

BOCA RATON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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 High School Principal

Wendy Stapleton, M.A.
 Dean of Students

Lori Riter
 High School Guidance

SCHOOL PROFILE 2009-2010

The School

Background and Mission

Boca Raton Christian School (BRCS) is committed to offering the highest caliber of college preparatory Christian education and academic excellence. Located in downtown Boca Raton, Florida, BRCS is a PreK3-12th grade independent school that was established in 1973 as a ministry of Boca Raton Community Church, an independent evangelical church.

The school's mission is to encourage students to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ and to provide for academic excellence. BRCS has developed a nurturing, family-oriented environment where each student is educated to his or her utmost potential. With a demanding academic climate and a commitment to serving the community, BRCS has an outstanding record in college placement, athletics, and the arts.

Accreditation

BRCS is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS), and the Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC).

Awards

In 2008, BRCS was awarded the 23rd Annual Admissions Advertising Award for its website. BRCS received a \$17,500 Best Buy Grant as part of a national competition in 2007, enabling the purchase of GPS devices, digital cameras, video projectors, and a document camera to enhance the school's geography instruction. In 2002, BRCS was selected as an Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Exemplary School for its use of technology in its educational programs. The school received a National Technology Grant in 2001 and is recognized as a Level II, Computer Learning Foundation Certified School. BRCS (K-8) received the National Blue Ribbon School Award from the U.S. Department of Education in 1990 and 1997.

Admission

BRCS seeks to be an extension of the Christian home. Students are considered for admission on the basis of the family's commitment to Christian education and the student's academic/conduct history and performance on standardized achievement tests. **Non-Discriminatory Statement:** BRCS admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration or its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Student Activities Program

Activities	Boys' Athletics	Girls' Athletics	Community Service
Fine Arts Night	Baseball	Basketball	9 th grade Orlando missions trip
Homecoming	Basketball	Cheerleading	10 th grade Tennessee missions trip
Ignite	Cross-country	Cross-country	11 th grade Arizona missions trip
Jazz Band	Golf	Golf	12 th grade Dominican Republic missions trip
Media Team	Soccer	Soccer	12 th grade Local Community Service Project
Musical Theater	Tackle Football	Softball	100 Community Service hours for graduation
National Honor Society	Tennis	Tennis	
Shine	Track & Field	Track & Field	
		Volleyball	

The Student Body

BRCS provides classes for students in PreK3 through grade 12. The average high school class size is 11 students. Total enrollment for the 2009/2010 school year is 560 students. The school community represents over 100 local churches. The student body ethnic makeup for the 2009/2010 school year is as follows: African American – 4.0%, Latino Hispanic – 20.0%, Asian American – 2.0%, other minorities – 4.0%, and Caucasian – 70.0%.

Faculty

BRCS has a caring, energetic, and diverse faculty. Administrators and teachers, kindergarten through high school, must have a bachelor's degree and obtain teacher certification. BRCS currently has fifty-two administrators and teachers with bachelor's degrees, seventeen with master's degrees, and two with doctorates; 41% of full time faculty have worked at Boca Christian for ten or more years, and 69% of full time faculty have worked in a Christian school for ten or more years. Several faculty members have been included in either Who's Who in American Education or Who's Who Among America's Teachers. In addition, the William Dwyer Excellence in Education Award given by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County has recognized two teachers as semifinalists. Other awards given to teachers include the Deaver Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, Target's teacher scholarship award, and the ACSI Secondary Teacher of the Year for the State of Florida.

Facilities

BRCS' facilities include a gymnasium, computer labs, middle and high school science labs, media center, art room, music room, band room, 500-seat chapel, 450-seat dining room, early childhood and elementary playgrounds, weight room, and a 3-in-1 athletic field: football, soccer, and baseball.

Grading Scale and Class Rank

The high school academic grading scale is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Grade Point Average Scale		
		HS-STD	HON*	AP or DUAL
A	90 - 100	4	4.5	5
B	80 - 89	3	3.375	3.75
C	70 - 79	2	2.25	2.5
D	60 - 69	1	1.125	1.25
F or WF	0 - 59	0	0	0

Weighted Courses - All honors courses are weighted as 1.125; all AP and dual enrollment courses are weighted as 1.25. (*Prior to the 2009/2010 school year, honors courses were weighted as 1.25.) BRCS does not provide class rank, as it would not be an accurate predictor of success in college due to the relatively small class sizes; however, the school does select a valedictorian and salutatorian based on the weighted GPA.

Testing

The College Board SAT averages for the students who pursued an advanced diploma in the graduating classes of 2004-2009 are as follows:

The critical reading average is 607. The math average is 654.

The College Board SAT averages for the graduating classes of 2004-2009 are as follows:

The critical reading average is 530. The math average is 521.

Note: These averages were compiled using the highest score for each student in the critical reading and math tests. All high school students have access to Petersen's Student Edge Online Software for PSAT, SAT, and ACT test preparation.

One student in the graduating class of 2009 was selected as a 2009 National Merit Scholarship finalist and scored a perfect 800 on the math section of the SAT. Seven of the 25 graduates in the class of 2009 were recipients of the Advanced Placement Scholar Award, and one student received the AP Scholar Award with Honors. Boca Christian students scored a "3" or higher on twenty-five of the twenty-seven AP tests administered in 2009. One student in the graduating class of 2007 scored a perfect 800 on the math section of the SAT, scored a perfect 36 on the science section of the ACT, and was a recipient of the Advanced Placement Scholar Award. One student in the graduating class of 2005 was selected as a 2005 National Merit Scholar as well as a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholarship Program. One student in the graduating class of 2003 was selected as a 2003 National Merit Scholarship Program finalist.

