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Bach in background!



Aric Angert, left, and Emma Slaughenhoup are shown in March in a Butler County Community College speech class at Karns City Area Junior-Senior High School. "I wanted to have a small-class speech experience," Angert said. Added Slaughenhoup: "I knew I would be more comfortable around people I knew." Each plans to enroll at BC3.

Music strikes right chord during speech course

Outside Karns City Area Junior-Senior High School on this March evening is the sound of bats striking softballs as students prepare for the season.

Inside Room 309 is the sound of bows sawing strings as students prepare for a Butler County Community College speech course.

Contrabasses, cellos and violins in an online Johann Sebastian Bach symphony play quietly from a speaker as juniors and seniors riffle through notebooks and click pen tops before their weekly after-school course.

"Conducive to learning is the way I put it," Matt Bates, a Karns City High teacher, said of the classical music he plays while instructing BC3's course.

"It helps to set the tone for what we are going to learn about," senior Amber Maurer said.



Abby Callihan listens to teacher Matt Bates in March during a Butler County Community College speech class at Karns City Area Junior-Senior High School.

See Bach! Page 2

Music strikes right chord

Bach! From Page 1

“It makes me feel calm, especially if we have presentations that day,” senior Emma Rumbaugh said.

The five seniors and five juniors will have given seven speeches in Bates’ 15-week BC3 course. An autobiographical speech, a demonstrative speech, an oratory speech, a today’s issues speech, an oral interpretation and, before a final speech, an impromptu speech in which “I pull topics out of a hat,” Bates said, “and they have a one-minute prep time.”

BC3’s College Within the High School course at Karns City is one of 51 held this spring in 17 high schools or learning centers in seven western Pennsylvania counties.

It is one of four held this spring after school hours.

“We are dedicated”

Maurer ends her seven-hour Karns City school day at 2:34 p.m. Track practice begins at 3. Her BC3 College Within the High School course starts at 5. Ends at 8.

“It does show that we are dedicated because lots of us are involved in extra-curriculars such as track or softball,” Maurer said. “It shows that we are dedicated to learning outside of (high) school and advancing our knowledge.”

“We want to learn a little bit more,” Rumbaugh said. “The speech class will be beneficial for us all in our future.”

BC3’s program provides an



Amber Maurer, left, and Emma Rumbaugh listen to teacher Matt Bates in during a Butler County Community College speech class at Karns City Area Junior-Senior High School. Each plans to enroll at BC3.

opportunity for high school sophomores through seniors to earn affordable college credits transferrable to public, private or online colleges and universities.

Maurer and Rumbaugh are among five students in the BC3 speech course at Karns City who plan to enroll at BC3.

“I am going to BC3 for criminology. Speech is a mandatory class,” Rumbaugh said. “I figured I would take it now. Presenting is easier when you know your peers.”

Among objectives in Bates’ BC3 speech class are for students to be able to give effective oral presentations to groups in a public address format, and to be able to analyze and critique speeches.

See Bach! Page 5

Why Take BC3’s Speech Course?

Karns City Area Junior-Senior High students this spring are taking speech through BC3’s College Within the High School program. Here’s why:



“I plan to go into nursing, so this will help develop my bedside manner.”

Julia Andreassi



“I have always been nervous and shaky when going up to present. I wanted to change that.”

Paige Dodd



“I will be able to sound more professional while I speak.”

Emma Dailey



“I wanted the class to improve my confidence.”

Emma Slaughoup

“These are things we should look into”



Butler Area Senior High School seniors Kaitlyn Campbell, left, and Josephine Welty review Armstrong Credit Union information during a financial literacy course on Butler County Community College’s main campus in March. Campbell and Welty are among nearly 40 Early College Pioneers.

Financial literacy course to pay off for seniors!

The average debt for Generation Z in the United States – those ages 18 to 23, according to a cnbc.com report in October – is just over \$16,000, and for their immediate elders, the millennials, almost \$87,500.

A Butler County Community College financial literacy course stresses the importance of budgeting, saving, investing and comparing career choices to financial decisions.

