



bayarea  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Photo by Chloe Schrock

# THE SOCIAL HERD

## OUR MISSION

Bay Area Christian School exists to provide quality, Kingdom education to the next generation, empowering them to make disciples of Jesus at home, in society, and through the church.





#### **Your Admin Team**

Deena Heidemann - Activities Director  
Vicki Fletcher - Assistant to Head of School  
Denys Watson - Admissions Director  
Les Rainey - Head of School

A message from our Head of School,

## **LES RAINEY**

Dear BACS Family,

As we enter this Christmas season, our hearts are filled with joy and expectation. In the midst of busy schedules, celebrations, and the excitement that comes with this time of year, we pause to reflect on the greatest gift the world has ever received—the coming of our Savior. Isaiah 9:6 reminds us:

***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."***

What a powerful promise of hope and peace!

As 2025 comes to a close, I'm overwhelmingly grateful for the blessings God has poured out on our school community. I'm thankful for students who are growing in wisdom and in truth, for teachers who faithfully pour into hearts and minds each day, for families who partner with us in Kingdom education, and for the many ways we have seen God move on our campus. This year has been full of reminders that His hand is over our school, His provision is abundant, and His love is constant.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and prayer. We are honored to walk alongside your family. It is a joy to witness what God is doing in the lives of our students, and we eagerly look forward to the work He will continue in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas, and blessings to you in the New Year!

It's a great day to be a Bronco!



# special updates



## A message from our Admissions Director, **DENYS WATSON**

I wish you and your family an abundance of peace and joy throughout this holiday season and into the new year. May it be a time of renewal and continued blessings to you and your family.

### **2026-2027 K-12 New Applications**

Beginning January 1, 2026, BACS will begin accepting new applications for all grades, Kindergarten through 12th grade. To apply, please visit [bacschool.org](https://bacschool.org) and click on Admissions.

Be sure to share with friends and family—spots fill up quickly!

### **Continuous Enrollment / Re-Enrollment**

Our new Opt-Out period will run from January 1st-14th. See the December 8<sup>th</sup> email or click the CE icon in the BACS app for more information.



## A message from our Nurses,

## **BRIANNA ARGHIROPOL & DARCY GONZALEZ**

Please remember to email [nurse@bacschool.org](mailto:nurse@bacschool.org) with all reportable conditions, including lice, strep, flu, hand, foot, and mouth, and chicken pox. Merry Christmas!!!







#### Your ELA Team

Laura Bardwell - Receptionist  
Magdalena Van Hook - K3 Teacher/Assistant Director  
Stacie Holt - K3 Teacher/Assistant Director  
Anita Pierce - Director  
Amanda Baldwin - Registrar/Assistant Director

A message from our Early Learning Academy Director,

## ANITA PIERCE

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, I am grateful for each family who is part of our preschool community. I pray that your holiday season is filled with joy, peace, and renewed strength through the gifts God provides. Psalm 127:3 reminds us, "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him." May the new year bring continued blessings to you and your family. Enjoy this precious time with your children. It passes so quickly!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Dress-Up Days

**Monday, 12/15** Candy Cane Clothing

**Tuesday, 12/16** PJ Day

**Wednesday, 12/17** Christmas Clothing

**Thursday, 12/18** Hat, Bow, Headband Day

**Friday, 12/19** Jingle Bells & Christmas Attire

**Wednesday, 12/17** No Chapel, Christmas Parties (PT classes)

**Thursday, 12/18** Christmas Party (M/W 2s, Ullrich)

**Friday, 12/19** Christmas Parties (FT classes), Noon Dismissal

**Monday, 12/22-Monday, 1/05** Christmas Break

**Tuesday, 1/06** Classes resume

### Announcements

#### Continuous Enrollment / Re-Enrollment

Our Opt-Out period will run from January 1st-14th. You may certainly contact us at [elaregistrar@bacschool.org](mailto:elaregistrar@bacschool.org) in advance of that time frame if you already know you will not be returning next year.

#### 2026-2027: ELA New Student Applications

Beginning January 1, 2026, The ELA will begin accepting applications for new students. To apply, please visit the [ELA New Student Application](#).

- New student applications will be processed after the Continuous Enrollment deadline.

Be sure to share with friends and family as our spots fill up quickly!





