

2017

Seal of Biliteracy

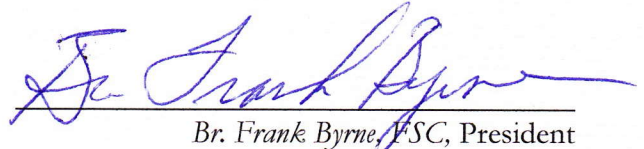
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY, LINCROFT, NJ
G. CORDERO-CINKO & J. BRÖHL

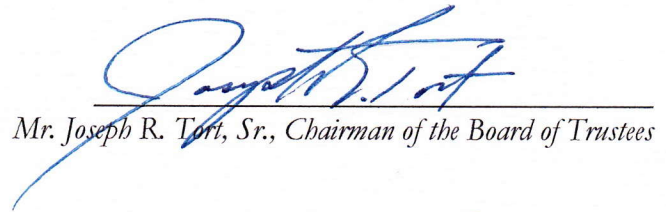
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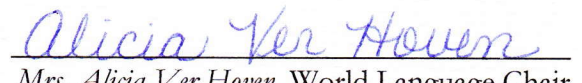
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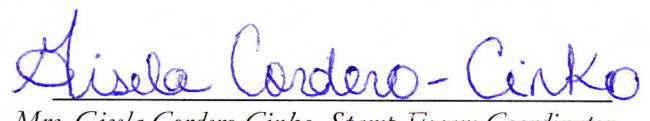
Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy is an award that recognizes a student who has attained proficiency in English and one or more world languages by their senior year. The Seal will also help to certify biliteracy to future employers and universities.


Br. Frank Byrne, FSC, President


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Mrs. Alicia Ver Hoven, World Language Chair


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Section I: Introduction

School Demographics

Christian Brothers Academy, founded in 1959, is an independent, four-year, Catholic, private, college-preparatory high school (grades 9-12) for young men, located on 157 acres in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Lincroft is a suburban area of around 6,000 residents whose majority of wage earners are college graduates. The current enrollment is approximately 1,007 students and 75 faculty members consisting of men and women with advanced degrees. Christian Brothers Academy is an accredited institution under Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, which goes through periodic reviews and evaluations by representatives, most recently renewed through 2022.

Mission Statement

The Brothers of the Christian Schools was founded in France by Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle in the late 17th century Reims, France. A Lasallian School is committed to faith, which is expressed through service, is an educational environment committed to excellence, is a community of teachers and learners, and is an inclusive community.

“Christian Brothers Academy is an independent Lasallian college preparatory school providing a contemporary and balanced Catholic education for academically able young men... A rich and rigorous curriculum, programs of spiritual formation, and a broad range of academic, athletic, and cultural activities enable students to become intellectually mature and morally responsible leaders for the Church and society.”

As stated in the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, “the purpose of this Institute is to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it.”

World Language Department

At Christian Brothers Academy, there are ten faculty members in the World Language department with over 125 years of teaching experience: 1 French, 2 Latin, and 7 Spanish teachers. Of the three languages currently offered, there are currently 51 classes offered this year: 10 levels of Spanish [66.6%], 9 levels of Latin [17.6%], and 8 levels of French [15.6%]. Aside from the Christian Brothers Academy National Honor Society, the World Language Department holds the only departmental honor societies: *La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* [Spanish Honor Society], *La Société Honoraire de Français* [French Honor Society], and *The National Junior Classical League* [Latin Honor Society].

Section II: Purpose & Rationale

The Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy was prepared in accordance to the school's mission to provide a contemporary and balanced Catholic education of the highest standards of pedagogy and technology in order to cultivate intellectually-mature and morally-responsible young men. It is also prepared in accordance with New Jersey's Chapter 303 establishing the State Seal of Biliteracy and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

The goal of instituting the Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy is to nurture students' pursuit of charitable, career and humanitarian ambitions through: direct interaction with people from other cultures whereby our program elucidates the lived experiences of others through direct interaction using the native tongue; connections to other academic disciplines; use of authentic materials and technological innovations to foster real-life language experiences.

As per New Jersey's Chapter 303, establishing the State Seal of Biliteracy and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes¹, the rationale of Christian Brothers Academy's Seal of Biliteracy is as follows:

The Seal of Biliteracy is established to recognize high school seniors who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more foreign languages in addition to English. The Seal of Biliteracy shall be awarded to graduating high school seniors who meet the criteria. School participation in this program is voluntary.

