

TORCH

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**SENIOR
ISSUE**
COLLEGE CHOICES

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My Art And CBA

Brian Hack '19

In my four years at CBA, I have learned many different life lessons. I have used what I learned and applied it to my art. Now it's pretty obvious that CBA isn't really geared to the arts, as it raises most students to see a field in business or science. However, that doesn't mean that lesson learned couldn't affect my work. Back in sophomore year, I decided that I wanted to take an artistic career path. I asked my guidance counselor, Mrs. Johnson, what the right class paths for my last two years should be. Instead of giving me classes, she showed me a brochure for a program in Seattle called Game Experience. It was everything that I'd been looking for in getting a headstart to designing games. Needless to say, that summer I went to Seattle and had one

of the greatest experiences of my life. That trip helped to kickstart my passion for art, and it wouldn't have happened without Mrs. Johnson.

Later on, during junior year, I would read excerpts of *The Canterbury Tales* in Mr. Huvane's class. This affirmed my love for the artistic stylization of the Middle Ages and the whole high fantasy medieval theme. I started heavily incorporating apothecaries, knights, and other real medieval aspects to my fantasy artwork. We later on read *Frankenstein*, giving me a sense of love for the gothic themes surrounding the novel, which also became a part of my art. Senior year changed a lot of my perspective and style of my work. Mr. Cusick's Creative Writing class helped teach me to move out of my comfort

zone and take risks by trying new things.

Because of that lesson, I tried to make environmental art. I ended up being pretty good at it, and most importantly I enjoyed doing it. I wouldn't have thought to try making environments if not for Mr. Cusick's lessons. During my stint in Mr. Villeta's Alternative Narratives class, we learned about sound design. Specifically, we went over how foley sounds are sounds that are made with everyday objects to sound like something that doesn't exist. This inspired me to attempt to edit sounds and make some of my own sounds. I haven't gotten anywhere with that yet, but I wouldn't have started if not for that class.

CHANGING AND ADAPTING

Michael Sullivan '19

Things are about to change a whole lot after graduation for all us seniors. For the past 18 years we have been living with our families who have supported us along the way. Often when we don't know the right decision it is made for us, and most importantly we often don't have to worry about dinner being on the table every night. Most of us are going to college where we will be able to decide everything on our own such as what food to eat, when to wash our clothes, whether to go to class or not and so on.

College is going to be a learning experience not only on the academic side of things but also on the real life side of things. We are going to learn to fend for ourselves, cook for ourselves, and take care of ourselves without the help of our parents. I think that this is one of the best things about college and going away. I think it is not only great to learn and figure out what we are going to do for the rest of our life, but also learn

about other cultures and other people.

Going to Philly or as far as Florida and Texas we will be able to learn and educate ourselves on how other people live their lives. We will experience new cities, new sports cultures, and new food. This is one of the best parts about this new chapter in our life that we are starting. Learning about other people and how they live their lives will only help us live ours better. We will have to make new friends and try new things that may end up being things we do for the rest of your life. You may go into college thinking you're going to do business but then realize that you like psychology and you may want to be a doctor one day. Our plans will certainly change and we will have to learn how to figure these things out for ourselves. This will also be a great thing for us, because when Mom or Dad aren't looking over your shoulder watching you, then you will be forced to make the decisions for yourself and figure out what you

truly want to do.

CBA, although most of us had our ups and downs with this place, did help us in this regard. They made us work on our own to do well in school. They wanted us to be responsible, as they often talked about in the beginning of freshman year. Once we get to college coming home to spend time with our family will become a privilege rather than a normal thing. It will be great to come home and have a home cooked meal after eating dining hall food for months straight. Then we will have to get internships midway through college and learn how to work in the business world and such. Although things like learning how to work a nine to five seem far off, I'm excited to move onto the next chapter. Overall I have mixed emotions about starting the next chapter in our life, but it is necessary and we must make the most of it.

Classes and Lessons

By the Subject

Matthew Vaccaro '19

At long last, we've reached the end of the road here at CBA. Not to sound too cliché, but I believe we should reflect on all that we've learned these past four years. As such, I present open letters to all of my classes.