#### **Your Elementary Team**

Jini Spruce - Assistant  
Katy Cummings - Receptionist  
Jessica Tracy - Assistant Principal  
Irene Perello - Principal  
Amberly Kerr - Administrative Assistant

A message from our Elementary Principal,

## **IRENE PERELLO**

What is your favorite Christmas song? One of my favorite Christmas songs is, "Mary, did you know?" I love it because it reminds me of how we struggle with the unknown. If we stop and ponder on that song for a moment, you can just think about Mary's faith. She did not know what was to come. She did not know what it meant to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. She did not know all the pain and joy she would endure. She simply obeyed her King and submitted to His plan. I love what Mary said in the book of Luke chapter 1:38, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." During this Christmas season, my hope for all of us is to focus on what the Lord has done. If we focus on the blessings instead of worrying about the unknown, it will be easier to have faith like Mary and submit to His plan for our lives. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." This verse speaks to me loudly as He gave it to me at the exact moment I started stressing about my unknown. I focused on the thorns in my life instead of my blessings. He reminded me that His grace is all that I need and that each time I worry, I can say that verse to keep me humble. I wish you a joyous time this Christmas and I pray each of you will be blessed by His grace and truth!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Friday, 12/19** Noon Dismissal (no lunch services or extended care)

**Monday, 12/22-Monday, 1/05** Christmas Break

**Tuesday, 1/06** Classes resume





#### Your Junior High Team

Jared Fuqua - Principal

Stephanie Van Eps - Administrative Assistant

A message from our Junior High Principal,

## JARED FUQUA

This Christmas season, our JH faculty have been praying that our campus will be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind (Philippians 2:2), and by doing so will follow Christ's example of humility. Paul goes on to state that "Christ emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Christ's humility set the stage for God's redemptive plan. Thank God for the gift that was the birth of Jesus Christ! May we practice that same level of humility and obedience this season. Our junior high students are currently serving as His hands and feet by taking part in a food drive for the next two weeks. It is a blessing to see them being of the same mind and having the same love for those who are in need. God alone be glorified! In closing, may your Christmas be filled with His grace and peace. May we all glorify His infathomable birth together as the family of Christ!

### Mark Your Calendar

2025 Semester Exam Schedule

#### Tuesday, 12/16

- 1st Period: 7:45 – 9:15
- 2nd Period: 9:25 – 10:55

#### Wednesday, 12/17

- 3rd Period: 7:45 – 9:15
- 4th Period: 9:25 – 10:55

#### Thursday, 12/18

- 5th Period: 7:45 – 9:15
- 6th Period: 9:25 – 10:55

#### Friday, 12/19

- 7th Period: 7:45 – 9:15
- 8th Period: 9:25 – 10:55







#### Your High School Team

Melissa Murphy - Receptionist/Attendance Clerk  
Nikki Thompson - Administrative Assistant  
Nancy Gadd - Academic Counselor  
Harold Payne - Principal

A message from our High School Principal,

## HAROLD PAYNE

One of my favorite Christmas moments in history comes from 1968, when the astronauts aboard Apollo 8 became the first humans to orbit the moon. As they looked back at Earth on Christmas Eve, they saw our entire world rising over the lunar surface, small and beautiful and filled with families celebrating back home. In that quiet moment, they chose to read from Genesis 1 on live television, reminding the world that even from the vastness of space, God's handiwork is unmistakable. Their simple act of reading Scripture brought a sense of unity, hope, and wonder to millions watching around the globe. As we enter this season, I pray your home feels that same sense of awe and gratitude for the gift of family. May you find time to slow down, laugh together, and enjoy the moments that make Christmas special. Scripture reminds us, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6 ESV), and that promise continues to fill our hearts with peace. From our BACS family to yours, we wish you a Christmas filled with joy, rest, and the warmth of God's presence. May the new year bring blessings and fresh reminders of His goodness.



If you would like to read more about this historic event, you can [read it here](#).





A message from our Academic Counselor,  
**NANCY GADD**

The 2025–2026 school year has flown by, reminding us how quickly God moves us from one season to the next. As we pause, we celebrate all the victories, growth, and blessings of 2025, and we look ahead with great expectation to the unfolding promise of 2026. Our BACS graduating class of 2026 now steps into their final months as Bay Area Christian School students. Remarkably, a third of these seniors have walked the BACS halls since Kindergarten. Their lives shine with the evidence of God's faithfulness and the beautiful knowledge of who He is. They stand as living portraits of the mission and heart of BACS.

