



**CHRISTIAN  
BROTHERS  
ACADEMY**

## ***Principal's Community Update - April 27th***

Dear CBA Community:

"Change is the only constant in life," a quote often attributed to the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Heraclitus, has never been more obvious at CBA than this year. We begin this last week of April mindful that this would normally be our seniors' last week walking the halls of CBA as students. Although these bittersweet moments are not able to be experienced in the traditional sense, remember that CBA is much more than just a place or a building, rather it is a community and a brotherhood that students are part of for life, and it will remain regardless of the current events causing things to change this year.

As you know, schools in New Jersey must remain closed through May 15 and although we were hoping for some more definitive direction from the state on how things might proceed after that, the reality appears to be too fluid for anything definitive. The probability of online instruction continuing past May 15 is high and we should be prepared for that. I am happy to report that our students are rising to the occasion and attendance was very good as we began this week in our live online classes. Senior teachers will hold class sessions during the regularly scheduled online times next week, since we will not be holding final exams and the modified online AP Exams will begin on Monday May 11. These classes are not for the purpose of new instruction, more assignments, or additional assessments, but to give seniors more time to complete existing assignments and get help from teachers if necessary. Likewise, the school year for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, will be extended into what would normally be the exam week. In place of exams, June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup> will run on the existing online schedule or regular school day schedule, should we somehow make it back to school.

The Governor has made clear when talking about his reopening plan that things would be done slowly, with safety of all in mind and robust testing available. It is reported that the state does not expect to double its testing capacity until the end of May and still has to put contact tracing and quarantine measures in place. With these things in mind and as many of you likely expected, we are officially postponing the 2020 Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation Ceremony. These events will NOT take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> as scheduled. We are currently working on a virtual graduation mass and ceremony for the last week of May to celebrate our seniors. We are planning to have an in person, live ceremony, in June if regulations permit. We are awaiting responses from state and local authorities on several requests we have made regarding modified events, but the feedback has not been favorable so far.



## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY

There are a number of other projects going on to celebrate and engage students. A digital version of the St. LaSalle Academic Awards will be coming out later this week. Mr. Lutz has already messaged our seniors, asking them for photos of themselves dressed in apparel from the college they have chosen to attend next year, as well as a statement about their choice. We will post the submissions on various digital platforms. Our wonderful Mothers Club will be reaching out with some additional plans to recognize the great class of 2020. I want to thank those of you who are already involved in these projects. I also want to thank our moderators and coaches for holding virtual team and club meetings. The Athletic Department has been maintaining a robust program of student engagement with speakers, trainings, collaborative discussions, and meetings. Pegasus Productions held an online "Pony Awards" and the Music Department has put forward a number of opportunities, including lessons and master classes. We will have to continue to be ever more creative in reaching our community in this new world.

I know this is a trying time for our entire community and some families are affected far more than others, depending on their own unique circumstances. Consider Robert Jordan's statement from his book *The Fires of Heaven*, "The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived." Let us pray for God's continued grace to bend and adapt like the willow in this situation; may he again strengthen us to forge ahead, though the future may seem uncertain.

God Bless all of you, and our CBA community,

**Ross Fales, Principal**