Dear Math,

What I admire most about you is your consistency. When my life seemed frantic and confusing, there you were, unchanging, as always. I know high school math tends to get a bad rap. People say, "When is algebra ever going to be useful in the real world? Why do I need to know this?" But we both know your real purpose wasn't to teach me how to prove two angles are congruent (boy, did I hate geometric proofs), but to teach critical problem solving, which I certainly use every day. Plus, without you, I would have never have gotten my first job as a tutor, so thanks for that! I'll always remember Mr. Melosh's magical fruit problem, and that in Calculus it's not about you; it's about x .

Dear Latin,

You were equal parts of a language, history, and mythology, and I always loved how versatile class could be. You may not always have been as straightforward as my mother tongue (was it really necessary to have five noun declensions and four verb conjugations?) but at least every letter in your vocabulary was pronounced, unlike English. By studying how one of the greatest civilizations of our past spoke, you brought the past to life in a way straight history could never do. I'll always cherish saying the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance before class each day, and having "Felice Natallem Tibi" sung to me on my birthday. Most of all, I'll always remember that Latin isn't dead. It's immortal.

Dear English class,

Thank you for teaching me that there isn't always one answer to things. You encouraged me to pursue the creative aspects of my personality. You taught me that if I pay critical attention to anything, there could be universal truth and beauty to be discovered. I may not have enjoyed every book you had me read, but for every Absalom and Achitophel there was an Ocean at the End of the Lane, and for every Old Man and the Sea there was a Slaughterhouse Five.

Of course, what I'll always remember is the amazing conversations you fostered, from morphing every sentence to be about dead cats in English 1, to why old people are terrible at Jeopardy.

Dear Science class,

We didn't always see eye to eye, what with the countless sleepless nights I spent doing your homework, trying to unscramble electrochemistry, Hadley cells, and angular momentum. However, despite your rigor, you taught that there's so much to the natural world that I take for granted, and gave me a glimpse of the invisible strings that run Creation. When I think of you, I'll remember when Mr. Middler let us run the "Screaming Gummy Bear" experiment and when Mr. Dash had us create an action figure bungee chord.

Dear Theology,

You were probably the most unique class I had over my four years. Every teacher I had brought a radically new perspective for how to understand God, focusing on doctrine, service, worship, and discussion. But whether I was writing a paper debating whether it was better to be a happy pig or a miserable human being, or doing one good deed for Mr. Butler, you helped strengthen my relationship with God. P.S. Since I'll be attending another Catholic school in the fall, it looks like I'll be seeing a lot more of you.

Dear History,

If, when I die, I learn the statistics of how many words I've written in my life, I guarantee that half of those words will have been from your essays. You sharpened my writing skills possibly to a greater extent than English did, and for that I am grateful. Though I'm not certain what career I'll end up in, it looks like writing and making critical arguments will play a large role in whatever I choose. Not to mention, how much I relish all the amazing stories you taught me: from the fact that soccer was invented by British children kicking the decapitated heads of Danish soldiers in the fourteenth century; to the existence of the Red Bank Phalanx cult that believed the base ten number system was the source of all of society's problems; to the fact that most ancient civilizations couldn't see the color blue!

Best Wishes, Matt Vaccaro



2015: Freshmen Year In Pop Culture

Kieran Leister '19

It seems like years ago that were getting driven in by the bus, our parents, siblings, or friends on the first day of school at CBA. We just came from the summer of 2015. So much has changed since then even though it has only been a little under four years.

We all thought Hotline Bling was the greatest song ever written, we didn't know if Jon Snow was alive after getting killed on the last episode of Game of Thrones of 2015, and the Warriors just won their first title as their dynasty. The year of 2015 was one to remember. The music we were listening to may seem laughable on the surface, but deep down we all know the songs of 2015 were bangers. "Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson was at its peak and Fetty Wap was being played at every school dance with "Trap Queen." The official theme song of 2015 for us

though in my opinion is "Cheerleader" by OMI.

The movies of 2015 were also legendary. Avengers: Age of Ultron was killing the box office, but was not the best MCU movie we've seen. Blockbusters like Creed and Jurassic World surprised us with how amazing they were. The movie that dominated the year of 2015 though, was Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Finally the year was complete with awesome TV shows. We saw some solid seasons of established shows like Game of Thrones and True Detective. We also saw the beginnings of some new, exciting shows like Daredevil, Mr. Robot, and Narcos. The year also brought the final seasons of some amazing shows such as Parks and Recreation and Mad Men.

