the classroom, in activities, and in community service endeavors. Faith, Christian values, and prayer are integrated into everything we do as a community of faith.

I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who make our schools a reality. We are blessed to have the support of Bishop Vetter, our Chaplain Fr. Craig Hanley, and the entire Butte Catholic Community.

I would like to acknowledge the great leadership of our High School Principal Denise Chrest and our Elementary Principal Dawn Ann Petersen. I am grateful to all our teachers, coaches, counselors, support staff members, and volunteers for their incredible work in our schools.

I would like to extend our deepest thanks to all those who financially support our students and programs. Finally, I would like to say thanks to our parents and students for choosing Butte Central Catholic Schools.

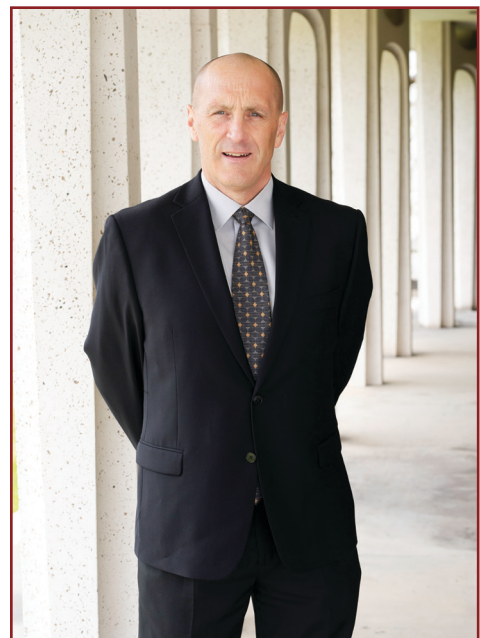
In closing, I would encourage all families and students to consider Butte Central Catholic Schools. Thanks to our alumni, benefactors, and friends, we will have a record \$1.8 million in scholarships available to families this fall. We are absolutely committed to helping all families attend our schools. For more information about Butte Central Catholic Schools please call our Admissions Office at 406-782-4500 or visit our website <https://buttecentralschools.org>.

Go Maroons

Don Peoples Jr.

President/ Superintendent

Butte Central Catholic School System





Roy Simperman A True Friend of Butte Central

The Butte Central Catholic School community was saddened by the passing of benefactor and great friend, Roy Simperman of the Class of 1958. Roy passed away in Mercer Island, Washington, on February 27, 2025. For many years, Roy's generosity and support has made an incredible impact on Catholic education in the Butte community.

"We are so grateful to Roy and his family for his loyalty and dedication to Butte Central Catholic Schools," said Butte Central Catholic Schools President Don Peoples Jr. "We cannot thank him enough for his many gifts to technology, scholarships, and to our Annual Fund over the years." In the late 1990's, Roy and his wife Diane Corette Simperman established the Corette- Simperman Family Memorial Scholarship Endowment. This outstanding fund was one of the first Memorial Endowments created by a family. Since that time, the program has grown to 186 endowed funds established by alumni, classes, families, and individuals. Diane passed away in 2000.

In 2017, Roy established the Simperman Scholars of Academic Excellence Scholarship Program in Butte Central Catholic Schools. The scholarship program was designed to strengthen academic excellence and to assist students and families in their pursuit of Catholic education. Scholarships from the program have made it possible for hundreds of students to attend Butte Central Schools.

In his generous giving to the scholarship program, Roy has provided Butte Central Schools with an incredible matching gift program. Over the last six years, Roy has matched over \$500,000 in contributions to the Butte Central Scholarship Program. "We've been blessed to have Roy's matching gift challenge over the last several years," commented Butte Central Admissions Director, Sue Burt. "He has inspired so many donors and helped so many students attend Butte Central."

Fortunately for Butte Central Catholic Schools, the Simperman Corette Foundation has generously pledged to continue

matching contributions to the Butte Central Scholarship Program. The foundation will match all new scholarship gifts up to \$100,000 through December 31, 2025.

In addition to scholarships at Butte Central, Roy established a phenomenal scholarship program to assist Butte Central students attending Carroll College. The Simperman Scholarship Program provides four-year scholarships for BC students to attend Carroll. "Roy's generosity has paved the way for many BC students to attend Carroll," said Peoples. "As a Carroll graduate, I've been so proud to see Maroons become Fighting Saints."

Roy's generosity has also greatly impacted technology in Butte Central Schools. He funded the modernization of classrooms at both Butte Central High School and Elementary School. He funded two computer labs, interactive smartboards for all teachers, and hundreds of Chromebooks, computers, and iPads for students. His generosity made it possible for Butte Central Catholic Schools to offer state-of-the-art technology resources to students.

In recent years, the Butte Central Catholic School System has held a November Roy Simperman Appreciation Day. Students wrote thank you's to Roy and his family, and signs celebrating Roy's support were posted throughout both school campuses. Butte Central officials have announced that the tradition will continue with the annual Roy Simperman Appreciation Day each November. Prominent plaques honoring Roy's contributions to Catholic education are planned for both the high school and elementary. "Roy's impact on our school system has made an incredible difference for so many families," said Burt.

Roy attended Sacred Heart Elementary School where he was a member of the 8th grade class of 1954. After graduating from Butte Central, he went on to Carroll College and graduated with a degree in mathematics. He later went on to earn a Master's in Physics from the University of Nebraska and an MBA in Economics and Finance from the University of Washington. In 1994, he founded the Semaphore Corporation, a network engineering company that designs online networking for video, voice, and data.

Roy's father, Roy Simperman Sr., owned and operated a lumber yard in Butte's East Side. The lumber yard was remarkably located at the current site of the Maroon Activities Center. A memorial service was held on March 1, 2025, at Carroll College in the beautiful All Saints Chapel. A large contingency of Butte Central Administration and supporters were in attendance.

The Butte Central Catholic School System would like to ask the school community to keep Roy, his wife Frances, the Simperman and Corette families, son Roy Jr., and his family, and his sister Maralene Michaels (BC Class of 62) in their thoughts and prayers.



Remembering Roy Simperman! The Butte Central Administration Team, Foundation Board & Staff, and the Butte Central School Board hosted Roy Simperman Jr. and his fiancée Kimberly for a luncheon Monday, July 21, 2025. Beautiful plaques honoring Roy and his generosity were unveiled during the luncheon. The Butte Central Catholic School System is forever grateful to Roy and his family. The plaques will be displayed at both the high school and elementary and the Maroon Activities Center. Please keep Roy and his family in your prayers.

Butte Central's Innovative 4-Day School Week!

A GREAT SUCCESS

Last fall, the Butte Central Catholic School System joined over 260 Montana schools by adopting an innovative 4-day school week. The goals for the change included continued academic excellence, strengthening the school's community of faith, providing opportunities for experiential learning, and creating more family time. Improved mental health, better attendance rates, fewer disciplinary referrals, less bullying, and reduced stress levels for teachers and students were also cited as potential benefits.

After a full year in the new schedule, the jury is in and the response of the Butte Central community is overwhelmingly positive. According to Butte Central Catholic School President and Superintendent Don Peoples Jr., the new four-day school week was a great success. "Our students are engaged, our teachers are rejuvenated, and our school family seemed to enjoy the new format," he said.



In its decision to go to the 4-day school week, the Butte Central Catholic School Board made it clear that continued academic excellence was the top priority. A review of test scores and other school-related data revealed continued student success and achievement in compliance with this important goal.

In the Butte Central Catholic School System, the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test is used as the primary school-wide academic assessment. The test measures academic achievement and growth in reading, math, science, and language arts in 2nd through 10th grade.

Scores from the recent school year indicated that BC is growing academically in all four testing areas. Many BC students scored in the high achievement category, which positively reflects the quality of the educational program. A report prepared by the BC faculty and administration confirmed the new schedule allowed for more time to practice both fundamentals and new concepts. The longer school day provided extended time for learning to focus on material. "I've witnessed more intellectual engagement with the learning process," commented Butte Central High School Principal Denise Chrest. "This exciting development has led to the growth of our students."

In addition to the academic benefits, attendance rates improved and discipline referrals declined compared to the previous school year. An in-depth study of both attendance and student behavior revealed positive numbers. At the high

school, students were often out of the classroom for athletics and other activities on Fridays. The new schedule with classes primarily on Monday through Thursday eliminated many of the absences that would have occurred in the 5-day schedule.

Initial feedback from Butte Central Catholic School System parents has been favorable. Parents cited increased family time, reduced stress, and flexibility of appointments and activities, as the primary benefits of the 4-day format. According to Cassandra Cassidy, the mother of Calvin, a 7th grader, and Collin, a 1st grader, the 4-day schedule has been great for her family. "We've been able to spend more time together and we've been able to focus on other activities," she added.

Fellow parent Mandy Tippet, the mother of three Butte Central girls, agreed with Cassidy's thoughts on the 4-day school week's impact on family life. "Having an extra day off has been wonderful for our family," she proclaimed.