Nearly 40 Butler Area Senior High School seniors this spring are taking BC3’s financial literacy course on BC3’s main campus as part of an

inaugural Early College Pioneers program that debuted in August.

“I had no idea what this class was,” Early College Pioneer Delaney Dunmire said. “We were all kind of looking the class up. ‘What is this?’ We had never heard of it before.”

Financial literacy is important because high school students are preparing for their future, said Julianne Louttit, BC3’s director of financial aid. Louttit and Sherri Mack, BC3’s interim dean of business, instruct the one-credit financial literacy course to the Early College Pioneers on Friday mornings.

See Pay! Page 6

Top 10 Reasons to Pick BC3!



10 70 percent of BC3’s Class of 2021 graduated debt-free!

The BC3 Education

9 Foundation **awards** more than **\$200,000** in scholarships annually.

8 BC3 has **partners!** Concordia Lutheran Ministries is sponsoring a Tuition Assistance Program that allows BC3 nursing students to complete their program **tuition-free** and provides a **secure position** with Concordia after graduation.

7 BC3’s credits **transfer** to four-year colleges and universities.

6 BC3 has **15-, 10- and 5-week** sessions.

5 BC3’s **salary-to-cost ratio**, a measurement of graduates’ salaries 10 years after commencement for every dollar a student pays to attend the institution, was the **highest** in the region, according to the U.S. Department of Education in 2018.

4 BC3 has an **11:1** student-to-faculty ratio!

3 BC3 offers **35** career programs, **19** transfer programs and **24** certificates or work-place certificates.

2 BC3 has **metrology!** Metrology is the science of precision measurement. BC3 graduates have been **hired** by private industry, governmental contractors and governmental agencies, including NASA!



1 BC3 has been ranked as the **No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania** six times since 2015.

Spring 2022 College Within the High School Classes

Armstrong County

- **Lenape Technical School**
American National Government,
General Psychology

Butler County

- **Butler Area Senior High**
General Psychology, Research Writing,
Technical Math
- **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School**
Load Calculations
- **Early College Pioneers: Butler Area Senior High**
Financial Literacy, Microeconomics,
Research Writing
- **Karns City High**
Speech
- **Mars Area High**
American National Government, Business Law, Business Math, Elementary Statistics, General Psychology, Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Productivity Applications, Speech
- **Portersville Christian School**
Introduction to World Religions,
Research Writing, Speech
- **Seneca Valley High**
College Writing, Introduction to Philosophy, Principles of Sociology, Speech
- **Summit Academy**
Contemporary World History, General Psychology

Clarion County

- **Keystone Junior-Senior High**
Principles of Sociology

Clearfield County

- **DuBois Central Catholic**
Research Writing

Jefferson County

- **Brockway Area Junior-Senior High**
General Psychology,
Research Writing

Lawrence County

- **Lawrence County Career & Tech**
Contemporary World History,
Intermediate Algebra
- **Lincoln High**
General Psychology
- **Mohawk High**
College Writing

Mercer County

- **Farrell Area High**
Principles of Sociology
- **Reynolds Junior-Senior High**
World Geography

Corporate Donors' Gifts Benefit High School Students!

BC3's College Within the High School program thanks the generous corporate donors for their support of public schools through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Those who contributed through EITC gifts:

- Baglier Buick Mazda GMC, Butler
- Brayman Construction, Saxonburg
- Buncher Co., Pittsburgh
- Farmers National Bank of Emlenton
- First National Bank, FNB, Hermitage
- Guardian Elder Care, Brockway

- Maher Duessel, Pittsburgh
- Mercer County State Bank, Grove City
- NexTier Bank, Butler

The BC3 Education Foundation is approved by the Commonwealth as an Innovative Education Program under EITC guidelines.

If you are interested in supporting BC3's College Within the High School program, email Megan Coval, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation, at megan.coval@bc3.edu.



Contact BC3!