The Seal of Biliteracy at Christian Brothers Academy seeks to:

- ✓ Foster a students' love of languages;
 - ✓ Encourage pursuit of, and certify attainment of biliteracy;
 - ✓ Certify to universities the student's proficiency in a second language;
 - ✓ Help employers easily identify people who have a demonstrated level of mastery of a language other than English;
 - ✓ Prepare students for work in global corporations and/or organizations;
 - ✓ Strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community;
 - ✓ Recognize and promote foreign language instruction in private and/or independent schools.
-

Section III: Criteria for Granting the Awards

Eligible Students

As per the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy Acceptable Evidence of Proficiency², the Seal of Biliteracy shall be awarded by the Christian Brothers Academy Principal and World Language Department Chair to graduating seniors who have completed the requirements for graduation from Christian Brothers Academy and who also meet all of the following requirements:

Requirements³

1. Proficiency in English
 - a. Demonstrated proficiency in English by meeting English language arts graduation requirements or attained the appropriate cut score on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment (for English Language Learners) through any one of the following:
 - i. ACT (American College Testing exam) with a minimum required score of 24 on the full assessment.
 - ii. SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test exam) with a minimum required score of 500 in the Critical Reading section.
2. Proficiency in a Language Other Than English⁴
 - a. Demonstrated a linguistic proficiency level of at least Intermediate-Mid according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines, or demonstrated a level deemed equivalent to Intermediate-Mid for languages such as American Sign Language, Latin, or Native American languages through any one of the following:
 - i. AAPPL (Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) with a minimum required level of I-3 on all four components of the assessment (across the three modes of communication):
 1. Interpretive Listening
 2. Interpretive Reading
 3. Interpersonal Listening and Speaking
 4. Presentational Writing
 - ii. ALIRA (ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment) with a minimum required level of I-3 on the Interpretive Reading Test.
 - iii. ASLPI (American Sign Language Proficiency Interview) with a minimum required score of 3.0 on the full assessment.
 - iv. OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) with a minimum required score of Intermediate-Mid in conjunction with the WPT (below [ix]).
 - v. OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview by Computer) with a minimum required score of Intermediate-Mid in conjunction with the WPT (below [ix]).
 - vi. SLPI: ASL (Sign Language Proficiency Interview) with a minimum required score of Intermediate-Plus on the full assessment.

² Cite: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/wl/biliteracy/>

³ As implementation proceeds, the requirements and/or criteria may be subject to modification and revision to ensure that this policy remain current and inclusive.

⁴ Cite: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/wl/biliteracy/evidence.pdf>

- vii. STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) with a minimum required score of 5 or higher in all levels for Writing/Speaking/Reading/Listening)
- viii. WPT (Writing Proficiency Test) with a minimum required score of Intermediate-Mid in conjunction with either the OPI (above [v]) or the OPIc (above [vi]).

Section IV: Outreach Strategies & Application Process

Outreach Strategies

Our outreach will be bifurcated between lower classmen and upper classmen. On Back to School Night, the World Language Department will hand out a letter and brochure to 9th and 10th grade students and their parents, which explains the program, award requirements and life-long benefit with the aim of orienting them to working towards achieving the Seal. The same materials will be used on Freshmen Parents' Orientation day and for distribution to new prospective students at our Open House. For the parents of juniors, we will be sending them a different letter and brochure explaining the Seal requirements and testing process as we ramp up awareness of the program over the next few years. On the school's website, a copy of the brochure will also be available.

Application Process

Christian Brothers Academy's graduation requirements state that ALL students must successfully complete three consecutive years of a world language. Students in their third year (and/or those underclassmen in a level three course), will be required to complete a proficiency exam for the language of their choosing (see *Section III.2*, pages 4-5) for benchmarking purposes and to seek candidacy for the Seal of Biliteracy. Seniors must complete an application form to receive the certificate and the medal. Below are the requirements for applying for Christian Brothers Academy's Seal of Biliteracy:

- I. MUST be a Senior and MUST complete and submit an application form,
- II. Have achieved the minimum scores for Proficiency in English (see *Section III.1*, page 5)
- III. Have achieved the minimum scores for Proficiency in a Language Other than English (*Section III.2*, pages 5-6)
- IV. Have a GPA of 2.5 or higher

Once all requirements are met, students receiving the Seal will be invited to the World Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony to be recognized and awarded (see *Section V*, page 8). Furthermore, as per the New Jersey Statute, Christian Brothers Academy shall document the students' linguistic attainment in an official capacity:

- I. Inclusion of Seal of Biliteracy in [Language] on counselor's letter of recommendation, and/or
- II. Inclusion of Seal of Biliteracy in [Language] on college application materials, and/or
- III. Inclusion of Seal of Biliteracy in [Language] on students' transcripts.