Another of the main concerns of the new format was the challenge of day care for working parents. In July 2024, Butte Central Catholic Schools partnered with the Butte YMCA to provide day-care services to families. The partnership proved to be an excellent solution. "The YMCA was excellent to work with from the beginning, and it proved to be a great option for our families," reflected Butte Central Elementary Principal Dawn Ann Peterson. "We are excited to continue the program in the upcoming year."

One of the unique features of the Butte Central 4-day model was the implementation of Empower Fridays. This innovative program featured academic enrichment, community service activities, social events, and sports camp opportunities for students. The academic enrichment experiences included math, reading, science, and art camps. A school-wide swim day was held at the YMCA, and elementary students sang Christmas carols in area rest home in December. BC football and girls basketball coaches also conducted camps for elementary and junior high students.

At the high school level, the schedule provided an opportunity for students to work and participate in internships. Many BC students took full advantage and utilized Fridays for job opportunities.

The final group to "weigh in" on the new format was BC's dedicated teaching faculty. The 4-day week proved to be a popular change for teachers. The new weekly schedule provided additional planning time to prepare lessons, correct student's work, and strengthen the quality of instruction. "Having Friday to do a lot more planning and organizing has been great," said BC Kindergarten teacher Peggy Kambich. "So much of what you focus on as a teacher depends on planning, and I find having that day has been very beneficial."

The BC administration hopes the 4-day week will help retain teachers and attract teaching candidates when openings do occur. Schools in Montana and throughout the nation are struggling to find teachers amidst an unprecedented teacher's shortage. When classes began last fall it was estimated that over 1,000 teaching positions went unfilled in Montana alone.

Looking to the future, the Butte Central faculty, administration, and school board will continue to review and evaluate the 4-day school week. Test scores and other school-wide data will be closely monitored. "Our mindset has always been to strive for excellence in our schools," reflected Peoples. "Our school community has embraced the 4-day school week, and we will strive to provide students with exciting academic and extracurricular opportunities."

FROM BC to

MIT

*"A Journey
Well Traveled"*

When BC graduate James Holmes makes the trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts, this August to begin classes at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), it will be the easiest part of his journey to the prestigious university. His dream to study at the world renowned research academic institution goes back to his 7th grade year and a hiking trip with buddy Jim Bradshaw. The two were traversing the East Ridge near Butte through Maud S Canyon when Jim suggested to his friend that he should really go to MIT for college.

"I didn't really know anything about MIT when Jim told me about it," reflected James. "I went home and asked my Dad about it later that day and it became the start of a dream and a goal for me."

It turns out that the elder Holmes actually applied to MIT while in high school but was placed on an enrollment wait list. "I started exploring it, and my Dad told me to work hard to achieve it," said James. To say the younger Holmes took his father's advice is a major understatement. For the next six years, he embarked on a trek filled with challenging academic course work, intense ACT preparation, and focused resume building.

A goal to score 35 on the ACT became the focal point along with successful completion of high-level college coursework. His driving motivation centered on MIT's exclusive acceptance rate of less than 8% of applicants.

Upon enrolling at the high school in 2021, James immediately began taking upper-level courses. His freshman classes at BC included Pre-calculus with Dr. Denise Elakovich and Astronomy with Patti Small. Between his freshman and sophomore years, he took Calculus I on campus at Montana Tech. His sophomore courses featured Chemistry at Butte Central with Lana Whelan and Calculus II and III at Montana Tech. During his junior year, his course work included Statistics and Methods of Proof in the math department at Tech, and college Chemistry and Physics I. In his senior year, James took college Intro to Differential Equations and Physics II. To top off his

college experience, he also worked in the Metallurgy Department Laboratory for two years gaining valuable scientific experience.

In the summer of 2023, James took his first attempt at the ACT test and scored an admirable 30. In the spring of his junior year in 2024, he moved the bar forward and earned an outstanding 34. After an intensive few months of practice tests and prep work, he earned a phenomenal score of 35 in the summer before his senior year.



Last fall, James completed his application and submitted the final details of his impressive high school resume. In addition to earning 38 college credits through Butte Central's partnership with the Montana Tech dual credit program, James' list of accomplishments included an outstanding athletic career and an impressive community service record.

According to Butte Central Principal Denise Chrest, James served as a great role model to the student body through his commitment to academic excellence. "He challenged himself with the most rigorous math and science coursework and went on to excel in advanced classes at Montana Tech," she added. He also earned an impressive 4.2 GPA.

As an athlete, he competed for the Maroons in cross-country and wrestling. His coach just happened to be his father, Andrew. James qualified for the state wrestling tournament and the state cross-country meet in all four years of high school. He was recognized as an MCA Academic All-State Athlete in each of his four years as a Maroon.

He received the exciting news of his MIT acceptance on his way to wrestling practice in December. When he arrived, the first person he told was his coach and his father. "My Dad was super excited and proud to hear the news," said James. "We had a home basketball game that night, so I was able to share the news with Mrs. Chrest, some teachers, and friends," he continued. "It was awesome, everyone was so excited."

When asked about his high school experience James identified BC's small community and close-knit relationships with classmates and teammates as real positives. He also praised the school's religious education program and emphasis on serving others. "Overall, it was great to have Theology courses and to work in community service programs at school," he added. In addition to working the Annual Laverne Combo Thanksgiving dinner, James volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army and was an active member of BC's Key Club Program.

When James arrives in Cambridge this fall, it will be his first time living on his own. He reflected on that major life experience and how much he will miss younger brothers Jack, Conan, and Donovan along with his parents, Andrew and Michal. "I'm looking forward to living in a bigger city but will absolutely miss my family," he added.

At the Butte Central graduation on June 1, 2025, James had the distinction of delivering the valedictorian speech to represent his class. He presented an outstanding message thanking teachers, classmates, and his family.

When the fall semester begins, James initially plans to pursue a degree in nuclear engineering. Although he will be thousands of miles away from the Mining City, his friends and family will be anxious to hear about his future accomplishments. "We will have no doubt that he will continue to inspire, innovate, and make a meaningful impact on the world," said Chrest.

Photos courtesy of Joe Scheller, Montana Standard

Social Emotional Learning Program

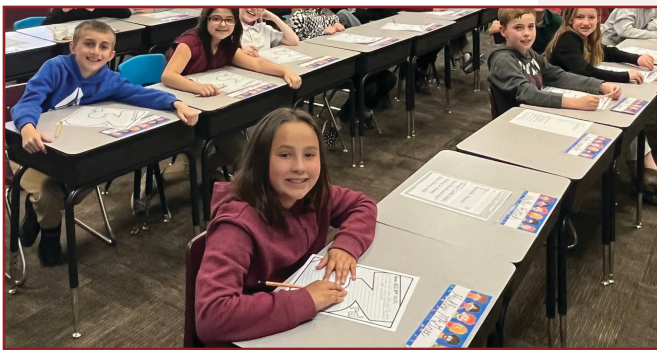
Strengthening Central Elementary's Christ-Centered Community

It's hard to believe that Butte Central Catholic Elementary School is already 39 years old. The school opened in 1986 following a 17-year hiatus for Catholic elementary programs in the Mining City. In 1969, all nine Catholic schools closed during a major restructuring of the parochial school system.



When community leaders began planning for the return of a Catholic elementary program in the 1980's, they set out to develop a faith-based community. The driving force was a priority to bring God and faith into the classrooms and learning process. In addition, personal attention and the development of each student was a vital goal.

After 39 years, Butte Central Catholic Elementary has grown into a school centered on prayer, family values, and Gospel messages. An amazing group of teachers has served the school over the years. These dedicated educators have helped build a school that focuses on the learning and growth needs of students.



Butte Central's prayer and faith life includes a strong religious education program with an emphasis on serving others. Prayer along with faith formation opportunities are integral to the school environment. "More and more families are searching for faith-based educational programs for their children," commented Butte Central Catholic School's President Don Peoples Jr. "We are truly proud of our school's family atmosphere."

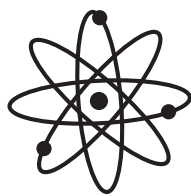
In the last school year, Butte Central Catholic Elementary implemented an innovative social emotional learning curriculum. The program helps students develop essential life skills such as emotional regulation, empathy, communication, and problem-solving. The overall goal of Everyday Speech, the new curriculum, is to promote a healthier school climate and improve academic and social outcomes. It encourages students to build positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and to manage their emotions.

The program is taught to all kindergarten through eighth-grade students by school counselor Lia Francisco. The curriculum features age-appropriate lessons using videos, guided discussions, and other interactive activities. "I really like the interactive videos and role-playing exercises," commented Francisco. "It really helped our students learn coping skills and how to find support in our school."

Staff members are already noticing improvement in the school climate as a result of the program. "We are already seeing positive outcomes since the beginning of the school year," reflected Principal Dawn Ann Peterson. "Overall interactions amongst students and teacher to student relations are stronger."