High School Programming

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BC3 Main Campus

BC3 Main Campus 724-287-8711
BC3 Toll-Free 888-826-2829
BC3 Extensions
Dial 724-287-8711, then
Admissions Ext. 8501
BC3 Bookstore Ext. 8503
Records & Registration Ext. 8510
Continuing Education Ext. 8246

Additional Locations

BC3 @
Armstrong 724-902-7452
Cranberry 724-772-5520
Lawrence Crossing 724-658-1938
LindenPointe 724-346-2073
Brockway 814-265-1810

Visit BC3!



Music strikes right chord

Bach! From Page 2

“These skills are very practical,” said Maurer, who plans to study engineering at BC3, “and will help me throughout my entire life.”

BC3’s 23-year-old program this spring enrolls more than 400 students for the sixth consecutive semester, according to Erin Cioffi, the college’s assistant director of high school programming.

“The students are talking to their peers about the advantages of taking a college class while in high school,” Cioffi said.

“We are communicating with the schools about the advantages, and they are passing along the information because, as we know, it saves the students time and money in the long run to

take a class while they are in high school and get a unique experience.”

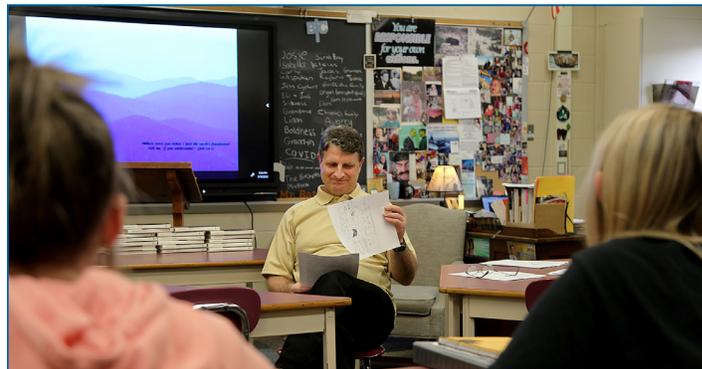
Tuition and fees this spring for a three-credit BC3 College Within the High School course range from \$390 to \$414, depending on the county in which the high school is located.

“Irresistible,” Bates said.

Tuition and fees in the 2021-2022 academic year for a three-credit course at five regional Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education universities ranged from \$1,311.69 to \$1,398.60 for part-time, in-state residents.

Tuition and fees in the 2021-2022 academic year for a three-credit course at state-related institutions’ regional branch campuses ranged from \$1,516 to \$1,839 for part-time, in-state residents.

“Not only is (BC3’s speech



Teacher Matt Bates is shown in March during a Butler County Community College speech class at Karns City Area Junior-Senior High School.

class) less expensive, but it allows me to prepare myself for when I actually become a full-time college student,” said Taylor Miller, who plans enroll at BC3 this fall and hopes to become a biology teacher.

BC3’s College Within the High School program is designed for college-bound high school students who have demonstrated a strong academic performance by the end of their freshman year. Sophomores must have a 3.25 grade-point average, juniors a 3.0 and seniors a

2.75 to be eligible for BC3’s program.

The courses use the same syllabus and instructional materials as do the same courses taught at a BC3 location.

“It creates opportunities I might not otherwise have had as a junior in high school,” Miller said. “I want to challenge myself now.”

Which is music to Bates’ ears.

“These are the kids,” Bates said, “who are making plans for their future.”

Early College Pioneers set for Lawrence County!

Butler County Community College this fall will launch an Early College Pioneers program available to eligible high school sophomores through seniors in Lawrence County.

Students can attend live-remote courses from their high school computer lab. General psychology and college writing are transferrable three-credit courses offered this fall to Lawrence County Early College Pioneers. BC3 instructors teach the courses.

Tuition and fees for each course are expected to cost \$414. The BC3 Education Foundation will pay for textbooks and materials for each course.

Visit bc3.edu/ecp for more information.

MEDIA PREFS WEEK ONE WINNER

Addison Steighner

Mars Area High School
BC3 College Within the High Student

Tell us which online platform you love and you could win a \$50 Amazon gift card!

VISIT: mediaprefs.com/pennsylvania
CODE: pennsylvania **Through April 10**

Register now for Fall 2022!

Class registration for current students and for new students is under way.

