

# FALCON FAMILY NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### DEAR FAMILIES:

Happy New Year! As I write this letter, I find myself reflecting on 2020, a year of unexpected changes, daunting challenges, and for many, heartbreaking losses. How fitting though, that on the darkest day of the year, December 21, Jupiter and Saturn traversed, giving us what many have called the *Christmas Star*. What a rare occurrence and beautiful reminder that even in the darkest of times things are happening that we cannot see yet; the promise of light is being fulfilled.

On January 6, as Catholics, we along with many other faiths, celebrate the Epiphany, the revelation to the nations of the world of Christ as the Son of God – both as an infant and at His baptism. What a fitting way to begin 2021 – with renewed hope and faith in the light that is God's promise to us all.

In that promise, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings of this incredible community. Our faculty and staff have been steadfast in their dedication to our students and families. Returning to campus in October was no small feat and I am in awe of all who worked so diligently to make it happen. Our students have been resilient, creative, and care-filled in adapting to school in our new HyFlex environment. Student Activities and our student leaders have identified new ways of building community and enhancing connections. We enjoyed Homecoming week games out on the lawn while other online competitions were taking place for our at-home learners. CB sophomore Tilda Allen '23 (DJ Tildster) served as online DJ for the virtual Homecoming dance via Twitch. Our performing arts teachers continue to showcase student talents. This fall, our theatre team debuted two radio plays. Our student journalists broadcasted two KBFT shows each week and the choir helped us all get in the spirit with a virtual Christmas concert. Our Campus Minister and Director of Christian Service, with members of God Squad and S.A.L.T. have worked hard to implement creative ways of celebrating and sharing our faith and opportunities for service in our community through food and clothing drives. Our Athletics Department stands at the helm ready to begin the year's athletic seasons. The seasons, which were slated to run December through June, are now on

hold until January 25th at the earliest. Recent guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health links returning to play with a county's COVID-19 tier. Our prayer is that Sacramento County moves out of the purple as soon as possible to allow for our student-athletes to return to field, court, course and pool.

Doing so will take the collective effort of our entire region. Much as we have demonstrated with our return to in-person education, adhering to recommended safety measures can and does make a difference. I am grateful that we have not had any cases of COVID-19 transmission occurring at school. I pray that this becomes the norm for our region.

With vaccines on the horizon, there is light at the end of the tunnel and a prayer for a return to normalcy. That said, I do not believe we will return to life as it was before. I know I speak for all of us at Christian Brothers High School when I share that we are going to take the best of what we have learned throughout this pandemic and apply it to the way we teach and minister to our students moving forward.

Thank you for the blessing of our students. We are grateful for your continued partnership and the faith you place in us as educators. Please pray for us all as we begin this new semester, hopeful in God's promise and light.

Live Jesus in our hearts!



Annemarie Bacich, Ed.M.  
Principal

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Counseling
- Christian Service
- Campus Ministry
- Athletics
- Student Activities
- Media, Visual and Performing Arts
- Important Reminders

## COUNSELING

### Parents: If your child has 'D's or 'F's on his/her report card, PLEASE READ THIS!

As the [CB Parent-Student Handbook](#) emphasizes, 'D's' and 'F's' are bad news on report cards! It is important for you and your student(s) to understand that neither 'D's' nor 'F's' are acceptable. **'F' grades must be repeated for credit to graduate from Christian Brothers High School. 'D' grades, though worth five credits toward graduation, are not accepted by four-year colleges and universities. All California State University campuses, University of California campuses, and most private institutions require a 'C' or above in all core courses** (Core courses are approved history, English, math, lab science, world language, visual and performing arts, and elective courses – also known as the 'a-g' list of approved courses. See the chart below for these requirements). If students have 'D's' on the transcript in any a-g courses and do not remediate them, they are not eligible to apply for admission to CSU and UC schools, therefore seriously limiting their choices for college.

	Subject	Requirements for UCs and CSUs
a	Social Science	<b>2 years</b> (1 year of world history & 1 year of U.S. history or 1 semester of U.S. History/ 1 semester of government)
b	English	<b>4 years</b> , including frequent writing
c	Mathematics	<b>3 years, including Algebra II;</b> <u>4 years recommended</u>
d	Laboratory Science	<b>2 years;</b> <u>3 years recommended</u> (one must be a life science and another a physical science)
e	Foreign Language	<b>2 years</b> (of the same language); <u>3 years recommended</u>
f	Visual & Performing Arts	<b>1 year</b>
g	College Preparatory Electives	<b>1 year;</b> <u>more recommended</u>

If your child would like to keep his/her options open and remain eligible to apply to a four-year college, the Counseling Department highly recommends that he/she remediate (repeat for credit) any 'D' grades earned in a-g approved courses. Students may enroll in a variety of classes during the upcoming 2021 CBHS Summer School session to remediate a grade. While previous grades are never removed from a student's transcript, if a student completes the course in summer school with a 'C' or above, his/her transcript will reflect the new credits and the new grade will be used when calculating the grade point average.

