



Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

F O U N D A T I O N



ANNUALreport
2024-25

FOUNDATION mission

The mission of the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools (BCACS) Foundation is to encourage stewardship for Catholic education in our community to meet today's needs with financial support as we seek to secure the future of Catholic schools in Battle Creek.



ABBY LUMBARD

***A Note from Development Director,
Abby (Buckley) Lumbard, Class of '05***

"Each day, I have the privilege of working alongside generous supporters like you who believe in the power of Catholic education. Together, we are not only helping students grow in knowledge and faith, but we are also building a foundation that will sustain our schools for generations to come. Thank you for being part of this mission. Our successes belong to all of us; students, families, staff, alumni, and the incredible community that surrounds them. The future is bright because of you."

269-963-4771

**63 North 24th Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015**

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Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

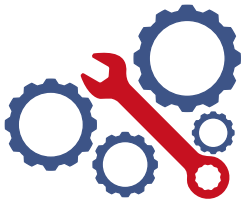
F O U N D A T I O N

The **Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Foundation** remains steadfast in its commitment to the success of our schools. In addition to offering \$300,000 in tuition assistance to BCACS families and providing a \$150,000 operational subsidy from the Annual Fund Drive, the Foundation continues to support a wide range of school initiatives.



Faith-Based Formation **\$5,395**

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training for two St. Joseph staff members
- Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Leadership Conference for BCACS Administrators



Facilities & Infrastructure Improvements **\$2,375,949**

- Mechanical upgrades at St. Philip High School, including a new heating/cooling system and upgraded electrical systems
- Security camera upgrades and expansion at St. Philip High School
- New gym floor at St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School
- Renovated Biology, Physics, and Chemistry labs at St. Philip High School



Athletics & Extracurricular Support **\$16,212**

- New football uniforms for the St. Philip Varsity Football team
- New basketball uniforms for the St. Philip JV Basketball team
- New refrigerator for St. Philip concessions (used during athletic events)
- Attendance at two Athletic Directors Conferences
- Operational funds for the Robotics Club



Academic Enhancements **\$30,286**

- LETRS literacy-based professional development for 5 St. Joseph Elementary teachers
- Orton-Gillingham literacy-based professional development for St. Joseph Elementary staff
- NWEA professional development for all TK–8th grade staff
- Additional spots for all admitted students to attend the Battle Creek Area Mathematics and Science Center in 2025-2026

TOTAL SUPPORT IN 2024-2025 = \$2,877,842

OUR COMMUNITY that BUILDS our SUCCESSES

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of our schools over the past year. Your generosity not only strengthens the future of BCACS but, more importantly, shapes the future of our students. The following individuals, families, businesses, and organizations have blessed the BCACS Foundation with gifts between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those generous supporters who have chosen to give anonymously. While their names may not appear in these pages, their impact is deeply felt throughout our schools and community.



GUIDED by FAITH, INSPIRED by FATHER FITZ

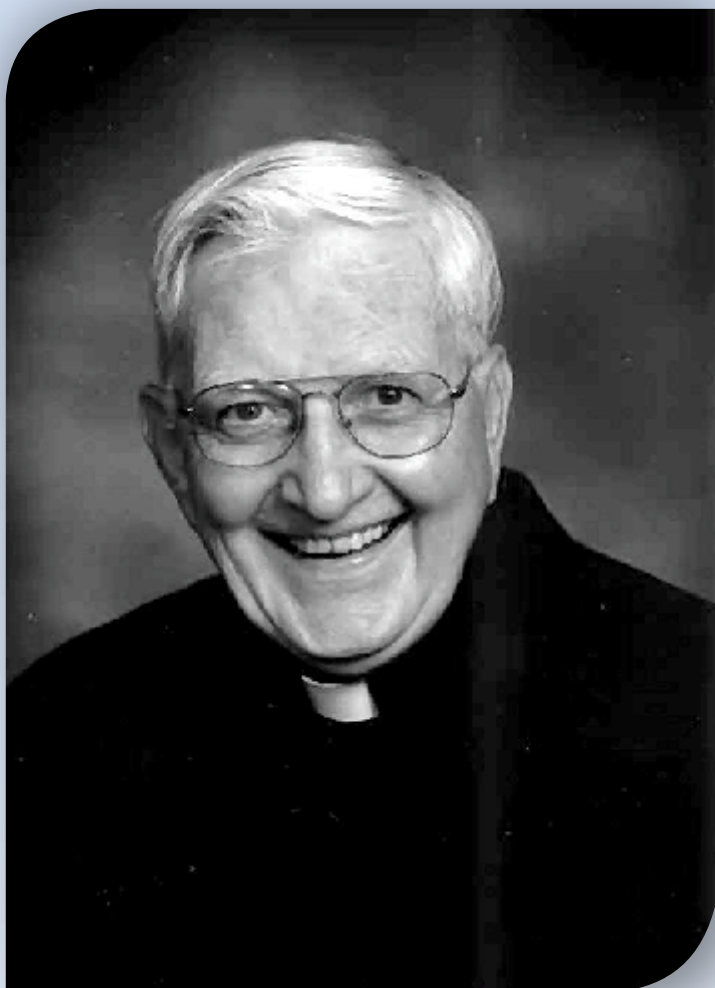
For decades, Monsignor William Fitzgerald, affectionately known to most as Father Fitz, was the heart of St. Philip Church. Gentle, loving, and endlessly understanding, he guided generations with steady spiritual leadership, always pointing hearts and minds toward Jesus. His presence brought peace, his counsel brought clarity, and his deep faith inspired countless families within our parish and schools.