High School Curriculum

The high school curriculum offers three diplomas: standard, college preparatory, and advanced. The primary difference in the three diplomas lies in the amount of math, science, social studies, and foreign language required (see chart under Graduation Requirements for specific requirements). The college preparatory diploma requires foreign language credits. Because the advanced diploma is designed for students considering a more rigorous college program, physics or an AP science, pre-calculus, foreign language, a minimum of six honors courses, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 are required. Curriculum offerings for all of the diplomas may include dual enrollment with Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and/or Palm Beach Community College (PBCC). One credit is equivalent to 36 weeks of instruction with 49-minute periods daily.

Technology

Technology is a unique feature of the high school program. Teachers and students in grades 10-12 are issued a laptop computer, which is connected to a wireless network with Internet access. Students in grade 9 receive a flash drive and have access to desktop computers.

Graduation Requirements

	Advanced Diploma	College Prep Diploma	Standard Diploma
SUBJECT	CREDITS	CREDITS	CREDITS
Bible	4	4	4
English	4	4	4
Math	4	3*	3*
Science	4	4	3
Social Studies	4	4	3
Personal Fitness	0.5	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	0.5	0.5	0.5
Electives	1	1	5
Foreign Language	2	2	0
Composition	0.5	0.5	0.5
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5
Performing/Fine Arts	1	1	1
Computer Application	1	1	1
TOTAL	27	26	26
Community Service	100 hours (25 per year)	100 hours (25 per year)	100 hours (25 per year)
*Class of 2010 ONLY			

High School Course Offerings

BIBLE

Life of Christ
 Marriage and Family
 New Testament Survey
 Old Testament Survey
 Philosophy/Comparative Worldview
 Philosophy Honors¹
 Practical Ministry/Discipleship

LANGUAGE ARTS

AP English Language & Composition
 AP English Literature & Composition
 American Literature
 American Literature Honors
 British Literature
 British Literature Honors
 Composition
 World Literature I
 World Literature I Honors
 World Literature II
 World Literature II Honors
 Yearbook

MATHEMATICS

AP Calculus AB
 Algebra I
 Algebra I Honors
 Algebra IA
 Algebra IB
 Algebra II
 Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors
 Business Math
 Geometry
 Geometry Honors
 Pre-Calculus Honors
 Statistics

SCIENCE

AP Biology
 AP Chemistry
 Biology
 Biology Honors
 Chemistry
 Chemistry Honors
 Earth/Space Science
 Earth/Space Science Honors
 Ecology
 Environmental Science
 Marine Science²
 Physics
 Physics Honors

SOCIAL STUDIES

AP European History
 AP Psychology
 AP World History
 American Government
 American Government Honors
 American History
 American History Honors
 Business Law
 Economics
 Economics Honors
 World History
 World History Honors

TECHNOLOGY

Business Systems and Technology²
 Computer Applications I
 Computer Applications II
 Computer Programming BASIC I²
 Robotics
 Video Game Design

PERFORMING/FINE ARTS

AP Music Theory
 Art I, II
 Art Appreciation
 Band
 Chorus
 Debate
 Drama
 Music Theory
 Speech/Public Speaking

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health Opportunities through
 Physical Education (HOPE)
 Individual and Dual Sports
 Marching Band P.E. Waiver
 Personal Fitness
 Physical Education
 Sports P.E. Waiver
 Weight Training

LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Contemporary Living
 Health

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French I
 French II
 French III
 French IV
 Latin I²
 Latin II²
 Spanish I
 Spanish II
 Spanish III

¹ Dual enrollment option is offered for Philosophy through Bryan College.

² Florida Virtual School (online) courses

Note: Dual enrollment courses are available in cooperation with FAU and PBCC upon approval by guidance department.

College Acceptance

Of the graduates of the class of 2009, 71% attend a four-year college and 17% attend a two-year college. Students of the BRCS graduating classes of 2003-2009 were accepted to the following colleges and universities: Auburn University (including Honors Program), Aurora University, Aveda Institute, Azusa Pacific University, Baylor University, Belhaven College, Belmont University, Biola University, Broward Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Central Florida Community College, Clemson University, Columbia College, Concordia College, Covenant College, Embry Riddle University, Florida Atlantic University (including Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College), Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida State University (including Honors Program), Fort Lewis College, Gardner-Webb University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Jacksonville University, Johnson & Wales University, Lambuth University, Liberty University, Louisiana State University, Lynn University, Mississippi State University, Moody Bible Institute, North Carolina State University, Nova Southeastern University, Oxford College, Palm Beach Atlantic University (including Honors Program), Palm Beach Community College, Purdue University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rollins College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Southeastern University, Spring Hill College, Stetson University, Tallahassee Community College, Taylor University, Tulane University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida (including Honors Program), University of Hartford, University of Louisville, University of Miami, University of Mobile, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of North Florida, University of South Florida (including Honors Program), University of South Florida-St. Petersburg, Valencia Community College, Virginia Intermont College, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Wheaton College, and Wittenberg University.

Leadership Team

Joni Blankenship Wiersum, Director of Fine Arts; **Virginia Braga**, Early Childhood Supervisor; **Greg Calder**, Chaplain; **Clint Erickson**, Assistant Middle School Supervisor; **Bill Harper**, Athletic Director; **William D. Hood II**, Director of Development; **Carolyn Johnson**, Academic Dean; **Kim Luick**, Grades K-2 Supervisor; **June Nilsen, Ed.D.**, Director of Technology/Master Teacher; **Eileen Travasos**, Admissions Director; **Len Visser**, Middle School Supervisor; **Ruth Weil**, Grades 3-5 Supervisor; **Beverly Zielske**, Student Services Supervisor