These moments in pop culture may seem like they were a century ago,

but they were only four short years ago when we began our careers at CBA.

Now we are listening to artists that weren't even established in 2015 like Travis Scott and Post Malone. We are watching shows that were around then like Game of Thrones, but also some shows that weren't around like Stranger Things. We never thought we would reach the end of the Avengers with Avengers: Endgame four years ago. We have been through so much together over the past four years. These small moments in pop culture show just how fast our high school years have gone and how fast music and entertainment trends change. It was an amazing past four years and I wouldn't change a thing, except the ending of Game of Thrones.

Four Long Years

Joshua Scharf '19

After four long years, my time at CBA is finally coming to an end. It seems like only yesterday that it was freshman year, and I would be going out the Henderson Hall for some of my classes. While time has really flown by, a lot of things have changed since I first started to walk these halls. When I first started we had a new dean. Computers were allowed in the cafeteria, there was different dining service, and there was a lot of different teachers. Over my time CBA has evolved and grown and it will continue to do so after I leave the halls.

Freshman year I was definitely nervous in coming here. I did know some people that were attending CBA too, but I was still unsure I had made the right decision to come to CBA. My earliest memory was actually the second day of school though. We were told on the first day of school that classes start at 8:30. I thought that meant be in homeroom by 8:30. The next day I come prancing

in at 8:25 thinking im early when I was late. Mrs. Whall luckily let me off the hook as it was only our second day, but that is still my first memory of CBA, and sums up my freshman year.

Sophomore year was similar but I started to feel a lot more comfortable. My GPA went up, a had a group of friends, and it was my second year playing JV for the hockey team. My confidence was definitely higher and felt more comfortable every day. The biggest part of my sophomore year happened in the fourth quarter though. Gerald Shape, Johnny Krall, and I would start the Sports Debate Club. This would become a important part of life at CBA and I hope it continues.

Junior year was the big year especially for hockey. It was variety or I would most likely be cut. I was confident I would make the team. Though tryouts I still was confident, but that was shattered when I was told I was cut. The

confidence I had built up was shattered in an instant. Academics wise though, I was rolling. junior year was the best year for me in school, but outside of school, it was not. For the first time in 12 years that winter I was not playing hockey.

When senior year came a couple of my classmate told me to tryout of the hockey team again, and that I belonged on the team. I was unsure as I did not want to be heartbroken again, but they encouraged me so much, that I tired out senior year and actually made the team. For CBA, this was unheard of. Again I started with little playing time but worked my way up. My big moment would come against the #1 team in the state, one of our rivals, Don Bosco. My first varsity goal was a game winner.

Overall, CBA was a great experience. While it might not seem like it early on, by senior year you get it. It is a true brotherhood. We are a family and we cannot be broken.