For example, if your child is currently enrolled in biology and received a 'D' the first semester, he/she should consider repeating biology this summer. If he/she is currently enrolled in a math or world language course and received a low grade the first

semester ('D' or 'F'), it is important to receive a 'C' or above at the end of the spring semester. **CSU and UC will "validate" (count as successful) the whole year of a math or world language course if the student shows marked improvement the second semester (i.e. goes from a 'D' to a 'C,' 'B,' or 'A').** Therefore, students have a choice – work very hard this semester in math and/or world language and bring the grade up or repeat it in summer school or next school year to raise the grade. **Since a full four years of English is a basic requirement for eligibility to a four-year college, any 'D's' in English should be remediated in the summer.** One year of world history is the minimum requirement for eligibility, so students should be sure to have a 'C' or above for at least two of the four semesters of frosh/soph world history. Any U.S. history 'D's' should also be remediated.

**Please contact your child's grade-level counselor if you have questions about remediating grades.** If you intend to register for summer school, registration will be available online. Check the CB website in February for more information.

### Attention Seniors and Parents:

Please remember to **turn in copies of your admission decisions and scholarship letters** to Cynthia Grajeda, Melissa McClellan, April Melarkey, or John Riley-Portal in the Counseling Center as you receive them.

It is also very important that students update their admission status on [Family Connection](#).

## CLASS OF 2025 INFORMATION

The online application and \$55 registration fee for the Class of 2025 are due on January 7, 2021.

To protect the health and safety of our community, we will not be administering the Placement Exam this year.

For more information, visit the [Admissions Timeline web page](#) on the CB website or contact [admissions@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:admissions@cbhs-sacramento.org).

If your eighth grader hasn't had the opportunity to join us for a **Future Falcon Live Chat**, now's your chance! **There is one more chat on Wednesday, January 6 at 3:30 p.m.**

During this approximately 30-minute virtual chat, your student will hear all about student life at CB and have the opportunity to ask our CB students questions. [Click here to sign up.](#)

## Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve

**Registration for VENAVER Blackfeet, Browning, Montana**



On this four-day livestream immersion experience students will work at the De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana, tutoring grammar school and middle school students. The group lives in community on the Blackfeet Reservation. Students will be introduced to reservation life and Blackfeet culture and see the majesty of nature by virtually exploring the Rocky Mountains and Glacier National Park. We are blessed that 24 students from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes will have the opportunity to serve, build community, and experience VENAVER Blackfeet. Two immersion dates are available to students interested in applying. **Immersion dates are: Sunday to Wednesday, March 21-24 or April 18-21.** [Click here to register.](#)

### S.A.L.T. Virtual Workshops Calendar for January



Questions?

Contact Mrs. Gigi Grapé at [ggrape@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:ggrape@cbhs-sacramento.org).

- **January 12** - Letters to Lasallians in the District of SFNO
- **January 19** - Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home Workshop
- **January 26** - Wellspring Hospitality Bag Workshop

**Thank you!**

### Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is a way of spreading the Christmas spirit and sharing gifts with those in need. Christian Service would like to thank all CB families, faculty, staff, and students who donated to the Giving Tree.

## Christmas Gifts for Senior Citizens Drop-off Drive

Congratulation on another successful Falcon Drop-Off Drive!

Thank you to our CB families, students, faculty, and staff who donated and served in the Gift Giving for Senior Citizens Drop-Off Drive in December. Together, we collected over 200 gifts for Senior Citizens in the Greater Sacramento Area!

Students volunteers: S.A.L.T., Lasallian Youth, and Leadership Class

Adults volunteers: Mr. Acosta, Mr. & Mrs. Cann, Mr. & Mrs. Grapé, Mr. Havey, and Ms. Christianson.





## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### Sophomore Retreat Dates

We are so happy you are a part of our Christian Brothers High School community and we hope that your family is settling into the life and rhythm of high school! We are blessed to have the opportunity to invite your son/daughter to engage in the spiritual life of our school through liturgies, prayer, and retreats.

**This year, the sophomore class will have a half-day virtual retreat.** While we wish we could gather in person for this event, we remain committed to providing a meaningful virtual retreat experience for the Class of 2023. **All sophomore students are expected to participate in this retreat.**

Our time of retreat will complement the ongoing orientation of our sophomores to our Lasallian Catholic traditions and connection to the larger community of Lasallian ministries. **The theme of the retreat is "What do I treasure?"** Sophomore students are assigned to their day of retreat based on their Religious Studies classes:

- **Monday, January 11 - Mr. Havey's classes**
- **Monday, February 8 - Mr. Elorduy's classes**
- **Monday, February 22 - Fr. Murin's classes**

All sophomore students and parents will receive additional correspondence from sophomore religion teachers.

**On the morning of the retreat, students are asked to join the retreat (the link will be included in the checklist) by 9:25 a.m. The retreat will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m.** There will be time spent in the large group as well as small group breakout times. We have built in time for prayer, reflection, games, individual time, and breaks.

**Regular school dress code is required – students are encouraged to wear their purple class spirit shirt or other CB shirt.** Students should be in a space where they can focus and be free of distractions during the retreat. Please avoid cell phone use during the retreat time. Students' backgrounds should be blurred while on screen.

