

Education in Bernalillo (1581-present)

- 1581 Franciscan Friars accompanying Onate expedition establish the first schools along the Rio Grande in 1599. Reports indicate that Father Rodriguez and a colleague deliver instruction as early as 1581 in Bernalillo.
- 1872 (October) Wealthy landowner Don Jose Leandro Perea contacts Brother Botulph at St. Michael's College in Santa Fe to send Christian Brothers to open a school in Bernalillo.
- 1872 (December 3) Botulph and 3 brothers arrive in Bernalillo. They use a room in Perea's house, call the school "St. Nicholas School".
- 1875 (June 1) Brothers, and later, Sisters of Loretto, move into newly constructed building. Families expected to provide 200 adobe bricks each and labor in order to build structure. Sisters of Loretto had taught in a parochial capacity in Bernalillo since 1875.
- 1881 (July 31) Archbishop sells property to the Christian Brothers where the school is located. Fathers Hayes purchased the land prior that was deeded initially to the Archbishop.
- 1891 At the request of New Mexico's first superintendent of public instruction, Catholic schools become public. St. Nicholas School turned over to Sandoval County in order for County funds to be used for operating the school. Schools in Bernalillo, Cuba, and Pena Blanca now called "Sandoval County Schools". St. Nicholas School uses Territorial (State) public education funding to establish and operate schools. Christian Brothers remain as primary teachers in County schools.
- 1908-1910 Sisters of Loretto open an all-girl Catholic school in Bernalillo. Two schools now exist- one for boys (St. Nicolas School), one for girls (Sisters of Loretto School). Pueblo girls attend the Loretto school for the first time in 1912.
- 1936 Sisters of Loretto School closes. All students now attend St. Nicholas School/Sandoval County Schools.
- 1948 Dixon Case prevents the Christian Brothers and Loretto Sisters from teaching in public schools. Christian Brothers leave Bernalillo. Loretto Sisters remain teaching in Bernalillo, but only at newly established Our Lady of Sorrows School.
- 1949 Bernalillo High School established.
- 1952 First Bernalillo High School graduating class. Our Lady of Sorrows High School and Bernalillo High School enjoy cross-town rivalry, especially in baseball and basketball.
- 1965 Our Lady of Sorrows closes. All students now attend Bernalillo High School.
- 1985 Bernalillo High School moved from current Middle School location (Calle Don Tomas) to permanent location in north Bernalillo. Prior, the "Complex" (round) building was used to bus students from Bernalillo High School to vocational classes. The first buildings, which were used as Bernalillo Middle School were A, B, C and the cafeteria/gym. Science building built in late 1980s, and D building was built in 1990-1991. Richard Joseph Kloeppel Gymnasium completed in 1985. Was built as a "Mini-Pit" that was constructed half-underground, half-above-ground. Annex building (owned by Catholic Church) used to house middle school classes during transition.
- 2000-2001 Major renovation to buildings A, B, C and Career Academy (Complex) completed.
- 2015-2016 Phase I of new Bernalillo High School completed including BHS Gym remodel. A, B, C, D, and Science buildings demolished in order to begin Phase II. BHS Phase II STEM Academy and food court completed 2015-2016. Career Academy (Complex) demolished.