



# Staying Connected

May 2020

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

## CB Makes Swift Transition to Digital Learning

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- *Being Apart Together*
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### **Practical Innovation**

St. John Baptist de La Salle was known for practical innovation. His legacy served us well when, with very little notice, our faculty pivoted from traditional classroom based education to remote learning in mid-March.

According to CB's Ed Tech Specialist, Ms. Brittany Adkins-Williams, our one-to-one iPad program helped ensure that our school was ready for a rapid transition to online learning. Implemented in 2013, this program ensured that every student and teacher already had the equipment they needed to make a quick transition. For the past seven years, CB has used Schoology, a digital learning management system. As a result, teachers were already in the habit of posting assignments, links and documents online. Ms. Adkins-Williams noted, "That was our biggest advantage. Each class already had a digital classroom set up, with the entire school using the same platform."

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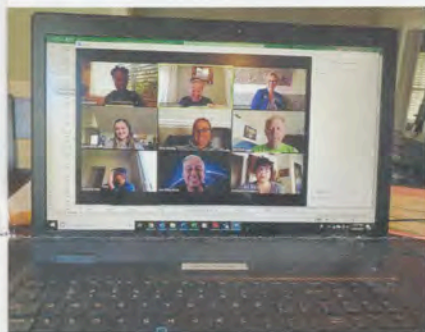
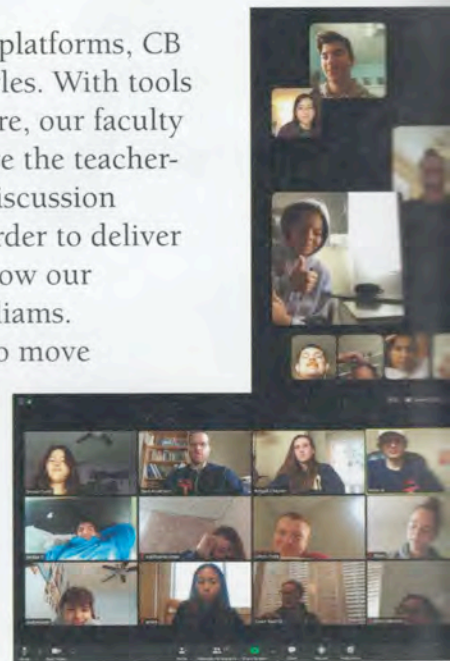
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## Practical Innovation - Continued

After taking only one professional development day to fully move to online platforms, CB teachers quickly, and without hesitation, adapted lesson plans and teaching styles. With tools in their portfolio like Zoom conferencing, video lectures, Google Meet and more, our faculty continued to deliver high-level academic instruction, while working to preserve the teacher-student relationships that are the true heart of Lasallian education. In online discussion boards teachers support each other, sharing resources and lessons learned in order to deliver a complete education to the students in our care. “The biggest inspiration is how our teachers have rallied, and how they want to know more,” said Ms. Adkins-Williams.

Our students are completing their academic year online, and will be ready to move to the next academic level when school resumes in the fall. Our seniors will graduate with the credits they need to move onto college. There are still uncertainties ahead, so Christian Brothers is working now to build contingency plans for whatever scenarios we may face in the fall. According to Ms. Adkins-Williams the lessons learned this spring will serve CB well as we move into a future that still may contain some form of distance learning. “We’re learning every day about what the most effective teaching strategies are. We’re discerning what is critical, and what we can let go. We’re there for the kids, making sure they have the best learning experience possible.”



## Checking in with the Counseling Office

“Just checking in” is a regular refrain of Christian Brothers’ dedicated counselors these days. The counseling department has spent time every day through the spring semester, checking in with incoming freshmen on their academic schedules, and answering parent questions. Checking in with current students to provide them with resources, information and support. Checking in with juniors who are just beginning their college application process. Checking in with seniors who are navigating the college acceptance process and staying on top of their grades and graduation requirements. And finally, checking in on students who might have stress and anxiety issues related to distance learning or COVID-19.

According to CB’s Wellness Counselor, Ms. Emily McDougall, this pandemic has brought out a lot of creativity and collaboration. “It’s hard not to have our students close at hand. We are trying hard to stay connected with them, to remind them that even though we are not physically together, we are all still here for them.” That connection takes form of Zoom sessions, phone calls, emails, messages, and even two wellness-based student clubs that meet as a group via Zoom. “The anxiety that many are experiencing right now won’t disappear immediately when Stay-at-Home orders are lifted. We are prepared to continue to support our students as they transition back to campus in the fall and beyond.”

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The Counseling Department role also includes helping parents as much as possible as well. “Distance learning is student directed,” says McDougall. “But some students have benefited from having a parent there to help them. And parents needed support in making that transition. We have tried to provide parents with information and resources that can help them navigate these unsettling times.”

Ms. McDougall notes, “If there is a bright spot in all this, it is that our students are remarkably resilient. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they could pivot to a whole new way of learning. Our community is pretty amazing. We are all doing the work we love to do to the best of our ability right now. Students and adults...Look at what we’re capable of together! How cool is that?”