In the upcoming year, the school hopes to build on the progress made in the first year. Students and teachers alike are looking forward to continuing positive progress. Treating others with respect in a positive Christ-centered community is the ultimate goal of the program. "I really see growth in the way our kids communicate and work together," added Francisco. "There's a lot more we can do in the upcoming year."

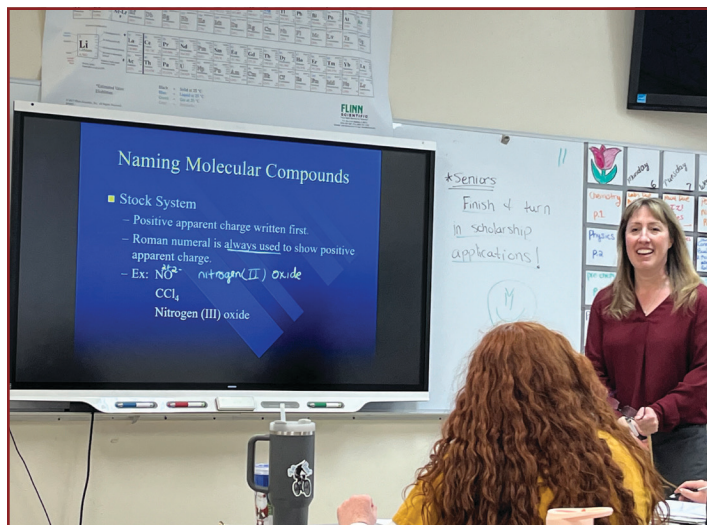




SCIENCE SUCCESS

A Key Component of the BC Experience

In a world where technology dominates every aspect of life, science education takes on a vital role for students. Critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and scientific inquiry are at the center of a successful K-12 science program.



Lana Whelan

At Butte Central Catholic High School, the science department is guided by two outstanding educators. Tiffany Ostberg and Lana Whelan are leading a program with expanded course offerings and high-test scores. In February, Butte Central's measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Test were highlighted by positive school-wide science scores. Sophomores and freshmen taking the General Science assessment received especially strong scores with 76% of students scoring above average and 55% of students scoring in the high average to high score range. "Our test scores are reflecting student science growth and high achievement, which is exciting," proclaimed BC Principal Denise Chrest

The high-test scores are a positive reflection of the quality of instruction in the program. BC students are gaining confidence in their skills and reaching higher levels of achievement in science courses. "I think students are gaining confidence in science and displaying more grit in their academic approach," explained Whelan.

Consistency in instruction has definitely impacted the trajectory of the science program. Ostberg will enter her third year with BC this Fall and Whelan will be in her 5th year when classes begin. The two have worked together to build a solid framework of science fundamentals and learning "Our program is designed around spiraling curriculum where concepts are reinforced and each time you learn them it is at the deeper level," said Whelan.

Ostberg echoed Whelan's assessment and touched on the consistency of the program. "We have consistency in our approach, and we are seeing more kids interested in science," she added.

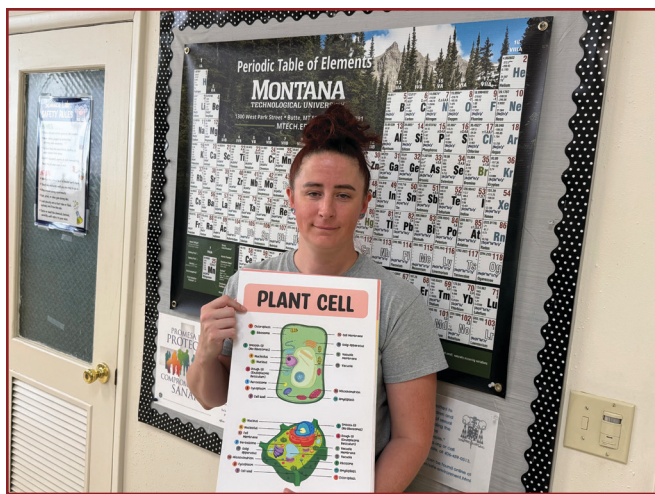
Another positive element of the science department is an expanded list of courses offered to students. Honors courses, dual credit college courses, and a wide variety of basic level science classes are available to students. The program has taken on a goal of

providing opportunities for students of all abilities. Courses offered by Ostberg include Biology I, Honors Biology, Environmental Science, Zoology, Astronomy, Anatomy, Earth Science, and Engineering 101. Several of the courses are offered in alternating years to allow for the expanded options. Whelan, on the other hand, teaches Pre-Chemistry and Physics, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and Physics.

Both teachers have master's degrees, which allows them to offer dual-credit college courses through Montana Tech's Jump Start Program. Ostberg offers Engineering 101, a course designed to introduce fundamentals of engineering concepts. Whelan offers college Physics to BC's top-level seniors.

High expectations are certainly prevailing in the program and are at the heart of both teachers. "I'm not an easy teacher," commented Whelan. "I think high expectations are very important, and I also believe in encouraging students to believe they can get there."

Preparing students for college is a goal that both educators have identified as vital to the BC approach. Recent graduates continue to excel at the college level, which brings a sense of pride to both teachers. "It's one of my personal goals for my classes to make sure my students are college ready," said Whelan. A look at the opportunities BC graduates are experiencing indicates that the science program is doing its part.



Tiffany Ostberg

Going forward, the program hopes to continue to improve and meet the needs of all BC students. Preparing students for higher education, the workforce, and trade programs will prevail as the primary goal of the Butte Central Science Department.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of both teachers, growth in the science department appears to be inevitable. "We are proud of our science success, and we look forward to the upcoming school year," exclaimed Chrest.

It's Time to Start Dreaming Big Again

"There's no way" and "It won't ever happen" were two of the phrases uttered back in the 1990's when folks talked about Butte Central's dream of building a gym. As we all know, that gym became a reality in 2005 when the Maroon Activities Center opened in Butte's East Side. This amazing facility recently celebrated its 20th anniversary this past January.

When you look back at the incredible story of the MAC, it was a pipe dream that very few thought could ever come true. It took a dedicated group of BC boosters, an unexpected donation of land, and a handful of major donors to move the dream to a reality. As we look to the future, another dream is beginning to emerge in the BC family. With enrollment growing more and more, families are choosing Catholic education for their children. Butte appears to be growing as well, and the need for a new school has become the newest dream for Maroon nation!

This time, the land is already in place and a beautiful location for a preschool through high school complex is ready for construction. To move the dream forward, a leadership group with a vision and a group of major donors with a belief are needed.

When you look back on the resilience of Catholic education in Butte, which dates back to 1881, it is truly a remarkable legacy. Over 17,000 young men and women have graduated from Butte Central Catholic High School and have gone on to impact the world.

As we look to the BC future and the next 17,000 graduates, it's time to start dreaming big. Let's hope there is a bunch of "no way" and "it will never happen" so we can collectively prove them wrong again.

Going forward please keep this dream for our school in your prayers.



The Maroon Activities Center location features 19 acres! The site has been identified as the home of BC's dream PK-12 school complex.

111 Years *of Maroon Pride*

Legend has it that Butte Central became the Maroons sometime in the late 1910's when a local sportswriter described the BC football team as the boys from Butte Central High clad in Maroon. Apparently, the squad couldn't afford uniforms of their own, so they borrowed an old set of faded jerseys from the Centerville Reds Independent men's team. Whether the story is fact or fiction, the nickname Maroons has embodied a sense of pride for over 100 years.

The first recorded Butte Central team took the field in the fall of 1914. Since that time, thousands of young men and women have represented the Maroon and White in nine different sports. Thirty-eight state championship teams highlight this proud winning tradition. Hundreds of individual state titles, and even more divisional and conference championships have been earned by Maroon teams and competitors. For over 111 years, "Maroon Pride" has been used to describe the tradition, toughness, winning mentality, and never say die attitude of Butte Central Catholic High School.



For over a century, Butte Central Athletics and Activities have relied on the support of alumni, boosters, community members, and friends of the school. Tuition dollars have never been used to fund Maroon sports, music, drama, and speech and debate. The generosity of BC supporters has made it possible for Maroon teams to compete at the highest level of Montana interscholastic activities.

In the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, the budget for the Maroon Activities Department will be \$345,000. Included in the activities program are 9 boys and 9 girls sports, cheerleading, speech and debate, music, pep band, and drama at the high school. In addition, the activities budget will fund 7th – 8th grade activities at Butte Central Catholic Junior High. Projected student participation numbers will surpass over 200 students in 7th – 12th grades.

According to Butte Central Activities Director Chad Petersen, there is great optimism and excitement for the Maroon programs in the upcoming year. "We're looking forward to building on our traditions while creating new memories that reflect the spirit and pride of Butte Central," he said.

In Butte Central Catholic School's funding model, the operating costs of the Maroon Activities Center, which serves as the home facility for BC activities, are the responsibility of the Butte Central Education Foundation. The operational budget of the MAC in the upcoming year will be \$227,552. This amount must be raised by the Butte Central Foundation through its annual fundraising efforts.