To register

Contact Erin Cioffi, Assistant Director of High School Programming. 724-287-8711 Ext. 8254, or erin.cioffi@bc3.edu.

Teens learn financial literacy

Pay! From Page 3

“A key piece of the course is understanding student loans,” Louttit said, “and financial aid at all types of colleges.”

U.S. millennials, those ages 24 to 40, according to cnbc.com in October, owe an average of \$39,000 on student loans. That’s about half of their nearly \$87,500 average debt.

High school students need to understand the return on investment of their career choice against the student-loan debt they can accrue, Louttit said.

“With a four-year degree in some fields, you may be starting at a salary of around \$50,000,” Louttit said. “There are all kinds of tools and resources to review based on different careers. Does it make sense to have \$80,000 in student-loan debt when you are going to start at a salary of \$50,000 and when that four-year degree can be made more affordable by starting at a community college, then transferring?”

“It’s not that I try to scare them. But they do need to see the reality.”

Student-loan debt “detrimental”

The average student-loan debt for Pennsylvania’s Class of 2019 was \$38,521, according to an April 2021 report in LendEDU, a website that provides comparisons for loans, credit cards and other financial products.

“It definitely prolongs their ability to move out on their own,” Louttit said. “Some students are coming back home from college and it’s not affordable to get out there and live because of that student-loan payment.”

Seventy percent of BC3’s Class of 2021 graduated debt-free.

Student-loan debt, Early College Pioneer Madison Weiland said, “is detrimental. It’s really bad. That’s why I’m going to BC3. It would be stupid not to take your general credits here, and then transfer. Some of the teachers that we have had here also teach (at a regional



Early College Pioneers are shown on Butler County Community College’s main campus in March. From left, Darby Miller, Payge Kirmeyer and Madison Weiland. Each plans to enroll at BC3.

private institution). It’s the same class, but different prices.”

In addition to student-loan debt and comparing career choices to financial decisions, Early College Pioneers in BC3’s financial literacy course have learned about, among other topics, accrued interest, automobile loans, credit cards, mortgages and scholarships.

Understand “the commitment”

Tony Shakely earned an associate degree from BC3 and a bachelor’s degree from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. He is a commercial loan officer at Armco Credit Union.

The board chair of the BC3 Education Foundation discussed financial literacy with Early College Pioneers in March.

“I think it is important that the student understand completely the obligation that they are tying themselves into with a student loan,” Shakely said. “It’s very easy in high school to talk about going to college and all these grand plans. It’s another thing to sit down and calculate what those monthly payments are going to be for 10, 20 or even 30 years beyond graduating.

“I don’t think for most kids they understand the commitment that is going to be involved.”

Dunmire does. Payge Kirmeyer does.

Darby Miller does.

“Most of the people who I have talked to who have gone to college actually go to BC3,” said Dunmire, who plans to enroll at BC3 this fall. “They know that college debt can be bad ... and they are glad that they went here.”

BC3 tops in salary-to-cost ratio

Early College Pioneers Kirmeyer and Miller also plan to enroll at BC3.

“The less debt I have from BC3, one, I can pay it off more quickly and two, whenever I go to move out, I don’t have debt blocking me from being able to get a house or a different car or another loan,” Kirmeyer said.

“My brothers are both in college, so I know how the interest (on student loans) can add up,” Miller said. “Financial aid does help, but there is still a lot of debt.”

BC3 had the highest ratio of graduates’ salaries 10 years after commencement for every dollar a student pays to attend BC3, besting ratios at 41 other Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio colleges and universities whose U.S. Department of Education information was analyzed in 2018 by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Dunmire and her classmates now understand the financial literacy course, she said.

“We’re coming up on college very soon,” Dunmire said. “It’s right around the corner. So all of these things that we haven’t gotten the preparation for, we’re finally getting. We’re learning how we are going to have to take care of these loans. How we are going to help prepare for them. How we should save for them. These are things we should look into. Instead of going straight to a big university, try a community college to help with those costs.”

Butler High Early College Pioneers can earn 14 free college credits in a program supported by the Butler Area School District, the BC3 Education Foundation and the Benedum Foundation.