



## *Questions Frequently Asked*

### **About the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools**

#### **What makes The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools unique?**

The true differences are many and varied, but what lies at the basis of our schools is faith. Building on faith, true character and solid morals are formed. These beliefs are carried through each grade level, each classroom and ultimately become lifelong characteristics of each student.

#### **Do the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools hire certified, highly qualified teachers?**

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools hire only certified teachers. All core subjects are taught by certified and highly qualified faculty.

#### **Are there any programs available to help offset tuition costs?**

Yes, many options are offered, beginning with a sliding tuition scale, which is based upon family income. Families requiring additional financial support are encouraged to apply for tuition assistance. The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation, our Parishes and additional sources provide needed financial assistance, which typically supports 50% of our students. There are a variety of payment methods available and a SCRIP gift certificate program to help further reduce costs. Our goal is to make our schools assessable for all families who desire a Catholic education.

#### **Does BCACS offer after school care?**

An Extended Day Program for elementary students and an After School Club for Middle School students is available on a daily basis. These programs are well established and efficiently run and include snack, recess, homework assistance and social opportunities for our students.

#### **My children already attend Religious Education weekly, why would I want to send them to the Catholic school?**

It is important to understand that when a student is enrolled in the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools they receive nearly **an hour a day** of instruction in the Catholic tradition along with the cross curricular components. Add to that the regular reception of the sacraments and your child will receive an immersion into our faith that cannot be matched in the public sector. Finally, research has shown that persons who are educated in the Catholic school system through High School are far more likely to continue in their faith into adulthood.

#### **What sports are offered at the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools?**

Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools offers a variety of athletic opportunities. At the High School level, team sports include boy's football, soccer, basketball, baseball, cross country, track and golf. Girl's offerings include volleyball, basketball, track, cross country, tennis. Additional co-op sports

are available as well. Middle School team sports include football, basketball, volleyball, track and cross country. Offerings may be adjusted as student interest warrants.

**What kind of curriculum does the school use and how diversified is the curriculum?**

Our curriculum meets and exceeds the State of Michigan Standards and Grade Level Content Expectations in all subject areas. We follow the curriculum set by the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

**Are Non-Catholic students welcome at our schools?**

Yes, Non-Catholic students are welcome at our schools. Approximately 25% of our students are not Catholic.

**Is the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools recognized by any accrediting agencies?**

All schools are accredited by Michigan Non-public Accrediting Association. The MNSAA is a state accrediting association affiliated with the National Federation of Non-public School State Accrediting Associations. This Association is open to any Michigan religious, independent, or private elementary or secondary school.

**How many students are currently in each class and what is the maximum number allowed in each class?**

The average class size is 20 students. The maximum capacity of students in grades K-8 is 25. Our high school classes are small, allowing for optimal individualization.

**Is technology instruction offered?**

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools have a comprehensive and integrated technology curriculum. Our lessons dovetail with each classroom's curriculum and satisfy many of the Grade Level Content Expectations required by the State of Michigan Curriculum Guide, across several curriculum areas. Every student will have use of a device for classroom and in some circumstances, at-home instruction.

**What other extra-curricular activities are available at BCACS?**

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools offers a wide variety of clubs. St. Philip Catholic Central integrates clubs into their daily schedule. Enrichment opportunities are offered throughout the school year for elementary students. Clubs are added as students' interest dictates.

**Are incoming students required to take any kind of test?**

We do request that all incoming students provide a copy of the previous grading period's report card and standardized test results. We may request that each student complete a placement test. Students entering who are entering either Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten participate in a readiness assessment to help determine placement

**Are special education services offered for Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools students?**

The elementary, middle and high school are all staffed with student support specialists, attending to the needs of students at all educational levels. In addition, the local public schools provide special education evaluation and services for those students meeting their specific requirements.

**What options are available for lunch?**

Students may either bring lunch from home or partake of the school's hot lunch program.

**What are the school's hours?**

Classes begin at 8:00am & end at 3:10pm at the elementary school; begin at 7:50am & end at 3:10 pm at the middle-and begin at 7:30am and end at 2:45pm in the high school.

**What Preschool and Kindergarten programs are available?**

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools offer preschool programs for 3 and 4 year old children and a full day Kindergarten. We also offer a unique Transitional Kindergarten program for young 5's.

**Does the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools have a website?**

Yes, [www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org).

**Does the school have a dress code?**

Students in grades K-12 do have a dress code. Please refer to the website for further information.

**Can I visit the school?**

**Please do!** Visits may be scheduled at any time by calling the St. Joseph Elementary Office at 269.965.7749, or St. Joseph Middle School at 269.963.4935 or St. Philip Catholic Central High School at 269.963.4503.