Butte Central School and Foundation staff members will work together to raise the \$572,552 to fund athletics and to operate the Maroon Activities Center.

The gate receipts from Maroon home games is projected to be \$40,000, which means that an additional \$532,552 must be raised through fundraising projects and events. The annual Butte Central Auction scheduled for March 2026 and the Maroon Activities Association Drive will serve as the major fundraising projects for Butte Central Activities.

The Maroon Activities Association Drive provides former Maroon athletes, alumni, parents, past parents, and the business community with exciting opportunities to sponsor Maroon activities in the upcoming year. The Maroon Activities Association membership drive offers game passes, Butte Central auction tickets, and advertising opportunities to supporters. All members are recognized in the Butte Central Catholic Schools Annual Report publication, along with game-day programs at Maroon home games, our website, and our social media sites.

Please support the Maroon Activities Association Drive and help us ensure the next generation of Maroons will enjoy these same exciting opportunities. To learn more about Maroon Activities Association membership options please visit our website <https://buttecentral.org>.

To donate please:

1. Mail a check to Butte Central Education Foundation
2. Call the Butte Central Education Foundation Office at 406-723-6706
3. Give online by going to <https://buttecentral.org> and select the donate button.

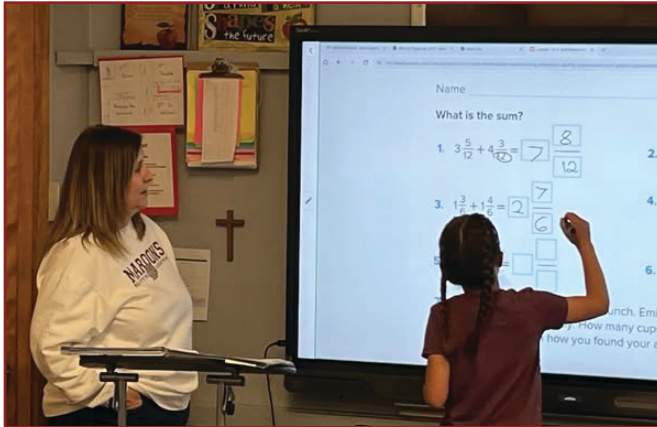
Checks and Credit cards are accepted.

Go Maroons!

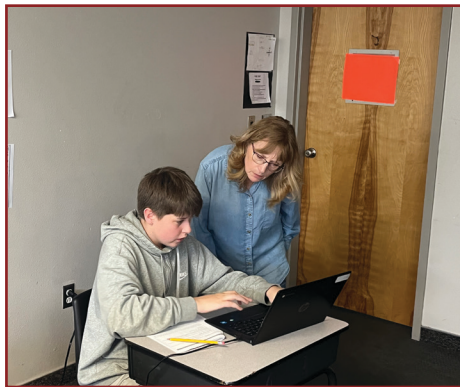
BC's Faculty Fund

– Critical to the future of Butte Central Catholic School

Catholic education in the Butte community can trace its roots to the early 1880's when the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth began teaching the children of the mining camp. For 144 years, Butte Central Schools have been blessed by an incredible group of educators. Throughout the decades, both religious and lay teachers have been remarkable in their dedication to over 17,000 students.



Today, Butte Central Catholic Schools are staffed by an incredible group of teachers. All are highly qualified educators who possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Many have earned advanced and specialized degrees in educational disciplines. Collectively, BC teachers are exceptionally dedicated and caring. According to Butte Central Catholic Elementary Principal Dawn Ann Peterson, the teaching staff is at the center of the system's community of faith. "Catholic education is a partnership of faith and learning, and we are deeply grateful to our teachers and staff whose tireless service and guidance help shape the minds and hearts of our students," said Peterson.



Personal attention and individualized instruction are the hallmark of BC's educational program. Butte Central teachers strive to provide each student with the tools to succeed academically and spiritually.

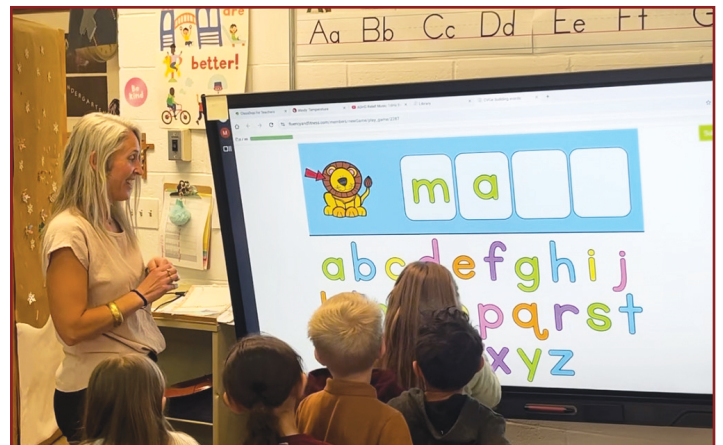
In recent years, Butte Central Catholic Schools have experienced exciting growth. Enrollment during the recent 2024-2025 school year exceeded 430 students in preschool through high school. That compares to 360 students in 2022 and 400 students in 2023. In the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, enrollment is projected to surpass 475 students.

"We are thrilled to see our schools grow," said Butte Central Catholic Schools President and Superintendent Don Peoples Jr. "We are very proud that more students and families are choosing Catholic education."

Looking to the future, enrollment and the subsequent need for teachers is expected to be higher for BC schools. To complicate matters, schools in Montana and throughout the country are facing an unprecedented teacher shortage. Last fall, over 1,000 teaching positions went unfilled in Montana.

To meet this challenge head on, Butte Central Catholic Schools have focused on strengthening its Faculty Fund. In 2021, a proud BC graduate, who requested to remain anonymous, stepped forward with a substantial gift to improve faculty salaries. Over the last four years, this contribution along with the gifts of many other benefactors has greatly impacted the faculty salaries in Butte Central Catholic Schools. The goal of this program is to close the gap between public and Catholic school compensation packages.

"We are so grateful and appreciative to the donors of our Faculty Fund since its establishment four years ago," commented high school Principal Denise Chrest. "Our teachers are the heart and soul of our programs, and the Faculty Fund is a critical component of our school's educational excellence," she added.



BC school officials have set a goal of raising \$600,000 over the next three years. "It's critical that we continue to improve our faculty and staff compensation packages," said Peoples. "Our dedicated teachers are amazing, and we want them to stay in our growing school system."

Donors wishing to support our Faculty Fund are asked to call the BC Foundation Office at 406-723-6706 or give online at <https://buttecentralschools.org>.

As alumni, parents, or friends of Butte Central, our lives and families have been touched by incredible BC teachers. Please help us continue this special tradition with a gift to the Butte Central Faculty Fund.



Celebrating the Class of **2025**

Smiles, hugs, high fives, and proud family members filled St. Ann's Catholic Church for Butte Central's 2025 Graduation Mass and Commencement Ceremony. Bishop Austin Anthony Vetter led the beautiful Mass along with co-celebrants Father Patrick Beretta and Fr. Craig Hanley.

Prayers and congratulations were offered to the graduates in celebration of their high school careers. The ceremony also recognized the amazing opportunities earned by the graduates as they embark on their next life journeys.

The graduates will be going on exciting educational pursuits, trade programs, and to the military. Members of the BC class of 2025 will be attending outstanding colleges and universities including MIT, Catholic University, Gonzaga University, Carroll College, Montana Tech, Montana State University, University of Montana, Miles City Community College, and Rocky Mountain College.



BC Class of 2025

**Congratulations
to the
Class of 2025!
We are very
proud of you!**



8th Grade Graduation



Preparing Students for **COLLEGE** *& Beyond*

Preparing students for college and career success continues to be a priority for Butte Central Catholic Schools. A review of recent graduating classes reveals a program that is excelling with this important goal.

Since 2021, Butte Central graduates have been offered a remarkable \$5.4 million in college scholarships. The scholarship awards are in recognition of academics, leadership, community service, and athletic achievements.

Another exciting development in BC's academic program is the expansion of dual-credit college courses available to students. Through an outstanding partnership with Montana Tech, students now have the opportunity to earn 30 or more college credits before receiving their BC diploma.

The grade point average of Maroons in dual credit college courses has been outstanding. Over the past three years, the cumulative GPA of students in their dual credit courses is a remarkable 3.8.

Butte Central graduates are going on to outstanding colleges and universities throughout the United States. In the Fall, BC students will be continuing their educational pursuits at MIT, Catholic University, Carroll College, Gonzaga University, Montana Tech, Boise State University, Arizona State University, Coastal Carolina University, Grand Canyon University, Valley City State University, Montana State University, University of Montana, University of Montana Western, Rocky Mountain College, College of Idaho, Miles City Community College, University of Montana School of Law, and the Arizona State University School of Law.

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of our graduates. Their achievements are amazing, and they are going on to great success in the military, the workforce, in trade programs, and in post-secondary education.

