



# Benilde-St. Margaret's

A Catholic, college-preparatory school, grades 7 - 12

## BSM CULTURE FAQs

Whether you're a new or experienced member of the BSM community, you may have some questions about the traditions and routines that inject school spirit, enthusiasm and togetherness into life at BSM. We've addressed a few of the frequently asked questions here.

For more information, don't hesitate to browse the BSM website. Students, your representative on student council or teachers are good sources of information. Parents, please become familiar with the website, watch for e-mails, read Knightly News and be in touch with the Parent Association. Look for this document on the website in the About BSM section. If you wish, send us an email, [marcomm@BSMschool.org](mailto:marcomm@BSMschool.org), or give us a call, (952) 767-0643.

### **What is the dress code at BSM?**

Dress code in the junior high and senior high are snow the same, be sure to be familiar with the appropriate dress code. There is also a special dress code for all-school liturgy days. For detailed information about dress code, visit the student section of the website.

### **I've read the dress code policy, but what do kids actually wear?**

Students wear jeans, shorts, khakis, skirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts and a variety of athletic attire – BSM spirit wear. On all-school mass days, students dress up. Girls often wear casual dresses or skirts, and guys wear shirts with collars, khakis or nice jeans.

### **Do kids really participate in athletics and activities?**

Ninety-seven percent of students participate in athletics and/or activities; many kids are in more than one. If you go to BSM, try something new. Be involved. Do not be afraid to switch it up and participate in something you've never done before. It is rare for a Red Knight not to be highly involved. For more information, visit the athletics and activities pages of the website.

## **What is this Common Basket? Do I have to give money? Can't I just ask my mom or dad for money?**

BSM has implemented a new way to look at philanthropy. A program called the Common Basket is a well-rounded approach to giving, emphasizing a balance of sharing time, talent and treasure. During the school's opening mass, Fr. Tim Wozniak blesses the baskets, using a blessing written by campus minister Becca Meagher. All of those present symbolically place into baskets their talents that they offer to the school community. Then, beginning with Homecoming mass, and at all the other all-school masses, baskets are passed again, this time for financial offerings to support specific philanthropic endeavors.

No one is required to give anything. Common Basket is an opportunity for STUDENTS to learn about giving their treasure, along with their time and talent, just as they are taught in many of their classes.

The Common Basket is a student effort, and students offer this optional contribution given from their heart. Parents may feel moved to offer a donation, but we encourage them to let students save their candy, pop, or clothes money to donate to the Common Basket and not rely on their parents for money. Visit the Common Basket section of the site under "Faith".

## **What are the junior high social events?**

The junior high hosts three parties during the school year – fall, winter and spring. These events are often thematic, and they are planned and organized by the junior high student council members. The parties are very well attended by both seventh and eighth graders. Junior high students also participate in some all-school events and spirit days, for example, during homecoming week and Catholic Schools Week.

## **What are the senior high school dances, who goes and what are they like?**

Homecoming: 9th-12th grade, semi-formal dance. Most students go in groups with their friends. You do NOT need a date. Many students borrow dresses, shirts and ties or even go to a consignment shop to get clothes. Students do not spend a lot of money on this dance and spending a lot of money is very much discouraged. Most students drive by themselves if they have a license or get dropped off by their parents. *Party busses and limos are NOT necessary and are DISCOURAGED* because of the inappropriate activity that transpires in this type of transportation. After-parties are discouraged and unnecessary. Let the dance be the event.

Holiday Ball: 10th-12th grade dance. No underclassmen are allowed, no exceptions. This is a semi-formal dance, off-site, with a meal. Most students drive by themselves if they have a license or get dropped off by their parents. *Party busses and limos are NOT necessary and are DISCOURAGED* because of the inappropriate activity that transpires

in this type of transportation. After-parties are discouraged and unnecessary. Let the dance be the event.

Prom: 11th-12th grade dance. This is a formal dance, off-site, with a meal. Students typically begin the Prom festivities with pictures; these are often group events that are done at homes or one of the many lakes around town. At 6 p.m., the official beginning of prom happens at school with a Grand March (free of charge) in the school theatre. Couples' names are called and they are introduced to the audience of parents, family and friends. Immediately following the Grand March, students are bussed to the site where they have dinner and the dance. Students are required to go via the school-provided transportation and may not leave the dance. Parents, you do not have to host or allow your child to attend an after-party. Let the dance be the event. If your child does participate in an after-party, be sure it is well supervised and drug and alcohol free.

### **When are the special “weeks” that include unusual activities?**

Homecoming Week: Homecoming usually takes place in September. During this week, the school celebrates its graduates by inviting alumni back for a number of varsity sporting events, including cross-country, football, soccer and volleyball. Students also participate in fun festivities that include class competition decorations on campus, school spirit dress-up days, and special events in the evenings. The homecoming football game and dance are the culmination of the week. The student council plans and organizes the special events for the week.

Catholic Schools Week: At the end of January, BSM celebrates its Catholic identity with a week of special events. Dress-up days, lunch specials, treats throughout the week, and spirited celebrations to begin and end the week make this week stand apart.

March Madness Week: As the long winter drags out, and fun sporting events spring into action, BSM's student council plans for fun. Decorations, dress-up days and special events take place throughout the week. A pep fest closes out the week.

### **I hear a lot about “service” at BSM; what are all the service opportunities?**

Red Knight Volunteer Corps (RKVC): RKVC is a very popular student club in the junior high and senior high. Students sign up to participate in service events around the Twin Cities. Find out more by visiting the RKVC page under activities.

Presidential Service Award: The President of the United States offers a service award for those students who complete a certain number of service hours in a calendar year. Junior high and senior high students are eligible, with junior high students needing 50 or more hours and senior high students needing 100 or more hours. Application forms are made available in the spring each year. Students need to provide documentation for their service. Awards are announced at the end of the year.

Servant Leadership: Living as disciples of Jesus, members of our community strive to embody what Jesus taught and how he lived through a specific style of leadership called Servant Leadership. Serving others first was central to Jesus' message and ministry. "...just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28) The servant model, established by Jesus, was popularized and secularized in the 20th century by Robert Greenleaf, who coined the phrase "servant leadership." Someone who has a natural feeling to want to serve and then makes a conscious choice to lead represents the concept of servant leadership. BSM is proud to highlight people who embody the mission of Jesus through their leadership. Get more information from our website.

Link Crew: Link Crew is an orientation program, led by dozens of selected juniors and seniors who mentor groups of freshmen students. A full day of activities kicks off Link Crew for new students just before the start of the school year; then, the program runs throughout the school year. Learn about Link Crew from our website under activities.

WEB: WEB stands for Where Everyone Belongs. It is an orientation program, led by selected 8th graders who mentor groups of 7th graders and new 8th grade students. A morning of activities kicks off WEB for new students on the first day of the school year. The program runs throughout the year to help students develop a sense of belonging, community, and academic success. Visit the WEB page under activities.

**Contact Information:**

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Website: BSMschool.org

**Quick Directory:**

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Admissions             | (952) 915-4344 |
| Athletics              | (952) 915-4346 |
| Senior High Attendance | (952) 927-4177 |
| Junior High Attendance | (952) 915-4356 |