I pray we have equipped them not only with knowledge, but with courage to stand boldly for God in every place He sends them. I pray they will lean deeply into His presence, trusting His perfect plans and divine purpose for their lives. I pray each one becomes a radiant light, carrying the love of Jesus into classrooms, workplaces, friendships, and every path God prepares for them.

As we embrace this new year, my heart celebrates with joyful anticipation trusting that God will do immeasurably more than we can imagine in and through these extraordinary young men and women.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **SAT Test Dates**

March 14, May 2, and June 6

### **ACT Test Dates**

February 14, April 11, and June 13







A message from our Fine Arts Director,

## MARIANNE MORRISON

### A Special Thank You

I would like to express heartfelt thanks and gratitude to ALL of our Fine Arts teachers, who have gone above and beyond this semester to give BACS students an outstanding arts experience. Mrs. Rodriguez, Ms. Hughes, Mrs. Terekhina, Mrs. Hope, Mrs. Slafka & Mrs. Fry are accomplished educators and professionals who have excellent knowledge of their content area and truly enjoy sharing their gifts and experiences with their students! We are sincerely grateful for the ways they bless our BACS students!

### Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, 12/13** ATSSB Jr. High School Region Band Auditions





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*When Christ is the foundation, our traditions, gatherings, and even our hardships can rest on a steady and loving Savior.*

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A message from our Director of Student Support,

## MIKE AMMONS

During the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's, many people quietly carry more stress than at any other time of year. Doctors even tell us that this season is when people are most likely to have a heart attack. Our calendars fill up, our routines change, and our bodies and hearts feel the strain.

There are practical reasons for this stress, like too many events, late nights, and long travel days. We often eat too much and spend too much, move less, and sometimes forget healthy habits like vegetables, sleep, and exercise. Some of us grieve loved ones who are no longer with us and feel the ache more deeply in these special moments.

On top of this, the constant noise of advertising can make Christmas feel more like a contest or transaction than a celebration. When gifts, parties, and social media become the main focus, our hearts can end up feeling empty, anxious, or numb. Yet in the middle of this, God has given us a very different center for the season, the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. The angel's words still ring true today:

***“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people’” (Luke 2:10)***

Christmas is first and foremost about God's love coming near to us in Jesus, who is the greatest gift we could ever receive. Because of Jesus, we can have peace with God even in a busy and broken world, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). This peace is not

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fragile or shallow, because Jesus Himself says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). When Christ is the foundation, our traditions, gatherings, and even our hardships can rest on a steady and loving Savior.

My encouragement for your family is to enjoy the season, love the traditions, attend the concerts and parties, and still keep your eyes on Jesus. Buy and give gifts, eat a cookie or two or three, remember and miss dear ones, but invite the peace of God to shape how you move through each day. You might choose one simple habit, like reading a short verse together each night or pausing to pray in the car before a busy event. My prayer is that this holiday season will be restorative rather than stressful, as the peace of Christ guards your hearts and your homes.







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*...songs about Jesus permeate the atmosphere and people everywhere are hearing about the Hope of the World whether they believe in Him or not.*

**Your High School Team**

Linda Mudgett- Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Elizabeth Griffin - Assistant

A message from our Director of Curriculum and Instruction,

**LINDA MUDGETT**

I love the hope that the Christmas season gives because we celebrate the Hope of the World, Jesus. I also love that songs about Jesus permeate the atmosphere and people everywhere are hearing about the Hope of the World whether they believe in Him or not. Romans 5:5 states that hope does not disappoint. A new year signifies new beginnings. Scripture says that God's mercies are renewed every morning. Every day, God's covenant with us is renewed. What hope that brings for a new year—that His mercies are renewed each and every one of the 365 days. Let's hang on to the Hope of the world every day of the year.

I want to emphasize again how valuable reading to and with your children is every day and for them to see you reading. "A 2019 Ohio State University study found a 5-year-old child who is read to daily would be exposed to nearly 300,000 more words than one who isn't read to regularly." (Harkay, Jessika. "Why Parents Aren't Reading to Kids, and What It Means for Young Students." The 74. 01 December 2025) There are so many positives to reading with and to your children such as developing language and listening skills as well as social skills, cognitive development and emotional growth.





