



Visual & Performing Arts



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Visual Arts: The open studio environment in which the visual arts are taught at Christian Brothers develops our students' abilities to synthesize and collaborate. The visual arts program includes courses both for those who may never have considered themselves to be artistic and those students who feel art is their reason for being. For those seeking a career in the arts, our four year art program offers the opportunity for independent study or the building of a professional caliber portfolio.

Christian Brothers Art Students consistently receive top honors at local, state and national competitions. Among the many exhibit opportunities each year, our students' work can be seen in the 20th Street Art Gallery High School Self-Portrait Show, the Crocker Art Museum, the La Salle Art Exhibit, and the California State Fair. There are also several display areas on campus where students are showcased continually for their peers, teachers and visitors alike.

Visual Art students are also exposed to the basics of business etiquette in art and are encouraged to price and sell their work at local galleries. Many of our graduates go on to pursue the visual arts in college and enjoy successful careers in the Arts.

Technology and Media Arts: Brothers Falcon Television (KBFT) which has been ranked as the #1 high school news broadcast in the United States, was founded in 2002 by Br. Roch Dufresne, and 24 students eager to learn the craft of television. What has developed is the KBFT Morning News — a closed circuit program viewed by students and staff as well as a growing web audience, three times a week. This ten-minute program includes school announcements, real world news, entertainment news, sports, and more.

In the DLS Studios upper division students can take Audio Engineering and Production where they learn how to record, mix and produce CD's. This class is excellent for student musicians wishing to build an audio portfolio or demo for solo or band acts.

In Senior Video Production students learn storyboard editing, script writing, filming and editing culminating in a senior class production available to their class at

year end. Students are encouraged to enter short works into film competitions. Recently, students won first place for their public service announcement at the "Tower of Youth" Teen

Theatre: Theatrical events during the school year include a full-length play presented in the fall, student directed / written one-acts and duets presented in the winter and a Broadway style musical production in the spring.

In addition, students participate in one-act, monologues and duets competitions at the Lenaea Festival at California State University. They also may audition to perform at the annual Christian Brothers Variety Talent Show and the Open Mic Nights that showcase bands, songs, drama, comedy, poetry and fine art four times a year.

The California Musical Theatre Outreach Program assists the Christian Brothers Theatre department by providing guest speakers, costumes, props and access to Broadway Series productions and their crews. Students also have internship opportunities at the Music Circus during the summer.

In 2005, this unique partnership between the school and the local arts community was augmented with a two-week sold-out engagement of the school Spring Musical, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at the historic Guild Theatre on 35th and Broadway. This historic theatre at 35th and Broadway in Oak Park was made available to the school by the St. Hope Academy which renovated the theatre.

At Christian Brothers we believe that partnering with such organizations as the California Musical Theatre and St. Hope Academy effectively utilizes resources and increases our students' awareness of the contribution the arts make to a community's vitality.

Choral: The six choral ensembles at Christian Brothers High School — Men's Chorus, Women's Choir, Select Women's Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Honors Chorale and de la femme — perform at numerous events both on campus and in the surrounding community. These community events include:

- The Women's Choir performance at the inauguration of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

- The Vocal Jazz Ensemble's performance at the Robert & Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts as part of the 2005 Sacramento Jamnites.

- The Honors Chorale's performances at the Sacramento Ballet production of "The Nutcracker" and the "Call for Unity" Concert at the Mondavi Center.

In 2006, all of the ensembles will be featured at the California Music Educators' Association State Convention and Christian Brothers choral students will embark on their first ever performance tour of Europe.



Instrumental: In the instrumental program students develop extensive understanding and knowledge of music as a whole and not merely their own instrument. Students develop a comprehension of music theory, music history and appreciation for diverse cultures by studying and performing world music. Preparing for ensemble performances provide students an increased sense of confidence by practicing self-expression and learning to work as a team.

A variety of courses are offered from beginning band for which no prior experience is required to performing ensembles that require auditions. Learning musicianship skills such as technique, note reading, sight-reading and instrument care are emphasized in beginning band. The performing ensembles — concert band, pep band, honors band, string ensemble and jazz band — focus on the development of the student as a performer and have mandatory rehearsals and performances. Students also participate in annual district performance festivals and, if qualified, may join the Christian Brothers chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society which recognizes professionalism in performance, musicianship and work ethics.





2005 High School Self-Portrait Show
20th Street Art Gallery
First Place Recipient - Deidra, San Pedro, CB '05

The Visual and Performing Arts at Christian Brothers has made a name for itself in the Sacramento community as a premier school for visual arts, instrumental music, choral music, theatre, technology and media arts. At any given time of the year, over sixty percent of the student body is enrolled in a visual or performing arts class. After the bell rings, these classes continue on in the form of concerts, plays, recording, editing and exhibits. Students that are not enrolled in a class have the opportunity to audition for plays, art shows or the phenomenon known as Open Mic.

At Christian Brothers, we are called to nurture our students spirituality, intellect and compassion. Maintaining excellence in the Arts truly reflects this conviction by encouraging our students' creativity and diligence; traits that will help them to be successful in whatever they pursue in life.

Creativity, "thinking outside of the box" requires development of both sides of the brain. At Christian Brothers we take Art seriously because we view it as a fundamental component in a student's development and the future contribution they will make to our world.

To enhance the visual and performing arts experience at Christian Brothers, the Friends of the Arts (FOTA), an organization composed of parents and art patrons was formed in 2003. The FOTA is committed to celebrating and supporting student and faculty involvement in the blossoming art culture of the Sacramento Region. The FOTA can be reached through the Visual and Performing Arts Director.



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