



# CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY

850 Newman Springs Road • Lincroft, NJ 07738-1698

Good evening CBA students and parents,

I write to you on the eve of Easter break, what would normally be an extremely happy time for students and parents alike, but this year is clouded by our current circumstances. As we head into this final week of Lent, we are perhaps reminded more than ever of Christ's sufferings for us, but likewise of the promise of Easter; the resurrection and eternal life. I have witnessed the strength and resiliency of our CBA community countless times over these last weeks since we had to move CBA online. We will get through this together. We may have some struggles ahead, but we will find strength in each other, and we will persevere.

Let us first recognize and appreciate the collective efforts of our entire community -- students, parents, teachers, and counselors, as all have worked together to find new successes in our abrupt move to online school. Having said that, we feel it is also important to provide our usual break enabling all of us to celebrate the Easter season while also taking time to separate from computer screens and prepare for the next stage in distance education. As Winston Churchill famously said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." And continue on this path we must as it seems increasingly likely that our return to Newman Springs road will be further delayed. We face the real possibility that we will be finishing this academic year online, and as such our program must again evolve with the circumstances.

When online instruction resumes on Monday, April 20, there will be a new schedule, which blends an increase in structured direct instruction with the continuation of the flexible schedule we have used over the past three weeks. This new schedule will run as follows:

| MONDAY                    | TUESDAY                   | WEDNESDAY                              | THURSDAY           | FRIDAY                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| A1 9:30-10:10<br>(10:30)  | A5 9:30-10:10<br>(10:30)  | MATH TESTING PERIOD<br>(9:30-10:30)    | A1 9:30-9:55       | SCIENCE TESTING<br>PERIOD (9:30-10:30) |
|                           |                           |  | A2 10:10-<br>10:35 |  |
| A2 10:50-11:30<br>(11:50) | A6 10:50-11:30<br>(11:50) |  | A3 10:50-<br>11:15 |  |
|                           |                           |  | A4 11:30-<br>11:55 |  |
| LUNCH                     | LUNCH                     | LUNCH                                  | LUNCH              | LUNCH                                  |
|                           |                           |  | A5 12:35-<br>1:00  |  |
| A3 12:40-1:20<br>(1:40)   | A7 12:40-1:20<br>(1:40)   |  | A6 1:15-1:40       |  |
|                           |                           |  | A7 1:55-2:20       |  |
| A4 2:00-2:40<br>(3:00)    | A8 2:00-2:40<br>(3:00)    | COMP SCI TESTING<br>PERIOD (1:30-2:30) | A8 2:35-3:00       |  |



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MONDAY/TUESDAY: Students will meet for their A-day classes for four periods each day via video interface with their teachers. Attendance at these classes is **mandatory**. Further instructions on expectations and behavior in video online classes will be sent by Mr. Meehan after Easter Sunday. These classes will consist of 40 minutes of direct instruction followed by 20 minutes of office hours. It is our hope that the time between classes will continue to provide a measure of flexibility on these days.

## MONDAY

A-day, period 1 9:30-10:10 (10:30)

A-day, period 2 10:50-11:30 (11:50)

Break for lunch

A-day, period 3 12:40-1:20 (1:40)

A-day, period 4 2:00-2:40 (3:00)

## TUESDAY

A-day, period 5 9:30-10:10 (10:30)

A-day, period 6 10:50-11:30 (11:50)

Break for lunch

A-day, period 7 12:40-1:20 (1:40)

A-day, period 8 2:00-2:40 (3:00)

WEDNESDAY: Students will have a flexible schedule during which they will be responsible for all lessons and work provided by their teachers. In addition, there will be two designated testing periods, one for mathematics and one for computer science, during which teachers in these departments can administer tests that were assigned in advance in an one-hour testing window.

The Mathematics Testing Period is from 9:30 to 10:30, and the Computer Science Testing Period is from 1:30 to 2:30.

Students who have tests at these times are required to attend and to be on time.

THURSDAY: Students will meet with each of their A-day classes for a 25-minute period of direct instruction via video interface with their teachers. Attendance at these classes is **mandatory**.

A-day, period 1 9:30-9:55

A-day, period 2 10:10-10:35

A-day, period 3 10:50-11:15

A-day, period 4 11:30-11:55

Lunch break

A-day, period 5 12:35-1:00



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A-day, period 6 1:15-1:40

A-day, period 7 1:55-2:20

A-day, period 9 2:35-3:00

FRIDAY Students will have a flexible schedule during which they will be responsible for all lessons and work provided by their teachers. In addition, there will be one designated testing period for science during which science teachers can administer tests that were assigned in advance in an one-hour testing window from 9:30 to 10:30.

Students who have tests at these times are required to attend and to be on time. Please direct any questions about the new schedule to Mr. Nunan.

In addition to the new post-Easter break schedule, there have been questions about whether CBA will move to a Pass/Fail grading system as some other schools and colleges have done and whether CBA will have final exams this year.

CBA will not be moving to a Pass/Fail system of grading for the fourth quarter. Students have demonstrated that in our online mode, they are still capable of earning meaningful number grades and adhering to the standards of the Academy.

Given the current situation, however, we will NOT conduct Final Exams this year. The disruptions caused to our instruction and our calendar have impacted the relative need and potential validity of final exams too drastically. Please note though that the cancellation of final exams increases the importance of grades that students earn in the fourth academic quarter; students need to recognize that the work they complete after Easter vacation will contribute significantly to their second semester and final year grades, and should therefore treat their online assignments with seriousness and importance.

We also recognize the value in helping our students stay engaged and socially connected to our community during this time where we are largely limited to staying at home. There are a number of teachers, club moderators, and coaches working with Mrs. Szablewski to plan informal meetings and activities over the Easter break. Things like a video game tournament, movie watch and discussion, cooking/baking classes, online book discussions, and just plain virtual club meetings are already planned. Students should stay tuned to the LMS and email for details, and contact Mrs. Szablewski with questions or ideas.

Although these times are uncertain and difficult, let us thank God for this unique opportunity to be close to our loved ones and gain perspective on what is truly most important in our lives. May God bless all of you and your families during this unusual Easter season.

**R. Ross Fales, Principal**