## Vibrant Arts from a Distance

In our performing arts program, students have been working on original pieces written over the course of the year on the class-chosen topics of Fear and Courage. They are still able to perform their original work by recording their scenes on Zoom. Teacher, Ms. Heather Christianson '00, will compile them into a finished one-act play. In our choir program Mr. Christian Bohm coached his class as they individually recorded and then edited a multi-screen video of the entire class singing "This is Me" from the movie, "The Greatest Showman." KBFT, the student-run television station led by Mr. Brendan Hogan '95, continues to broadcast weekly from remote locations (student homes) across the region. Our La Salle Student art show took place virtually, sharing the remarkable artistic talent of our students. These are just a few of the creative efforts underway to sustain a vibrant place for the arts in our new temporary digital reality.



## A Message from President Barnes

As many of you know, last summer I shared that this would be my final year as president of Christian Brothers High School. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve this phenomenal community these past 16 years.



While California's Stay-at-Home order is certainly not the conclusion I had envisioned, I will step away in July even more in awe of our teachers and employees who have exceeded all expectations in continuing our mission of Lasallian Catholic education with singular focus through this COVID-19 pandemic. I am indebted to our students and parents who have risen to the occasion as dedicated partners in these uncertain times.

Christian Brothers High School has served the Sacramento region for 144 years. It has stood through wars and pandemics, recessions and the Great Depression. Through it all, we are blessed with a strong community of supporters who have made it possible to weather every storm and ensure that a Christian Brothers education is accessible to students from across the economic spectrum.

As the proud parent of three Christian Brothers High School alumni, Christian Brothers will always hold a special place in my heart as the community that helped our sons develop into confident, capable and caring young men with heart and values. I know that I am leaving CB in very capable hands as Dr. Crystal LeRoy, steps in as our new president. I have faith and confidence that our CB community will welcome her and help her come to know the joys of this incredible community. I am looking forward to remaining in touch with CB as an Alumni Parent, and seeing what unfolds in this great institution's next chapter.

Jon Barnes



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## Being Apart Together

Student-teacher relationships are central to Lasallian education. To help preserve a sense of connectedness, faculty and staff are working to bring our school community together, even though we are physically apart. In mid-March, CB employees and parents delivered congratulatory yard signs to every senior.



## COVID-19 Tuition Relief Fund

As our families begin to feel the true financial impact of the current economic crisis, we anticipate that the need for tuition assistance will increase. We are committed to the students who are already in our care, and we are doing the best we can to ensure that they are able to complete their CB education. To address the needs of families who are facing new financial realities Christian Brothers has established the COVID-19 Tuition Relief Fund.

This health crisis has affected each of us in different ways. As we work together to ensure that our Lasallian Catholic community continues to thrive, we ask that families, alumni, and friends who are in a position to help, prayerfully consider supporting fellow members of the CB community through this difficult time.

Please consider a gift to the COVID-19 Tuition Relief Fund, and help families who have been financially hard hit by this crisis continue their students' CB education.

### Thank you!

### To make your gift please visit

[WWW.CBHS-SACRAMENTO.ORG/SUPPORT](http://WWW.CBHS-SACRAMENTO.ORG/SUPPORT)

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# Staying Connected

2020 Year in Review

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

## Dear Friends of Christian Brothers High School,

2020 was certainly a year like no other. Though it may be tempting to view the year through the lens of COVID-19 restrictions, I believe it is more valuable to look back on it through the lens of our Lasallian heritage. St. John Baptist de La Salle led his community through their own set of very challenging times, relying on faith in the Holy Presence of God as a guide. He taught the importance of innovation, meeting students where they are, and the power of personal relationships. Living out this Lasallian vocation today, our faculty and staff embraced the challenges of the past year with remarkable dedication, faith, and fortitude.

As a result, 2020 became a year of challenges met and obstacles overcome with grit and resilience. The brilliant creativity of our students was matched by the resourcefulness of teachers who used every tool available to continue to engage and inspire students – even in an online environment. Adapting to new realities, CB celebrated milestones such as personal family commencement ceremonies for every graduating senior. We welcomed incoming freshmen who will become the 148th graduating class of this institution. And we were able to implement a safe return to in-person instruction, with a flexible online option for those who want it.

The photographic highlights shown in this newsletter demonstrate the vibrancy and strength of the Christian Brothers High School community – even during times when we cannot all physically be together. There are other significant experiences a camera simply cannot capture, such as 450 students helped by our tuition assistance program, supportive relationships between counselors and students, and the collaboration among our teachers to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our students.