We are proud to share with you the academic and athletic honors of our graduates. If we missed your academic achievement, please notify the BC Foundation Office at 406-723-6706 and we will share it with the BC family in a future publication.



Honor Roll

All-Academic Teams

Bryan Holland – Frontier Conference Football (Carroll College)
 Dougie Peoples – Cascade Conference Men's Basketball
 (College of Idaho)
 Brooke Badovinac – Frontier Conference Women's Basketball
 (Montana Tech)
 Avery Kelly – Frontier Conference Volleyball (Carroll College)

Montana State Honor Roll

Emma Keeley
 Dylan Shea

Carroll College Dean's List

Bryan Holland
 Meredith Varady
 Delaney Derzay
 Avery Kelly

University of Montana Western Honor Roll

Sage Wall

Montana Technological University Honor Roll

Brooke Badovinac
 Amira Bolton
 Tynan Driscoll
 Taylor Harrington
 Nicholas Healy
 Kyle Holter
 Jack Keeley
 Brayden Keane
 Bryce Keane
 Zane Moodry
 Trevor Neumann
 Konnor Pochervina
 Isaac Sholey

University of Montana Dean's List

Ethan Andersch
 Eric Hart
 Mia Keeley
 Eric Loos
 Matilyn McGree
 Jared Simkins
 Ryan Wahl

University of Montana President's List (4.0)

Mollie Drew
 Katelynn Johnston

College of Idaho Dean's List

Dougie Peoples

Coastal Carolina President's List

Hallie Kellicut

Arizona State University Dean's List

Phillip Dwyer

Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania

Frank Dwyer –
 Earned Executive Certificate in
 Product Management and Strategy



BC Bios

Sr. Paula Marie Tweet (1955) is retired and living at the Motherhouse in Leavenworth, Kansas. Sr. Paula had a distinguished career as an elementary school teacher and taught at numerous parochial schools. She served Butte Central Catholic Elementary for many years and taught hundreds of Mini-Maroons.

Jim Murphy (1956) and his wife Sandy are retired and living in Mesa, Arizona. Jim's successful career included leadership positions in the Model Cities Program, the Butte Community Hospital, and Western Energy Company. Jim and Sandy are the parents of four Butte Central graduates, five grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Joe Keane (1957) resides with his wife Louise in Sahuarita, Arizona. Joe had a long and successful career as a mineral processing engineer. His career included numerous large projects that took him to all corners of the world including North and South America, Asia, and Africa.

John and Sharon (Panion) Chebul (1958) are retired and living in Butte. John was a mechanic and Sharon worked as a credit manager for Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Jim Drynan (1958) is retired and living in Butte after a long and prestigious career as a physician. Jim and his late wife Sheila had four children, all of whom are graduates of Butte Central. Jim recently established the Pagan Babies Boys Central High School Class of 1958 Endowed Scholarship with several of his classmates at Butte Central to honor Founder Edward Peter Canty.

Mary (Thometz) Capiello (1963) resides in San Francisco, California, where she is a retired elementary school teacher. Mary and her husband have two children.

Marilyn (Grinde) Dues (1965) and her husband Mark are retired and living in Beavercreek, Ohio. Mark is retired from the United State Air Force and the National Park Service. Marilyn is retired after a career as a teacher. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and they are proud parents of a daughter, Elena.

John Thatcher (1965) is retired and living in Butte after a career in the insurance industry and in coaching basketball at both the high school and college levels. He currently works as the color commentator for Montana Tech's mens' and womens' basketball broadcasts on YouTube. He also volunteers his basketball coaching talents to help the BC Lady Maroons throughout the year.

Sheri (Morin) Broudy (1967) and her husband Joel make their home in Butte. Sheri is a successful real estate agent in Southwest Montana, and Joel owns and operates Wein's Men's Store. The Broudy's are the proud parents of **Jay (1991)** and **Barbra (1995)**. Jay resides in Portland with his wife Laura, where he is a Practice Leader-Partner Accountant with KPMG, LLP. They have three sons. Barbra lives with her husband David Armour in New York City, and their two children. Barbra is an attorney in New York City and a partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manages LLP. Sheri has been very active throughout the years as a BC supporter. She served as the president of the BC Foundation for many years and also worked on the BC Development office staff.



Archbishop George Leo Thomas (1968) became the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Las Vegas in 2023. He served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas from 2018 to 2023. He served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Helena from 2004 to 2018. From 1999 to 2004, he served as an auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle. Archbishop Thomas is a wonderful and holy man who serves as an incredible leader of the Church.

Dan (1969) and Toni (Gromljez) Mahoney (1970) are retired and living in Butte. Toni is a retired teacher after a career with the Butte School District, and Dan is a retired engineer from Northwestern Energy. The Mahoney's are the proud parents of **Tara (1997)** and **Erica (2001)**. Dan was a longtime college and high school football official, who worked games in the Big Sky Conference.

Monsignor Kevin O'Neill (1969) was recently appointed by Bishop Vetter to be the Administrator of St. John Paul II Parish in Big Fork and Our Lady of Swan Valley Mission in Condon, Montana, concluding November 10th, 2025. He will be granted Senior Status effective November 10th and will continue to be Vicar General for the Diocese of Helena. Monsignor O'Neill has been a dedicated servant of the Diocese of Helena, and a highly respected Church leader in Western Montana. In the fall of 2024, he traveled to Butte with Bishop Vetter to celebrate Mass with the students of Butte Central Catholic Schools.

Bernie Dennehy (1970) and his wife Debbie make their home in Redmond, Washington. Bernie is retired after a career as a corrections program administrator with the King County Department of Adult/Juvenile Detention. The Dennehy's have three children and seven grandchildren. Bernie taught and coached at Butte Central in the late 1970's, and Debbie taught at South Central Junior High.

Tom Walsh (1970) was among the honored benefactors at the recent 20th anniversary celebration of the Maroon Activities Center in January. Tom was recognized as a project manager of the MAC construction project and one of the major donors of the project.



Karen (Paffhausen) VanDaveer (1975) and her husband John make their home in Butte. Karen recently retired from Montana Tech where she served in several leadership positions including Director of the Nursing Department and most recently the Dean of Highlands College. Prior to her years at Montana Tech, Karen worked as an R.N. in Butte. John is retired after working as an engineer with Northwestern Energy and Butte-Silver Bow. The VanDaveer's are the parents of three Butte Central graduates and have nine grandchildren.



Sr. Diane Steele (1979) has been the President of the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, since 2001. Sr. Diane is a past president of both the Kansas Independent College Association and Kansas Independent College Finance Authority Board of Trustees. She has also served on the advisory committee of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth and is a former member of the NAIA Council of Presidents.

Tony Banovich (1980) On Saturday, June 27, 2025, the Tony Banovich 5K road race kicked off a weekend of races held in conjunction with the Missoula Marathon. The race is named in memory of Tony Banovich, who served as the longtime Missoula Marathon Director and the Executive Director of Run Wild Missoula. Tony, who passed away in 2020, was remembered as one of Butte Central's all-time great distance runners. He was inducted into the Butte Sports Hall of Fame in 2022.

Frank Joseph (1980) was elected in November 2024 to serve Butte-Silver Bow as a District Court Judge. He and his wife Sherrie have two daughters.

Dr. Michael Mee (1980) makes his home in New Rochelle, New York, where he is the Chair of Clinical Education at the State University of New York in New York City. Last fall, he was honored by Marshall B. Ketchum University as a Distinguished alumni during homecoming ceremonies. He earned a doctorate degree in optometry from Marshall B. Ketchum University after graduating from Carroll College. In addition to a busy schedule conducting research and speaking engagements, he recently served on

the President's Selection Committee at the State University of New York. He is the proud father of three children.



Tim Norbeck (1982) recently returned to Butte Central Catholic Schools to work for the Butte Central Education Foundation as a major gifts and grant coordinator and as a curriculum coordinator for the schools. Tim is married to Colleen McGeehan (1982) who is retired after a career as a dental hygienist. Norbecks' have two children: **Casey (2009)** and **Carlee (2012)**. Casey is a guidance counselor at Whitehall High School and is married to Caroline. They recently welcomed a baby girl, Fiadh. Carlee works as an auditor for Pinion Accounting and is married to Sean Brown.

John Rolich (1982) and his wife Becky make their home in Butte. John recently retired from a distinguished 34-year career as the Environmental Health Manager for the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department. He also spent many years as an assistant track and field coach for the BC Maroons.

Marian (Steele) Tyree (1982) and her husband Duane live in Winnemucca, Nevada, where she recently retired after a career in nursing. The Tyrees are the proud parents of five children Brian, Chris, Ben, Kathie & Maggie Tyree.

Bob Whelan (1985) and his wife Lana make their home in Butte. Bob serves Butte-Silver Bow as a District Court Judge, and Lana is a science teacher at Butte Central Catholic High School. The Whelan's have two sons.

BC Bios continued...