Class of 2019 College Choices

Jackson Aguilar	Loyola University Maryland	Gregory Dolan	Drexel University
Maximus Alacan	Monmouth University	Matthew Downey	Indiana University at Bloomington
Ethan Arce	Mount St. Mary's University	Wes Doyle	University of Colorado at Boulder
Chancellor Assiamah	Stevens Institute of Technology	Rory Dunigan	Villanova University
Arthur Baker	Georgetown University	Justin Durney	Syracuse University
Connor Baksh	Delaware State University	James Dyer	Brandeis University
Joseph Bartolone	Rowan University	Daniel Ebinger	Villanova University
Donovan Bell	University of South Carolina	Chase Eck	College of William & Mary
Dominic Bellomo	The College of New Jersey	Kevin Egan	Rowan University
Todd Bennett	Sacred Heart University	James Enright	Saint Joseph's University
Peyton Boesch	Texas Christian University	Miles Enstrom	Roanoke College
Jack Bogdan	Princeton University	Joseph Escandon	Salve Regina University
John Boland	Mercer County College	Luca Ferraro	Emerson College
Christopher Bonin	Rochester Institute of Technology	Peter Ferraro	University of Notre Dame
Ryan Boyan	Duquesne University	Kenneth Fogarty	Liberty University
Harry Braniff	Elon University	Dillon Formato	College of Charleston
Stephen Braunstein	University of Scranton	Luke Galano	East Stroudsburg University
Padraig Brennan	Loyola University New Orleans	Joseph Gatti	University of Lynchburg
Ian Broderick	Providence College	Nathaniel Giallanza	Boston University
Derek Brooks	Seton Hall University	Zachary Giglio	University of Colorado at Boulder
Jake Brown	Hockey	Gill, John Patrick	Villanova University
Ryan Burke	Bryant University	Jack Giunta	Elon University
Kyle Bussey	Fairfield University	Nicholas Glassman	University of Wisconsin
Jack Cahalane	Bucknell University	Matthew Gorman	California Polytechnic University
Ramon Calderon Durst	Rowan University	Patrick Gotterup	Indiana University at Bloomington
Jose Campa	Bentley University	Gavin Grabowski	Clemson University
Andrew Campi	Bucknell University	Thomas Gray	Monmouth University
Brandon Cara	Brookdale Community College	Jake Grillo	University of Miami
Ryan Carroll	Stetson University	Brian Hack	Savannah College of Art & Design
Jack Casey	Providence College	Alistair Hackett	William Loyola Marymount Univ.
Deaglan Cassidy	Elon University	David Ham	University of Virginia
Anthony Celestre	Quinnipiac University	Nicholas Hanlon	Johns Hopkins University
Cameron Centrella	New York University	Tyler Hanlon	University of Rhode Island
Christopher Cerny	The College of New Jersey	Brendan Hansen	Rutgers University
Thomas Chece	College of Charleston	Quinn Harrington	University of Delaware
Vincent Cinko	West Chester University	Jake Heath	University of Miami
Charles Ciraolao	University of Delaware	William Heidelberg	The College of New Jersey
Kevin Cisneros-Velasquez	Drexel University	John Hempstead	University of South Carolina
Hunter Clark	Providence College	Timothy Hennelly	Valencia College
Brian Closkey	University of Notre Dame	Noah Hoffman	Pace University, New York City
Joshua Cohen	Saint Francis University	Nicholas Holt	Elon University
Matthew Condon	Rutgers University	James Huber	Manhattan College
Anthony Coniglio	Wake Forest University	William Huntley	Lafayette College
Brian Conway	Providence College	Shane Isacson	University of Delaware
Kevin Conway	Quinnipiac University	Louis Jakub	Clemson University
Rafael Coppola	University of Notre Dame	Gerard Johnson	Northeastern University
John Crilly	Providence College	Charles Joslin	University of Rhode Island
Anthony Crivello	Virginia Tech	Liam Kennedy	Clemson University
Tanner Crochet	University of Richmond	Patrick Kilcooley	Bucknell University
Max D'Andrea	College of Charleston	Alexander Kobylowski	University of Notre Dame
Charles Daly	College of Charleston	Nolan Kostulias	Virginia Tech
Christopher de Gersdorff	Loyola Marymount University	Ryan Kozack	Fordham University
William Dempsey	Northeastern University	Zachary Kramer	University of Delaware
William Denooyer	Louisiana State University	Sam La Corte	New York University
Daniel DeSanctis	Seton Hall University	Christian Larson	Providence College
Jack Devincens	Boston College	Randall Lazzaro	Bucknell University
Patrick Devine	Georgetown University	Richard Lazzaro	Pennsylvania State University
Thomas DiTullio	Bryant University	Kieran Leister	College of Charleston
Patrick Doherty	Pennsylvania State University	Jason Leventhal	Fordham University