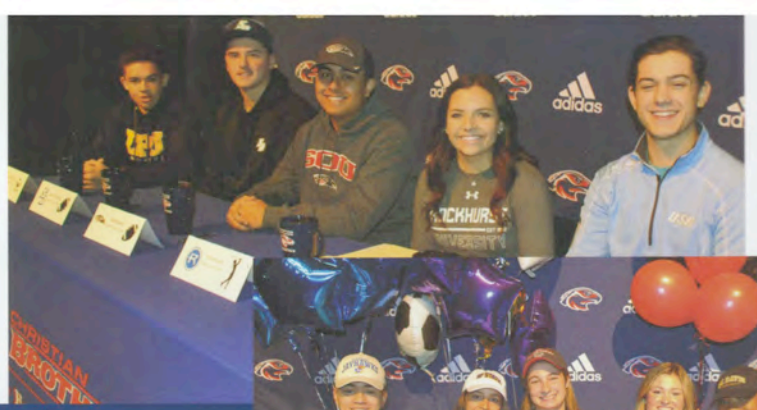
I am proud of the Christian Brothers High School community, and I am thankful that you are part of it.

As we open the door on a new year, I wish you a bright and blessed 2021.

St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.  
Live Jesus in our Hearts, forever.

Dr. Crystal LeRoy, Ed.D.  
President





## JANUARY

- The year kicks off with the CB Family Dance, Under the Big Top!
- Letter of Intent Signing Day. Ten members of the Class of 2020 sign NCAA National Letters of Intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

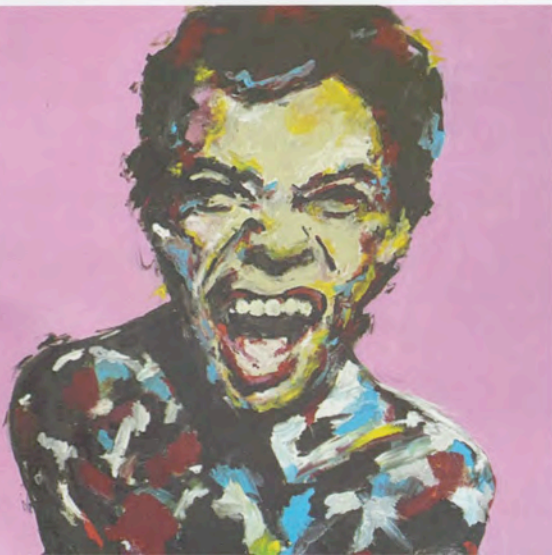


## FEBRUARY

- CB community celebrates Ash Wednesday at an all-school liturgy.
- With a dedication ceremony, the gates officially open to the Peter P. Bollinger '57 Stadium.

## MARCH

- Women's Basketball takes the Division III CIF Section Championship at Golden 1 Arena.
- CB makes fast and effective pivot to distance learning.



## APRIL

- La Salle Art Exhibit virtually showcases remarkable talent and creativity.
- Serving our community, CB hosts Sac Food Bank mass food distributions during distance learning.



## MAY

- Faculty, staff and parents celebrate the senior class of 2020.

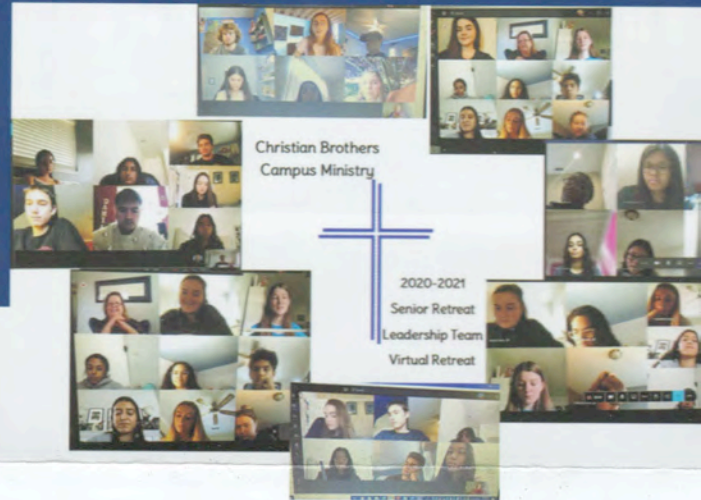


## JUNE

- The 144th graduating class joins the ranks of alumni with personal family commencement ceremonies for every graduate.

## JULY

- CB welcomes our new president, Dr. Crystal LeRoy, Ed.D.
- Campus Ministry continues faith formation with a virtual summer retreat for the Senior Retreat Leadership Team.



## AUGUST

- School resumes in Distance Learning mode under the leadership of our new principal, Ms. Annie Bacich.
- The Class of 2024 joins the Falcon Family!





38th Annual  
Elly Awards Ceremony  
2020



## SEPTEMBER

- CB theater takes home seven awards for “Peter and the Starcatcher” including Best Overall Production, at the virtual Elly Awards.
- Faculty members go all-in to engage students in online learning.

## OCTOBER

- Students safely return to campus for in-person classes with our HyFlex schedule!
- Freshmen and transfer student orientation
- Students dress up for Halloween spirit day!



## NOVEMBER

- The theater program presents 1940’s-style radio broadcasts of “Sorry, Wrong Number” and “Always Room at the Top.”
- Students crown our Homecoming Court and celebrate with a virtual dance party.



## DECEMBER

- Christian Service collects gifts for the elderly as part of the monthly Falcon Drop Off Drives held throughout the year.
- Sports conditioning underway at Bollinger Stadium.