Brett Badovinac (1990) and his wife Amanda make their home in Butte where Brett works as an engineer for Northwestern Energy. The Badovinac's are the proud parents of Drew, Brooke, and Kodee. Brett continues to be one of the top handball players in Montana, and Amanda works at Montana Tech and is an assistant softball coach for the Lady Maroons.

Mark Venner (1990) lives in Billings with his wife Patricia. Mark recently joined the staff at Billings Catholic Schools as a counselor at St. Francis Elementary after a distinguished career as an educator and principal in the Billings Public School System. The Venner's are the proud parents of daughters Cassidy and Kennedy. Mark served as an assistant coach for the State Champion Billings Central Rams girls basketball team this past season.

Wayne Butori (2001) lives in Butte with his wife Christine and children Hazel and Tucker. Wayne is a firefighter for the Butte-Silver Bow Fire Department and Christine is a teacher at Butte Central Elementary.

Richie O'Brien (2002) serves as the head coach of the Butte Central Maroons baseball team and assistant coach of the Maroon football team. He was an assistant coach in the 2025 Montana East-West Shrine Game. Richie coached the defensive line for the West team that defeated the East 14-7. Richie and his wife Heidi have two sons, Gunnar and Noah, who attend Butte Central Schools. After retiring from the Butte Silver Bow Police Department, Richie works at O'Brien Electric.

Matt Pokorny (2006) lives in Butte with his wife Kate and two daughters, Payton and Blake. Matt was recently promoted to the position of Captain in the Butte-Silver Bow Fire Department.

Father Nathan Scheidecker (2007) recently completed an assignment of Canon Law Studies in Rome. Bishop Vetter recently assigned him to a two-year term as the Adjutant Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Helena and the Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of Helena for a 1-year term.

Aschan Richards (2011) was recently named the Activities Director for Ronan High School. He and his wife Lindsey have two daughters.

Dr. Kevin Burt (2012) is currently conducting research at the McKay Orthopedic Research Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from Montana State with a B.S. in civil engineering, he received a P.H.D. in biomedical engineering from Columbia University. In his career Kevin has had numerous research papers published. He specialized in Immunology, Macrophage Biology, and Pre-clinical models.

Sean Burt (2014) currently lives in Missoula, Montana, where he is a senior portfolio manager in the wealth management department at Stockman Bank.

Maggie Joyce (2017) recently graduated from the University of Montana School of Law and is busy preparing for the Bar Exam. She is excited to report that she will be doing a judicial clerkship with **United States District Judge Brian Morris (Class of 1982).**

Matt Simkins (2020) will enter into his second year this Fall as a Focus Missionary. This innovative program is a Catholic missionary organization that serves Catholic colleges and universities. The program aims to encounter students and invite them into lifelong relationships with Jesus.



Dougie Peoples (2023) helped lead the College of Idaho to the NAIA National Basketball Championship in March. In the National Championship game, he hit five three-pointers and scored 21 points in a 93-65 rout of the Oklahoma Wesleyan University. The College of Idaho finished the season with an outstanding 35-2 record. Dougie returned to Butte this summer where he offered a basketball skills development program at the Maroon Activities Center for young basketball players. He is a dean's list student majoring in political economics.



Friends of Butte Central

Tom MacLeod Jr. and his brother Pat traveled to Butte to attend the 20th anniversary celebration of the Maroon Activities Center. Tom was honored in a luncheon at the Butte Country Club and was presented with the Walsh Benefactors Award along with his wife Barbara. The MacLeod's have been generous supporters of Butte Central Catholic Schools for many years. Their generosity has benefited student scholarships, academic programs, the expansion of Butte Central Elementary, and the Maroon Activities Center. Tom was introduced along with many other supporters of the MAC at halftime of the Butte Central – Hamilton boys basketball game. He was featured on a great interview on the Maroon Basketball Show, which plays on YouTube on the “We Are BC TV” channel.

Following the ceremonies, which were held during a home boys and girls basketball double header, Tom and Pat were honored guests at a reception at Metals Sports Bar. At the reception, Tom and Pat were greeted by 2024 Last Man Award Recipients, Michael Peck and Justus McGee. The Last Man Award was established by Tom and Barbara MacLeod in honor of Tom MacLeod Sr., Torger Oaas, and Bob Cullerton. The award honors a legacy of dedication in the Maroon football program. The three Maroons were members of the 1935 Maroon football team, and they vowed to each other to be the “last men” off the practice field each night.



Tom & Pat MacLeod with 2024 Last Man Award recipients Michael Peck & Justus McGee



“Sparky”

Rick Sparks passed away in Missoula on July 1, 2025, just three days before his 78th birthday. “Sparky” as he was affectionately called by students and athletes coached the Maroons to five state championships. He taught PE and Health and coached football, wrestling, and track for several years in the 1970’s and 1980’s at Butte Central. He was the offensive coordinator for the Maroons football team under Coach Ron Lehnerz and was the head wrestling and track and field coach. His state championships included three girls and one boys track and field titles and one state wrestling championship. In 1981, he helped coach the Maroons to a Class “A” football runner up. Sparky was an outstanding athlete in his day with the Butte Bulldogs and the Montana Grizzlies Team. In recent years, he lived in Missoula and avidly followed the Maroons and the Grizzlies



Butte Central Catholic Schools

Awards Ceremony

On January 27th, 2025, the Butte Central Education Foundation hosted a ceremony to honor the dedication, leadership, and generosity of several individuals and families. The ceremony was held in the Cote Family Lobby and Reception area of the MAC Center. The ceremony coincided with National Catholic Schools Week 2025, and it was well attended by Butte Central supporters and families.

The ceremony opened with a welcome from Butte Central Catholic Schools President Don Peoples Jr. followed by an opening prayer from Butte Central student Michael Peck. Following the prayer and welcome, Associate Director Brendan R. McDonough joined President Peoples in presenting five new endowments to the Butte Central Memorial Endowment Program. The Memorial Endowment Program was established in 1988 to provide an opportunity for families, alumni classes, individuals, and friends to endow funds in support of Butte Central Catholic Schools.

To date, there have been 168 generous families, alumni classes, and individuals who have blessed Butte Central Catholic Schools with Memorial Endowments, Memorial Endowed Scholarships, and Memorial Faculty Chairs. As with all endowments, the funds are invested in perpetuity and the annual interest earnings benefit Butte Central Catholic Schools.

Butte Central Memorial Endowment

The first endowment dedicated was the **Trudy and Stephen Tomazich Memorial Scholarship Endowment**. The Tomazich's gifted Butte Central with an estate gift. Butte Central is honored by their generosity and future investment of Catholic education in Butte.

The second endowment dedicated was the **Cassidy Family Memorial Endowed Scholarship**. The endowment was established by Peter Cassidy from the Class of 1968 in honor of the Cassidy family and their dedication to Butte Central Catholic Schools.

The third endowment dedicated was the **Frank and Ann Marie (Dwyer) Rosa Memorial Endowed Scholarship**. This scholarship was established by their children Paul Rosa, Catherine Rosa Mirkin, and Margaret Rosa Mansker and their families. The scholarship is in memory of Frank (Class of 1946) and Ann Marie (Class of 1947) and in honor of their family.

The fourth endowment dedicated was the **Michael (Mick) Joseph Family Endowed Scholarship**. The scholarship was established by Mick Joseph in honor of his family to benefit student athletes in the Butte Central Catholic High School track and field program.

The final endowment dedicated was the **Pagan Babies Boys Central High School Class of 1958 Memorial Endowed Scholarship** in memory of Edward Peter Canty. This scholarship was established by classmates James Drynan, Jerry Gilmore, James Hannifin, Michael Harrington, Tom Kearney, Sam Lorango, Vincent Matule, Frank Panisko, Robert Meadle, and Crag Savage all from the Class of 1958. The scholarship is in memory of Edward Peter Canty who founded the The Pagan Babies Boys Central High School Class of 1958.

Cote Volunteerism Award

During the ceremony, the Butte Central Education Foundation recognized five recipients of the Cote Volunteerism Award named after Harp and Esther Cote in 1989. The award recognizes the extraordinary dedication and volunteer service to Butte Central Schools. Butte Central Elementary and Junior High School Principal, Dawn Anne Peterson, presented the Cote Volunteerism Award to the following recipients.

The first recipients of the award were **Virginia Salazar and her daughters, Tracey Michael and Pam O'Leary**. These ladies have been amazing volunteers at Butte Central by preparing the annual Laverne Combo Thanksgiving Dinner. They have volunteered in the kitchen for over 30 years to help the Butte Central family host one of Butte's best annual events.



Esther & Harp Cote

The second recipients of the award were the Butte Central softball coaches: **Chunky Thatcher, Amanda Badovinac, and Jamie Reopelle**. These coaches were honored for their dedication to our student athletes and the sport of softball at Butte Central. These coaches are truly volunteers as they have donated their coaching stipends back to Butte Central to buy uniforms and equipment for the softball team.