In 2003, The Monsignor William Fitzgerald Endowment for Tuition Assistance was established to honor his unwavering dedication to Catholic education. This fund provides scholarships to BCACS families, ensuring that children can grow in faith and knowledge for generations to come. Over the years, donors inspired by Father Fitz's impact have faithfully contributed to the endowment, allowing it to grow and extend its reach, helping more families each year.

Father Fitz once expressed his gratitude and vision in words that still inspire us today:

"Thank you especially for being of one heart with me in our passion for Catholic education. There is nothing more exciting than to be part of the way children and young people learn, especially when the Teacher is Jesus Himself in the Power of the Holy Spirit."

Through the generosity of so many and the example of one extraordinary priest, the mission he loved so deeply lives on, and will continue to do so for many years to come.



BUILDING For the FUTURE:

STP Building Renovation

The summer of 2025 marked an exciting new chapter for St. Philip High School as we completed a series of long-overdue renovations designed to enhance the daily experience for our students and staff. The project included a complete replacement of our aging HVAC system, bringing much-needed comfort and efficiency to classrooms year-round. To support this upgrade, the building also received new electrical systems, ensuring we could fully accommodate the demands of modern technology and climate control.

In addition, two of our science labs were completely transformed into state-of-the-art learning environments. These updated spaces now provide students with modern equipment, improved safety features, and flexible layouts that encourage collaboration and hands-on discovery. For our teachers, the new labs have opened the door to expanded lesson possibilities and cutting-edge instructional methods. We look forward to celebrating these updates with a special dedication ceremony in the fall of 2025.

St. Philip alum Bill Steele (Class of 1975) has played a leading role in bringing these renovations to life, generously dedicating his time to coordinating and guiding the many moving parts of the project. Reflecting on his involvement, Bill shared:

"The volunteer work that I'm doing is a small portion of what is involved in making this happen. The donors who are committed to a Catholic education in the Battle Creek area, the Foundation and care they've taken, the teachers, administration, the priests. It's a whole community. The credit goes to the (BCACS) community because they are committed to this. I think it's important that Battle Creek keeps a K-12 Catholic school going. When I saw this opportunity, I didn't think twice about what help I could bring to it. We always thought it was important that the school maintains a strong presence in this town."

Renovation is underway! The third-floor library begins transforming into our new science lab.



Mid-renovation, our Chemistry workstations are installed.

Transforming our **SCHOOLS**



For the **NEXT GENERATION**

From library to laboratory - our two science labs are complete.



These remarkable improvements were made possible through the extraordinary generosity of several longtime friends of our schools. Bill and Pat LaMothe, true forward thinkers, made a planned gift that placed them in our legacy giving circle, the Guardian Angel Guild, helping to bring these renovations to life. We are also deeply grateful to other contributors, including The Santo, Maria, Frank, and John Zanetti Foundation, whose thoughtful gifts made this project a reality. Together, their generosity reflects a shared belief in the mission of Catholic education and ensures that St. Philip will remain a place of faith-filled learning for generations to come.

St. Joseph Schools also recently celebrated an exciting upgrade with the installation of a brand-new gym floor. The gym has long been a hub of activity, hosting everything from P.E. classes and athletic practices to school assemblies and community events. After decades of use, the original floor had begun to show its age.

In recent years, the old surface required cleaning up to three times a day just to reduce the risk of slipping. While it carried the memories of countless games, events, and generations of students, it was clear that a safer and more reliable surface was needed.