#### Your Athletics Team

Tom Bradley - Trainer  
 Tabatha Pond - Administrative Assistant  
 Jennifer Hall - Coordinator  
 Kyle Kennedy - Director

A message from our Athletics Director,

## KYLE KENNEDY

### Basketball

- Varsity Girls: The team will play today at BACS vs. St. Agnes at 5:00 p.m. They will then travel to The Village School on Friday for a 6:00 p.m. game.
- Varsity Boys: The boys will compete in the O'Connell Tournament in Galveston this Friday and Saturday.

### Wrestling

The wrestling team will travel to Rosehill Christian School today for a dual meet. On Saturday, they will compete in a tournament at Sam Houston High School beginning at 8:00 a.m.

### Swimming

The varsity swim team will host their BACS Tournament this Saturday at the Clear Springs Natatorium, beginning at 11:15 a.m.

### Soccer

- Varsity Girls: Congratulations on finishing as tournament champions at Northland Christian this past Saturday. Their next match is scheduled for December 18th at 4:30 p.m. vs. Kelly Catholic High School.
- Varsity Boys: The boys play today at Grace Academy and will also compete on December 18th at 6:00 p.m. vs. Kelly Catholic High School.



## Mark Your Calendar

### High School Golf Tryouts

Head Coach: [Jason Atwell](#)

- Date: Wednesday, December 17th
- Location: Magnolia Creek Golf Club
- Times: Girls – 1:00 p.m. start | Boys – 2:00 p.m. start
  - (tryouts end at 5:00 p.m.)

### High School Tennis Tryouts

Head Coach: [Beth Skeeter](#)

- Date: Wednesday, December 17th
- Location: Bay Area Racquet Club (Courts #7-8)
- Time: 3:30–5:00 p.m.



#### Please Note:

Students (high school) currently participating in a winter sport are excused from their practice to attend Wednesday's tryouts. All winter sport head coaches have been informed.

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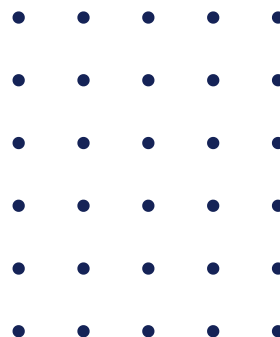


### A Special Thank You

I want to extend a very special thank you to Jennifer Hall, our Athletic Coordinator. Today marks Jennifer's last day serving at BACS as the Lord has called her into a new chapter. Although we knew this day would eventually come, I know many of you join me in offering heartfelt gratitude for her faithful service over the past 11 years.

During that time, athletics at BACS has experienced tremendous growth and positive change-much of which would not have been possible without Jennifer's dedication, leadership, organization, and care for our student-athletes, parents, and coaches. Although we will continue to see her on campus as a parent, please know how deeply appreciative we are for everything she has contributed to our school community and to our athletic department.

Blessings,  
Kyle Kennedy







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# Uniform Swap & Sell

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 9-11am  
HS Parking Lot

Bring the uniforms your kids have outgrown and find the sizes you need—save money, build community, and keep the school spirit going! See you there!

- **Labeling:** Attach a piece of paper to each item using a safety pin, and clearly write the price on it.
- **Payment:** Cash is preferred. If a seller is willing to accept digital payments, they may do so using whichever platform they personally choose.





BAY AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# bronco weekly news

December 11, 2025



The Christmas Holidays will begin at noon on Friday, December 19. Students will return on Tuesday, January 6.

**NO  
EXTENDED  
CARE**

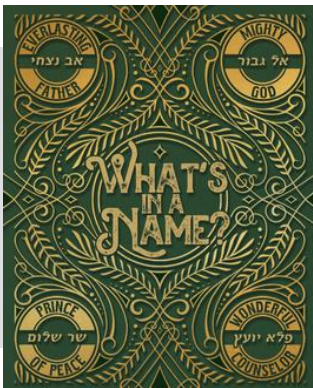
- Extended Care will not be available on Friday, December 19.
- Lunch will not be provided on December 19.

**ANNUAL  
FUND** 

Are you looking for an opportunity for end of year giving? We are collecting for our Annual Fund through December 31. Anyone can contribute by clicking [here](#). These funds help with security, tuition assistance, transportation and technology.



Are you planning to purchase anything from American Furniture Warehouse this holiday season? Please mention Bay Area Christian School at checkout. We will receive a percentage of your purchase. They do not have signs, so you must be proactive!



**bayarea**  
CHURCH

## Christmas Eve Services

- Tuesday, December 23 at 5:30 and 7:00
- Wednesday, December 24 at 1:30, 3:00 and 4:30

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

