



Dear Parent & Student:

The Bethlehem Central Lab School is a small, rigorous high school program that is open to all district students in grades 9-12. Lab School is located within the larger high school, with students attending most of their classes together, in the E wing of BCBS.

Most Lab School students enroll in the program in grade 9 and this decision is usually made by students and families in the spring of the eighth-grade year. This brochure is intended to provide a brief overview of Lab School for interested students and families.

Founded in 1992, Lab School is an innovative program for students who would like to experience high school a little differently. Classes are smaller, students have the same teachers for core subjects all four years, and learning combines the regular Regents-level curriculum with opportunities to explore subjects in depth and up close with educational trips, research projects, and Lab School retreats that provide a "living classroom" with hands-on learning and team building.

Though Lab School has less than 100 students, these students represent the same diverse student body as in the larger high school: unique interests, individual learning styles and abilities, and different socio-economic backgrounds.

Lab School is committed to providing an intellectual and personal challenge for each student. The small-school learning atmosphere allows students, teachers and families to build a strong rapport and provides greater opportunity for teachers to tailor programs to meet the needs and styles of the individual student. Students work toward mastery level understanding of core subjects and teachers can provide students who need it extra time or extra help to master concepts. Personal growth and academic success are equally important for Lab School students.

Students who thrive in a smaller setting are encouraged to learn more about Lab School at Bethlehem Central High School.

Sincerely,

David Lendrum, Lab School Coordinator & Teacher



## What Lab School alumni have to say...

### Andrew Acquaviva, BC Class of 2008

B.S. Mathematics, LeMoyne College  
M.S. Acoustics, Penn State University

Based in Washington DC and working as an acoustician, Andrew uses his expertise in the physics of sound to advise architects and designers on noise control practices and products that make buildings "sound good."



"I frequently feel like the most prepared person in the room. That foundation ties directly back to the quality of education I received in Lab School. It gave me valuable practice at crafting an argument, communicating with elegance and eloquence, and managing my own role in a larger team atmosphere."

### Mary Greagan, BC Class of 2014

B.T. Wildlife Management, SUNY Cobleskill



Mary is a graduate student at UAlbany, working on a master's degree in biodiversity, conservation and policy. She works for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on invasive species prevention and education.

"I am very grateful to my Lab School teachers for helping me gain such a strong skill set and helping me get my foot in the door for so many possibilities in my career today. If I could go back, I'd do it all again in a heartbeat."

## From the BCBS Counseling Center...

### Scott Carlton, BCBS School Counselor

"Lab School students have always done exceedingly well with the college admissions process. Colleges have been very receptive to the alternative nature of the program used in the Lab School setting. Many Lab School students are able to enrich their program of study by taking honors-designated Lab School courses.

"Lab School students have been accepted to hundreds of highly competitive colleges across the country with many students having multiple options each year."



Get to know

# Lab School



# Lab School Highlights

**1,289**  
hours of volunteer work  
by students in 2018-19

Less than  
**100** students total

Lab School chartered in  
**1992**

**6** research papers

**10** Lab School teachers

**175** internship hours for all students

**125** college acceptances in the last three years

**\$2 million** in college scholarships offered to Lab School students each year

**15** hours of community service required each year

**22** credits needed to graduate

**6** average number of Lab School trips/retreats per year



# Bethlehem

[www.bethlehemschools.org](http://www.bethlehemschools.org)



## What is LAB SCHOOL at BCHS?



### Making a large school feel small

- A "small school" feeling within the walls of BCHS gives students who might otherwise feel overwhelmed the ability to experience high school in a different way.
- Unlike the larger high school, there is looping of teachers in Lab School. Core subject teachers follow the same group of students all four years.
- The size of the program allows faculty and students to have more active modes of learning.
- Lab School students represent the same wide array of interests, learning styles and abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds of all students at BCHS.
- All electives, world languages, physical education and lunch periods take place within the larger high school. Lab School students participate in all clubs, music organizations, sports teams, theater groups and other activities offered at BCHS.



### Lab School is community

- Having most of their core classes together, BC Lab School students get to know one another well and are often a tight-knit, supportive group who are proud to be part of Lab School.
- Lab School teachers are equally proud to work as a team inside and outside the classroom to foster success and growth in their students.
- Lab School students are engaged in community-centered activities and regularly perform community service.
- Parents are partners in the Lab School experience. Community meetings, a book club, and an annual barbeque are just a few of the way parents are involved.



### Research skills that build confidence

- Lab School students are required to complete six research projects during their four years of high school, including a senior research project and presentation.
- Every year, Lab School students are engaged in research, in-depth written and oral presentations and interdisciplinary projects.



### Deeper understanding of the curriculum

- Lab School students have challenging core coursework and graduate with Regents diplomas.
- Mastery learning is one of the most important aspects of Lab School. Students are expected to reach a mastery level understanding of the core academic subjects.
- In the smaller classroom setting, teachers are able to tailor learning for students. Lab School students are also given opportunities for remediation so they gain deeper understanding of the material as they work toward the mastery level.



### Educational trips & special events

- Lab School students visit historical sites throughout the U.S. and take part in two retreats each year with Lab School faculty that include workshops, presentations, team building and hands-on learning.
- Press Club at Lab School is a speaker series with guest lecturers who have included award-winning journalists, experts in science and the humanities, and many more.



### Students uniquely prepared for college

- Lab School students have college applications that stand out. Internships, research projects, honors courses — in STEM, humanities and research — as well as four years of community service enrich the high school transcripts of Lab School students.