Section V: Award Design & Process for Award Presentation

Award Design

The Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy award design was conceived through research of other Seal of Biliteracy examples from around the country. The certificate and medal will consist of the following:

- I. Christian Brothers Academy insignia
- II. Text
 - a. The World Language Department at Christian Brothers Academy proudly presents the Seal of Biliteracy to [Name Surname] in recognition of his ability to communicate in English and [Language(s)]. Your bilingual skills will contribute to your future education and career.
- III. Signatures
 - a. School Principal, and
 - b. World Language Department Chair.

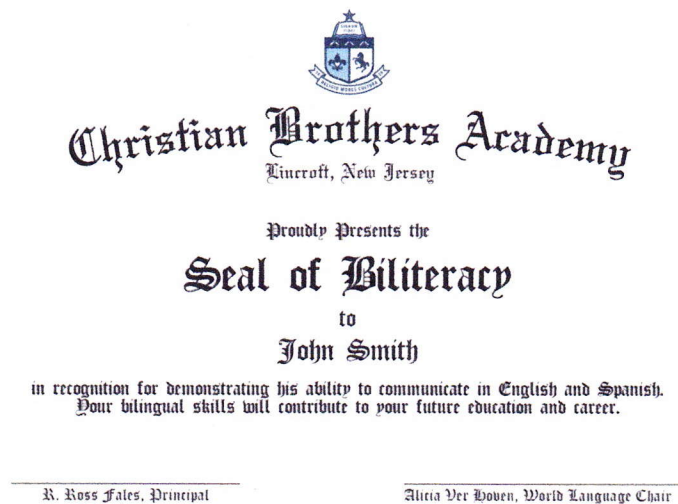


Figure 1: Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy Certificate (2018)



Figure 2: Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy Medal (2018)

Process for Award Presentation

The process for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy shall take place during World Language Language Honor Society Induction ceremony, which is typically the week preceding Easter break in Christian Brothers Academy's school calendar. Below is the typical format of the ceremony:

- I. Opening remarks from World Language Department Chair
- II. Presentation of Seal of Biliteracy to Senior recipients
 - a. Description of Seal of Biliteracy as a national initiative
 - b. Christian Brothers Academy prerequisites for Seal of Biliteracy
 - c. Distribution of medals and certificates
- III. French Honor Society inductees [*La Société Honoraire de Français*]
 - a. Opening remarks from French Honor Society faculty advisor
 - b. Induction rites by incumbent seniors to new inductees
 - c. Distribution of pins and certificates
- IV. Latin Honor Society inductees [*The National Junior Classical League*]
 - a. Opening remarks from French Honor Society faculty advisor
 - b. Induction rites by incumbent seniors to new inductees
 - c. Distribution of pins and certificates
- V. Spanish Honor Society inductees [*La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica*]
 - a. Opening remarks from French Honor Society faculty advisor
 - b. Induction rites by incumbent seniors to new inductees
 - c. Distribution of pins and certificates
- VI. Highlights, thanks, and recognition from World Language Department Chair
 - a. World Language Program highlights; thanks and recognition to faculty, staff, and administration
- VII. Photos
 - a. Photos of the Seal of Biliteracy recipients are taken and used for dissemination
- VIII. Reception with refreshments

Section VI: Endorsements

Endorsements

The Christian Brothers Academy Seal of Biliteracy will be in contact with the following organizations to ask for their endorsement of the school's Seal as a testament to the program's academic rigor, adherence to the goals and aims of the Seal's proponents, high level of professional competence, real-world value, and thoughtful implementation.

- I. The American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL),
- II. Californians Together
- III. The Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey (FLENJ),
- IV. The Northeast Conference of Teachers of Foreign Languages (NECTFL),
- V. Other local businesses and organizations in Monmouth County, and New Jersey.

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