



May 8, 2020

Dear CBA Students and Parents:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy” (Martin Luther King, Jr). It seems we are destined to continue dealing with the challenges presented by COVID-19, but I know the character of our young men and together we, the CBA community, will meet these challenges, and persevere. Our Academy men will grow and gain perspective, and emerge as stronger people.

Although most of us enjoy an occasional “snow day,” I am sure it was, even if necessary, disappointing to hear Governor Murphy's mandate that all schools will have to continue with distance learning through the remainder of this school year. Our seniors finished up classes this week, but the rest of the student body will continue with online instruction until our scheduled last day on June 5<sup>th</sup>. There are likely a lot of questions and still some uncertainty surrounding the end of this school year and even the summer. What follows is what we've laid out knowing what we know up to this point. Unfortunately things continue to be very fluid and official government directives could still change, thereby effecting our plan.

- **Seniors** - Perhaps the group of students most profoundly affected by this crisis: the CBA Virtual Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation Ceremony will be presented on the originally scheduled graduation date of May 21.
  - We plan to hold some type of graduation ceremony(ies) on the campus of CBA during the weeks of June 8-12 and 15-19. If we are able to have one ceremony outside with graduates appropriately socially distanced on an athletic field, we aim to do so on Thursday June 11.
  - If that is still not permitted, we are planning to have a number of smaller ceremonies by homeroom throughout the weeks of June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - As a last resort, if no gatherings are allowed, we will hand deliver diplomas to students' houses during those weeks of June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Beginning Tuesday, May 26, the day after Memorial Day and continuing for the next nine business days (until June 5<sup>th</sup>), we plan to allow our seniors to return to the building to pick up their graduation gowns, clean out their lockers, and return their books and athletic uniforms/equipment. This will proceed one homeroom per day, 6 students an hour; details will follow under separate cover. Students will have to wear masks and preferably gloves. Any parents or students who are uncomfortable with this can make other arrangements for us to bag locker contents and drop books and/or athletic uniforms equipment outside by emailing Mrs. Szablewski at [mszablewski@cbalincroftnj.org](mailto:mszablewski@cbalincroftnj.org).
- If any of the Governor's directives force us to move these dates, but we can still accomplish these plans before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we will simply move everything back until later in June and follow a similar schedule

- **Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen:**
  - The Friday before Memorial Day weekend, May 22, will be the regular flexible schedule including the science testing period (not a holiday), but the following week after Memorial Day, May 26-29, will be adjusted. Monday and Tuesday classes will run instead on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday's classes are cancelled due to the holiday and Wednesday testing is moved to Thursday. Friday again remains as the regularly scheduled flexible day including the science testing period. June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup> will run according to our regular online schedule, with Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> being our last day.
  - **End of year collection of books/ materials and pick up of belongings** for Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen will take place throughout the month of June beginning June 8 and continuing through June 26 (if necessary). Similar to the procedure for the seniors, except we expect to have two homerooms per day by then, spaced out over each day. Details will follow under separate cover and special arrangements can be made if so desired.
- **Academics:**
  - Since there are no final exams, all third and fourth marking period grades will be averaged for final exam grades in the end of year grade calculation.
  - Any student who fails a class for the year will have several distance learning opportunities for credit recovery. In addition to existing platforms, CBA aims to expand online opportunities for these purposes.
- **Summer classes:** We hope to run our summer classes, but some will need a different schedule than originally planned. Again, this is subject to ever changing state regulations.
  - Advanced summer math classes are now slated to run July 13 through August 21, depending on student interest/ availability. Surveys have been sent out to determine if we will have enough students to run the classes.
  - A.P. Summer Prep programs will run on their regularly scheduled August dates as of right now.
- **Other Events**
  - Although we hope to have some type of live graduation with appropriate social distancing, it is highly unlikely that it would be safe to have our proms, even in July, given the nature of those events and the number of people who would attend. Refunds will be issued to all those who signed up and made payments.
  - The CBA Family BBQ scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday after our last day of school, has unfortunately been cancelled.
  - The Father & Son Golf Outing - The Fathers' Club is working with Battle Ground Golf Club on this event, which is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. As soon as a decision is made, an email will be sent.
- **2020-2021 School Year:** As focused as we are on the end of this year, it is hard to believe that we are already planning for September 2020. With cautious optimism, it is our belief that we will be back on our campus in the hallowed halls of the Academy this fall.
  - The 2020-21 tuition deposit has been postponed because of the current crisis and will now be due on June 15. Re-enrolment instructions will be sent home next week.
  - Contact Mr. McLoughlin in our business office with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for continuing to work together with us as we all adjust to the circumstances at hand. Let us pray in a special way for our seniors, as they will soon transition from students to Alumni of Christian Brothers Academy; we ask that God bless and accompany them during this unusual culmination of their time as a student at CBA. May God likewise bless all of our students, as well parents and families in these uncertain times.

Stay Safe!

R. Ross Fales