Thank you for your cooperation in what promises to be a spiritual and educational opportunity for your son/daughter. We are excited to share this day of retreat with the Class of 2023!

Please email Gigi Grapé at [ggrape@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:ggrape@cbhs-sacramento.org) if you have any questions.

## ATHLETICS

In July, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and CIF Sac-Joaquin Section announced modified dates for this year's competitive sports seasons. The standard three seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring) were condensed to two (Season 1, Season 2) and were expected to begin in December and run through June. However, **competitions are now on hold until January 25th, at the earliest, according to [updated information](#) shared by the California Department of Public Health.** Additional information and protocols are expected to be shared in early January.

### Falcon Athletes at the College Level

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who committed to continuing their athletic careers at the college level:

- **Malia Gay '21:** Track and Field at Saint Mary's College of California
- **Sawyer Hays '21:** Football at California State University, Sacramento
- **Gabriel Maya '21:** Baseball at University of San Diego
- **Lexi Rakela '21:** Soccer at California State University, Sacramento

We are proud of your hard work and dedication to academics and athletics!

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Activities continues to plan meaningful and memorable events this second semester as we continue to build community in the midst of the pandemic. **Our Student Council is welcoming our new transfer students into the CB community through a virtual orientation on Monday, January 4.** In an online setting, our new students will be toured virtually and meet some of our amazing CB student leaders who will talk about student life during their CBHS experience. More activities are now in their planning stages for our different classes, most especially for our Senior Class of 2021. Clubs will continue to engage members through their common interests, service opportunities, and more. We are looking forward to a healthy, safe and exciting new year for all of us!



## MEDIA, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

It's a new year in the Arts. CB artists are gearing up for 2021 and navigating pandemic conditions with creativity to bring the arts to our community.

### Theatre

**Theatre is preparing for a virtual Lenaea Festival.** Typically held at Folsom Lake College, the Lenaea Festival draws 3,000 high school theatre students from across California and Oregon (and even one school from Alaska!) to show off their talents, receive feedback, and participate in workshops from theatre professionals. Things will be different this year with all performances being recorded and the feedback given virtually, but CB will be sending performances of monologues, songs, and an original one act play by **Angelina Landeros '21, *Through Her Eyes***. **All of these will be part of our CB Theatre Showcase, which will be recorded and available on KBFT's YouTube channel on February 12, 2021.**

In case you missed it, CB Theatre produced two radio plays from the 1940s series, *Suspense!* We recommend listening to them on a stormy night with a cup of cocoa.

- [Always Room at The Top](#)
- [Sorry, Wrong Number](#)

### Spreading the Christmas Cheer

We may not be able to have live performances on campus, but that won't stop **Open Mic** and **Choir** from spreading some Christmas cheer. Open Mic gathered video submissions from our talented community for Open Mic Night. Choir spent weeks individually recording each singer and editing the songs together for a virtual Christmas Concert. These events are still available for your viewing:

- [An Open Mic Christmas](#)
- [Choral Christmas Concert](#)
- ["Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" – CB Vocal Jazz](#)

### Digital Art

Our newest visual arts class, Digital Art, has been hard at work. Enjoy this [video of their artwork](#) from the animation section.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**We wish you a happy and safe New Year!**

- **We will shift to Digital Learning Days for two weeks following the Christmas break, with a scheduled return to in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 19.**

- To give our students and families a break from academic demands during Christmas break, **access to PowerSchool has been closed and will reopen and posted semester grades will be available at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4. Semester report cards will be sent home by email on Friday, January 8.** We hope that our students and families will use this time to relax, decompress and enjoy time with family.

- **All students will be assigned back into their original cohort (Cohort A - Red and Cohort B - Blue) for the spring semester. These cohorts will be visible on PowerSchool when access is reopened on January 4.** You will also receive a communication from the school administration about cohorts, with the **option of still choosing to be in Cohort C (100% online distance learning)**. Information about continuing in the distance learning mode will also be in the next Friday weekly update email on January 8. As a reminder, all classes will be virtual until Tuesday, January 19.

- For the health and safety of our local community and the common good, we ask that you **take to heart the spirit of California's Stay at Home Order and the travel advisory** recently shared by health officials and the governor, asking that individuals avoid all non-essential travel and those traveling out of state (particularly using public modes of transportation) observe a two-week quarantine period upon their return to California and that interactions be limited to the immediate household.

## Class of 2021 Updates



- **Audrey Jeffers '21**, creator and artist of the Senior Mural, is hard at work painting. **The Class of 2021 theme is "Dusk to Dawn."**
- **Seniors who wish to paint their parking space for the spring semester must purchase a parking pass and submit an image of their design to Mrs. Hanshew and Mrs. Vanenburg for approval.** The passes may be purchased in the Front Office or [online](#).
- We anticipate senior t-shirts and sweatshirts will arrive in time for the spring semester. Mrs. Hanshew and Mrs. Vanenburg will be sure to communicate with seniors about where, when and how they can collect their purchased apparel once it arrives. Thank you for your patience!