The solution came in the form of a state-of-the-art Sport Court surface, installed directly over the existing floor. This modern flooring system offers significant improvements with better traction, shock absorption, and improved durability. Not only does the new gym floor enhance safety, but it also gives the space a fresh, updated look that reflects the energy and spirit of St. Joseph School.

This important project was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of our community to the BCACS Foundation. Your support ensures that our students benefit from safe, modern facilities that help them grow in body, mind, and spirit.



The St. Joseph Gym is ready for game day!

BCACS Foundation REVENUES and EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the BCACS Foundation provided the following support to the schools:

Subsidy for School Operations - \$150,000.00
Other Subsidy (includes building maintenance, etc.) - **\$750,595.46**
Tuition Assistance - \$300,000
Post Graduate Scholarships - \$7,000
BCACS Advancement/Alumni - \$866.78
Other Grants to Schools (includes athletics, staff professional development, etc.) - **\$ 23,904.90**



REVENUES

Donations and Pledges - \$233,226.01
Bequests and Honorary Donations - \$18,506.06
Grants - \$60,000
Fundraising Events - \$ 12,721.33

Year-End BCACS Endowment Balance - \$ 7,649,007.37
Temporarily Invested Funds - \$ 693,214.38



FROM our BCACS Foundation Board President,



NICOLE SHUGARS



This year, even more than ever, I am particularly thankful for the opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months and all the things we have accomplished together. It's easy to get caught up in the negativity in the world around us, and I was reminded at the Foundation's annual meeting of the powerful impact we have on our students and our larger school community.

In her "Sharing Our Schools" report, School Board President Abbie Brennan highlighted many blessings and shared numerous reasons to be excited about the future. Her words and the exciting news from our schools were a heartfelt reminder of the impact we're making together every single day. This year, that difference is especially visible in the remarkable progress we've made across our campuses.

With the support of the Foundation and each of you who have supported us throughout the years, Phase 2 of the St. Philip renovations were completed on time and under budget due to the hard work and dedication of many, and particularly the expertise of Bill Steele. The HVAC and electrical systems were updated and for the first time ever, the high school has a chilling system! We also built out new science labs that will provide our students with state-of-the-art learning opportunities. On the St. Joe campus, our students thrived on the brand-new gym floor. This update provides better durability for years of use, and creates a welcoming space for school events and community gatherings. These projects, and so many others, wouldn't be possible without our generous supporters.

Time and again, our donors step up when asked. We believe the BCACS difference shows in the way our students treat each other, their teachers and how they interact with the world around them. Now more than ever our world needs more of this, not less. Through your critical support we are launching into the world people that are kind, faithful and intelligent. Thank you for your loyal support.

Nicole A. Shugars

Nicole Shugars
BCACS Foundation President

ST. JOSEPH MIDDLE SCHOOL launches



Ron Clark Academy House System

In the 2024-2025 school year, St. Joseph Middle School proudly launched the Ron Clark Academy House System, an innovative program designed to strengthen school culture, foster leadership, and nurture student character. Thanks to the generous annual distribution from the Class of 1975 Fund, this exciting initiative is already making a transformative impact on our students.

The House System creates a vibrant and supportive environment where students are encouraged to excel academically, demonstrate kindness, embody virtue, and make meaningful contributions. Each student belongs to a "House" composed of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, creating opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and school spirit across grade levels. Every House has its own name, color, motto, and patron saint, whose virtues students study and strive to live out both at school and in the wider community.

Throughout the year, students earn points for their Houses through positive actions, achievements, and displays of character. Houses with the highest point totals at milestone moments are rewarded with special incentives such as field trips, out-of-dress-code days, and catered lunches.

Even in its first year, the impact has been profound. Students are stepping into leadership roles, forming stronger connections across grade levels, and embracing a culture of respect, inclusion, and school pride.

The Class of 1975 made this launch possible through their fund's annual distribution to the BCACS Foundation. Their generosity is especially fitting, as the Class of '75 is filled with individuals who embody the very virtues this program now instills in today's students. Just as our alumni continue to leave a lasting mark on our community, this program ensures the next generation will carry forward that same legacy of service, excellence, and integrity.



MEET the BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our BCACS Foundation Board of Trustees generously dedicate their time, talent, and resources in steadfast support of our mission. Their thoughtful leadership, tireless dedication, and strategic vision play a vital role in advancing our work, strengthening our community, and ensuring the continued success of our schools.



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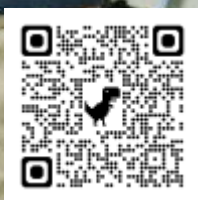
Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

F O U N D A T I O N

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To help fund more projects like these,
or to support the overall operations of
our schools, scan the QR code to explore
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