Class of 2019 College Choices

Kevin Lonergan	La Salle University	Christopher Rocco	Pennsylvania State University
Steven LoPorto	Rutgers University	Luke Rogers	Boston College
Joseph Lozowski	Fairfield University	Francisco Roig	Sacred Heart University
Alex Lucarelli	University of Delaware	Christopher Romano	Purdue University
Christopher Macpherson	Rowan University	Matthew Roth	Indiana University
Connor Macrae	Monmouth University	Mason Rudolph	Pennsylvania State University
Tyler Madalone	University of South Carolina	Jacob Ryerson	Syracuse University
Evan Mahns	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	John Santos	Lafayette College
Liam Mailley	Drexel University	Michael Sardella	Vanderbilt University
Matthew Manners	Catholic University of America	Joseph Scardino	Fordham University
Dominic Manzo	Coastal Carolina University	Michael Scerbo	Loyola University Maryland
James Marchese	Fairfield University	Joshua Scharf	Indiana University
Andrew Mattina	Michigan State University	Matthew Schmidt	University of North Carolina
Thomas Mazza	Brookdale Community College	Alex Schueller	Loyola University Maryland
Neil McAlarney	Fordham University	Christopher Shekian	Fordham University
Aidan McCarlin	University of Maryland	Garett Silverman	Fordham University
Matthew McCormick	Monmouth University	Derek Smith	Pennsylvania State University
Eric McGrouther	Pennsylvania State University	Evan Smith	Wake Forest University
Patrick McGuinness	University of Wisconsin	Joseph Smith	Pennsylvania State University
Patrick McHugh	Lehigh University	Trevor Smith	Pennsylvania State University
Timothy McInerney	Georgetown University	Vincent Sobal	Fordham University
Sean McManus	University of Delaware	Bryan Soler	George Washington University
John Peter Memon	Northeastern University	Joseph Sorrentino	University of Notre Dame
Vincent Mentasana	Saint Joseph's University	Dugan Straine	Providence College
Matthew Michelli	Monmouth University	Zachary Stuart	Bentley University
Nicholas Miller	Bentley University	Kieran Sullivan	Manhattan College
Donald Mills	Loyola University Maryland	Michael Sullivan	Saint Joseph's University
Justin Modin	Bucknell University	Collin Swabsin	Pennsylvania State University
Theo Modla	Salve Regina University	Patrick Tajanlangit	George Washington University
Matthew Mojares	Boston College	Sean Tajanlangit	George Washington University
Jack Monahan	Clemson University	Matthew Tracy	University of Delaware
Edward Moresco	University of Southern Mississippi	Jordan Truslowe	Ramapo College of New Jersey
Nicholas Morse	University of Rhode Island	Thomas Tsimbinos	Clemson University
Ryan Mullins	University of Miami	Matthew Vaccaro	Boston College
Liam Mulvey	Assumption College	Christopher Valiaveedan	Providence College
Ryan Murphy	Providence College	Matthew Van Lew	Catholic University of America
Timothy Murray	Fordham University	Jack Wall	University of South Carolina
Matthew Mustillo	Ohio State University	William Walsh	University of Pennsylvania
Connor Nelson	College of the Holy Cross	Paul Waraksa	University of Tampa
James Nelson	Fairfield University	Liam Ward	Seton Hall University
Daniel Nerbetski	Rowan University	Patrick Werthmuller	College of New Jersey
Ryan Nerney	Providence College	Eric Wnorowski	Vassar College
Ronan Nielsen	Manhattan College	Sean Wolfe	Virginia Tech
Alec Noe	Springfield College	Christopher Wright	George Washington University
Quinn Nolan	Virginia Tech	Finn Wright	Miami University, Oxford
Riley O'Toole	Brookdale Community College	Jeremiah Yeboah-Afihene	University of Pittsburgh
Ryan Ottignon	Rowan University	Tomas Zita	Northeastern University
Daniel Paolillo	Fordham University		
Anthony Pillari	Rider University		
Antonio Ramos	Syracuse University		
Cole Ramos	Clemson University		
Colbey Ramsey	Ramapo College of New Jersey		
Cameron Raymond	The College of New Jersey		
Luke Reid	University of Oklahoma		
Derek Reina	Monmouth University		
Samuel Rennard	Pennsylvania State University		
Paul Retterer	University of Southern California		
Shane Ridoux	Trinity University		



ACADEMY OATH

We the men of
Christian Brothers Academy; do solemnly
promise before God
To live always with honor and integrity
To serve and to stand for those in need
To strive for wisdom in our
pursuit of knowledge
To uphold the legacy and proud
tradition of our Academy
St. John Baptist de La Salle
Pray for us
Live Jesus in our hearts
Forever

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