2024 Cote Volunteerism Award recipients Jamie Reopelle, Chunky Thatcher, & Amanda Badovinac

The third recipient of the award was **Josh Peck**. Josh has been a great volunteer in the Butte Central Catholic School System. He has volunteered in many capacities as a booster club member, music and drama club volunteer, as well as an avid supporter of educational endeavors within the school system. He has also served countless hours to running the Jumbotron at MAC home games, 50/50 ticket sales, organizing team dinners, and supports the Maroon football parents club. Josh and his wife Mariya, a staff member at Butte Central Elementary, are the proud parents of a recent Butte Central graduate and two current students.

The final recipient of the award was **Marc McGree**. Marc was honored for his dedication and commitment to Butte Central Catholic Schools. Marc was honored for his dedication and commitment to Butte Central Catholic Schools. He has volunteered as a coach, bus driver, and numerous other school and booster club activities. In recent years, Marc has been a great volunteer at Butte Central High School and has committed countless hours to the school's bottom floor renovation project. Marc and his wife Kate are the proud parents of three Butte Central students.

Butte Central Distinguished Graduate Award

The Butte Central Catholic School Distinguished Graduate Award is co-sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association and is awarded to graduates who exemplify the values they learned in Catholic education. Butte Central High School Principal Denise Chrest presented the award to distinguished graduates Pam (Stajcar) Olson from the Class of 1975. The Butte Central Education Foundation also named Edward Renouard from the Class of 1955, and Dan

Durkin from the Class of 1960. Both awards for Edward Renouard and Dan Durkin will be presented to them at a later date.

Ms. Pam Stajcar Olson

Pam is a graduate of the Class of 1975. She has been a great supporter of Catholic education throughout her entire life. Pam and her husband Rusty have four children, all of whom are graduates of Butte Central. They have nine grandchildren that currently attend Butte Central Catholic Schools.



Pam has been a great volunteer for over 45 years and has worked on numerous events including the auction, the Calcutta, and the building of the Maroon Activities Center. She served as the Co-Chairperson of the Booster Club for many years in the 1990's and 2000's.

For the past 21 years, Pam has served on the teaching staff at Butte Central Elementary as an amazing para-professional educator. She is an active member of Holy Spirit Parish who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the Church.

Walsh Benefactor Award

Butte Central Catholic Schools President, Don Peoples Jr., and Mr. Tom Walsh presented seven recipients the Walsh Benefactor's Award. The award recognizes benefactors who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication and generosity to Butte Central Catholic Schools. The outstanding recipients have greatly impacted Catholic education in our community.

The award is named in honor of a great Butte Central family. The Walsh family has made a tremendous impact on Butte Central throughout the years by supporting scholarships, teachers' salaries, academics, several building projects, and the Maroon Activities Center.

The award was presented to the following recipients who have generously supported Catholic education:

1. **John & Laurie McGree**
2. **Bobbie Whelan**
3. **Dr. Jonna Laslovich**
4. **Tom & Barbara MacLeod** – Tom was presented his award on January 25, 2025 during the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Maroon Activities Center.

Butte Central Catholic Schools Awards continued...

Pat Dudley Memorial Award

In 2022, the friends and family of Pat Dudley from the Class of 1974 established an award to honor Pat's lifelong hard work and dedication to Butte Central Catholic Schools. His wife Margaret, daughter Breanna, and son Sean, along with good friend Jim Williams stepped forward to establish this proud award.

The award recognizes individuals and families that have helped continue the proud legacy and traditions of Catholic education in our community. The award honors Pat and his dedication as the Chair of the Butte Central School Board. It is a tribute to his leadership and commitment to Butte Central Catholic Schools.

Butte Central Schools President Don Peoples Jr. along with the Dudley family presented the award to three recipients.

The first recipient was **Dr. Lorelee Davenport**. Dr. Davenport was honored for her amazing contributions to Catholic education. Lorelee taught history and government at Butte Central Catholic High School for many years. Her students credited her for her dedication and excellent instruction in the classroom, and her ability to prepare students for college. Dr. Lorelee Davenport impacted many students, and she was a key contributor to the Butte Central Catholic School System.

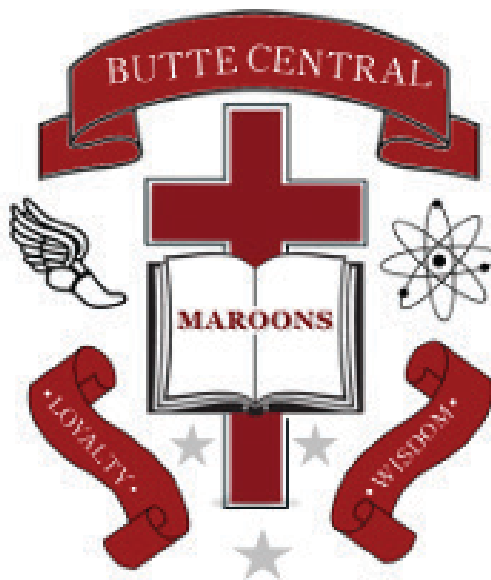
The second recipient to receive the award was **Jim and Sharon Williams**. The Williams' have been fantastic supporters as well as in the role of parent, grandparent, and volunteer of Butte Central Catholic Schools for many years. Jim served on the Butte Central School Board for many years, and Sharon worked as the administrative assistant at Butte Central Elementary for many years. Together, they have worked extremely hard to support Catholic education in our community. Jim was a major volunteer on the construction of the MAC Center. Jim and Sharon have supported numerous fundraisers over the years and have demonstrated a loyal and dedicated commitment to Butte Central Catholic Schools.

The final recipient of the award was **Russ Nelson**. Russ Nelson has served the students of Butte Central Catholic High School in an incredible way for ten years. He leads the music program and has helped many of our students grow and develop a lifelong love of music. He has developed an outstanding music and band program, and the students are very appreciative of Russ and his efforts. Butte Central is fortunate to have Russ Nelson, and we are all truly grateful for his hard work, dedication, and leadership of the music program.

The evening was a fitting celebration to the dedication and support of all those honored, and it speaks to the legacy of Butte Central Catholic Schools and over a century of educating students and developing the leaders of tomorrow. The annual ceremony was a reminder of all the accomplishments that come from Butte Central and the values the institution instills in the families of Butte Central Catholic Schools. Butte Central is more than a school system, it's a legacy that continues to build the values of faith formation, quality education, and lifelong skills that contribute to each and every one fortunate enough to be a Maroon.



Margaret & Brianna Dudley with 2024 Pat Dudley Award recipient Russ Nelson



2025/2026 BUTTE CENTRAL SPORTS SCHEDULES

VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Friday, August 15	TBD	First Day of Practice
Saturday, August 23	TBD	Maroon/White Scrimmage
Friday, August 29	7:00 PM	at Lockwood
Friday, September 5	7:00 PM	vs Hardin
Friday, September 12	7:00 PM	at Ronan
Friday, September 19	N/A	BYE
Friday, September 26	7:00 PM	vs Corvallis (Homecoming)
Friday, October 3	7:00 PM	vs Stevensville
Friday, October 10	7:00 PM	at Frenchtown
Friday, October 17	7:00 PM	at Hamilton
Friday, October 24	7:00 PM	vs Dillon (Senior Night)
Friday, October 31	7:00 PM	1st Round of Playoffs
Saturday, November 8	TBD	Quarter Finals
Saturday, November 15	TBD	Semi-Finals
Saturday, November 22	TBD	State Championship

SUB-VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
LOCATION		
Friday, August 15	TBD	First Day of Practice
Saturday, August 23	TBD	Maroon/White Scrimmage
Tuesday, September 2	3:00 PM	at Jamboree
Monday, September 15	4:30 PM	vs Ronan
Monday, September 22	4:30 PM	vs East Helena
Monday, September 29	4:30 PM	at Corvallis
Monday, October 6	5:00 PM	at Stevensville
Monday, October 13	4:00 PM	vs Jamboree

VOLLEYBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Frosh JV Varsity		
Friday, August 15	TBD TBD TBD	First Day of Practice
Saturday, August 23	TBD TBD TBD	Maroon & White Scrimmage
Friday, August 29	10:00 AM	at Western A Tipoff
Saturday, August 30	9:00 AM	at Western A Tipoff
Friday, September 5	12:00 PM	vs SW/SE Tipoff
Saturday, September 6	8:00 AM	vs SW/SE Tipoff
Saturday, September 13	12:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:00 PM	at Ronan
Thursday, September 18	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	at Stevensville
Saturday, September 20	12:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:00 PM	vs Corvallis
Thursday, September 25	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	vs Frenchtown (Homecoming)
Saturday, September 27	12:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:00 PM	at Hamilton
Thursday, October 2	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	vs Dillon
Friday, October 10	9:00 AM	vs Blocktober Classic
Saturday, October 11	9:00 AM	vs Blocktober Classic
Tuesday, October 14	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	vs Stevensville
Saturday, October 18	12:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:00 PM	at Corvallis
Thursday, October 23	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	at Frenchtown
Saturday, October 25	12:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:00 PM	vs Hamilton (Senior Day)
Tuesday, October 28	4:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	at Dillon
Thursday, October 30	TBD	Play-in # 1 (if necessary)
Saturday, November 1	TBD	Play-in # 2 (if necessary)
November 6-8	TBD	at Western A Divisional
November 12-15	TBD	at State Tournament

- Note on match times: If we're running ahead of schedule, JV & varsity matches may start early.

WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday, November 20	TBD	First Day of Practice
Friday, December 5	1:00 PM	at Havre Invite
Saturday, December 6	9:00 AM	at Havre Invite
Thursday, December 11	5:00 PM	vs BC Mixer
Tuesday, December 16	6:00 PM	at Powell Co Mixer
Friday, December 19	11:00 AM	at CMR Invite
Saturday, December 20	9:00 AM	at CMR Invite
Friday, January 2	11:00 AM	at Bozeman Invite
Saturday, January 3	9:00 AM	at Bozeman Invite
Tuesday, January 6	6:00 PM	at Powell Co Mixer
Friday, January 9	3:00 PM	at Madison Invite
Saturday, January 10	9:00 AM	at Madison Invite
Saturday, January 17	9:00 AM	at John Fisher Invite
Thursday, January 22	5:00 PM	at Frenchtown Meet
Friday, January 30	12:00 PM	vs Class A Duals
Saturday, January 31	9:00 AM	vs Class A Duals
Friday, February 6	5:00 PM	vs BC Mixer (Senior Night)
Friday, February 13	2:00 PM	at Western A Divisional
Saturday, February 14	9:00 AM	at Western A Divisional
Thur-Sat, February 19-21	TBD	at STATE



BC Admin Team members Don Peoples, Dawn Ann Peterson, & Denise Chrest with Tom MacLeod and Tom Walsh during the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the MAC



BC Pep Band



James Holmes 4-time Academic All-State wrestler & cross country runner

BOYS' BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME			OPPONENT
	Frosh	JV	Varsity	
Monday, November 24	TBD	TBD	TBD	First Day of Practice
Tuesday, December 9	5:00 PM			vs Park Frosh
Friday, December 12	4:15 PM			vs Browning
Saturday, December 13	11:30 AM			vs Columbia Falls
Friday, December 19	TBD			vs Sidney
Saturday, December 20	TBD			vs Glendive
Monday, December 22	7:00 PM			vs Butte High Frosh
Tuesday, December 23	4:15 PM	7:30 PM		vs Butte High
Thursday, January 8	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	7:30 PM	at Anaconda
Saturday, January 10	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	at Stevensville
Tuesday, January 13	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	7:15 PM	vs Frenchtown
Saturday, January 17	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	at Hamilton
Thursday, January 22	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	7:30 PM	at Dillon
Saturday, January 24	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	at Corvallis
Saturday, January 31	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	vs Stevensville
Tuesday, February 3	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	7:15 PM	at Frenchtown
Saturday, February 7	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	4:30 PM	vs Hamilton
Tuesday, February 10	3:00 PM	6:00 PM		at Park
Tuesday, February 17	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	7:30 PM	at East Helena
Saturday, February 21	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	vs Corvallis
Monday, February 23	4:00 PM			vs Dillon Frosh
Tuesday, February 24	3:00 PM	6:00 PM		vs Dillon (Senior Night)
Thursday, February 26	TBD			Play-In #1
Saturday, February 28	TBD			Play-In #2
Thur-Sat, March 5-7	TBD			Western A
Thur-Sat, March 12-14	TBD			STATE

~ Note on game times: If we're running ahead of schedule, JV & varsity games may start early.

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	TIME		OPPONENT
Monday, August 18	TBD		First Day of Practice
Friday, August 29	10:00 AM		at Park Invite
Tuesday, September 9	5:00 PM		vs Butte Central Invite
Saturday, September 13	10:00 AM		at Corvallis Invite
Saturday, September 20	9:30 AM		at Mountain West
Thursday, September 25	12:00 PM		vs Butte High Invite
Saturday, September 27	11:00 AM		at Dillon Invite
Thursday, October 2	4:00 PM		at Hamilton Invite
Thursday, October 9	12:30 PM		at Helena 7 on 7
Saturday, October 11	12:00 PM		at Polson Invite
Friday, October 17	2:00 PM		at Western A Classic
Saturday, October 25	TBD		at State Meet



Maroon Activities as a Ministry Fall Prayer service

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME			OPPONENT
	Frosh	JV	Varsity	
Monday, November 24	TBD	TBD	TBD	First Day of Practice
Tuesday, December 9	6:30 PM			vs Park Frosh
Friday, December 12	1:00 PM			vs Libby
Saturday, December 13	10:00 AM			vs Columbia Falls
Friday, December 19	TBD			vs Sidney
Saturday, December 20	TBD			vs Glendive
Monday, December 22	5:30 PM			vs Butte High Frosh
Tuesday, December 23	2:30 PM	6:00 PM		vs Butte High
Thursday, January 8	3:00 PM	6:00 PM		at Anaconda
Saturday, January 10	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	vs Stevensville
Tuesday, January 13	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	7:15 PM	at Frenchtown
Saturday, January 17	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	4:30 PM	at Hamilton
Thursday, January 22	4:30 PM	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	at Dillon
Saturday, January 24	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	vs Corvallis
Saturday, January 31	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	at Stevensville
Tuesday, February 3	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	7:15 PM	vs Frenchtown
Saturday, February 7	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	vs Hamilton
Tuesday, February 10	4:30 PM	7:30 PM		at Park
Tuesday, February 17	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	at East Helena
Saturday, February 21	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	at Corvallis
Monday, February 23	5:30 PM			vs Dillon Frosh
Tuesday, February 24	4:30 PM	7:30 PM		vs Dillon (Senior Night)
Thursday, February 26	TBD			Play-In #1
Saturday, February 28	TBD			Play-In #2
Thur-Sat, March 5-7	TBD			Western A
Thur-Sat, March 12-14	TBD			STATE

~ Note on game times: If we're running ahead of schedule, JV & varsity games may start early.



2016 State Champs



Pam Olson and Denise Mansanti during the 20th Anniversary celebration of the MAC

GOLF

DATE	TIME		OPPONENT
Thursday, August 14	TBD		First Day of Practice
Monday, August 18	9:00 AM		vs Butte Central Invite
Tuesday, August 19	10:00 AM		at Park Invite
Thursday, August 21	10:00 AM		at Ronan Invite
Tuesday, August 26	10:00 AM		at Frenchtown Invite
Wednesday, September 3	9:00 AM		at Dillon Invite
Thursday, September 4	9:00 AM		at Bigfork Invite
Monday, September 8	10:00 AM		at Polson Invite
Monday, September 15	10:00 AM		at Park JV Meet
Tuesday, September 16	10:00 AM		at East Helena Invite
Thursday, September 18	TBD		at Butte High Invite
Friday, September 19	TBD		at Butte High Invite
Saturday, September 20	10:00 AM		at Hamilton Meet
Monday, September 22	10:00 AM		at Dillon JV Meet
Friday, September 26	TBD		Western A Divisional
October 3-4	TBD		State Tournament



Former Maroon Watch

Eleven former members of the Butte Central Maroons Activities Program are continuing to shine at the collegiate level.

These former students are outstanding representatives of Butte Central Catholic High School.

Butte Central is proud of these fine alumni, and we look forward to their continued success in the athletic arena, in the classroom, in performing arts, and in college speech and debate programs.

Congratulations to the following Graduates:

Football

Justus McGee (2025) Rocky Mountain College

Michael Peck (2025) Carroll College

Jack Keeley (2024) Montana Tech

Zane Moodry (2024) Montana Tech



Jack Keeley



Zane Moodry



Justus McGee

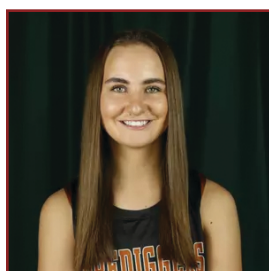


Michael Peck

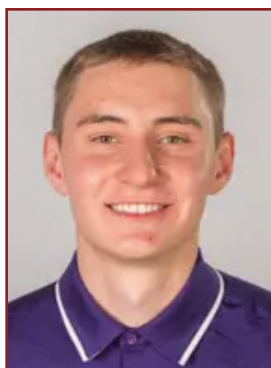
Men's Basketball

Dougie Peoples (2023) College of Idaho

Owen McPartland (2025) Miles City Community College



Brooke Badovinac



Dougie Peoples



Owen McPartland

Track & Field

Ella Moodry (2024) University of Montana

Raleigh McGree (2022) University of Montana

Keefer McGree (2025) Montana Tech



Ella Moodry



Raleigh McGree



Keefer McGree

Baseball

Egan Lester (2021) Valley City University



Egan Lester

BUTTE CENTRAL FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 634
BUTTE, MT 59703-0634



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