



October 28, 2019

Dear Families:

Earlier this month, President Barnes shared with you that Mr. Orr's service as Principal to Christian Brothers High School had concluded. We recognize that news regarding this change and the imminent departure of Mr. Barnes as President in July may lead to some questions regarding the future direction of the school. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I assure you that our commitment to the Lasallian Catholic mission is steadfast and this extraordinary community of students, faculty, staff and families will continue to thrive.

The Board holds as sacred our covenant to ensure the school and its leaders uphold the tenets of our Lasallian Core Principles – faith in the presence of God, quality education, inclusive community, respect for all persons, and concern for the poor and social justice. Our work to find the best possible individual to serve as the next President has begun with the formation of a search committee, an invitation to families, alumni and friends to join us in this endeavor by sharing [information regarding the position](#), and the hiring of an executive search firm to further diversify our efforts. We are grateful to all of you who have shared the position announcement and those of you who have formally offered to join our committee. We look forward to expanding the group and sharing more news with you as we move ahead.

Once a new President has been named, we will support him or her in the process of hiring an outstanding leader as Principal to ensure that CB's faith life flourishes and that faculty and staff have the resources and support they need to remain at the forefront of innovative education.

In the areas of inclusivity and respect, Christian Brothers is blessed to welcome students from a variety of ethnic, economic and spiritual backgrounds. According to "Niche Rankings" lists of *Most Diverse Private High Schools*, CB ranks number one locally and in the top 2 percent nationally based on ethnic, economic and cultural diversity. Our longtime commitment to inclusive community and respect for all persons is unwavering. Over the past 15 years, the racial diversity of our student body has grown by 15 percent. With a deep understanding of, and appreciation for the blessings that this diversity brings, the school's Leadership Team developed a Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan in early 2016. As part of this plan, the school engaged a consultant to provide diversity and inclusion training for all administrators, faculty and staff. Further, members of leadership, department chairs and program managers participated in Implicit Bias Training, as did members of the school's Religious Studies Department who then provided the training to students. The school also created a Diversity and Inclusion

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Committee comprised of a cross-section of employees dedicated to identifying and facilitating activities that promote the many ways that diversity complements the richness of life and community that we share at CB. This effort has expanded to include the creation of a student Diversity and Inclusion Committee this year.

In February of 2017, CB's Leadership Team crafted the following statement to capture the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion which we, as a Board, wholeheartedly endorse.

*Christian Brothers High School
Inclusion Statement*

Christian Brothers High School's Lasallian Catholic mission and Lasallian Core Principles emphasize diversity and inclusion as essential. It is vital that our school community continue learning, celebrating and challenging our perceptions, and developing empathy as we commit to a better understanding of the importance that diversity contributes to our world. We envision a community that goes beyond the tolerance of difference to one that is guided by social justice, cultural competence and engaged citizenship where all voices are respected and valued. We believe that inclusivity is essential to building a stronger Christian Brothers community and achieving the standards of excellence to which we aspire.

This commitment to inclusivity extends to the school's mission to serve poor and middle-income families. Over the past 15 years, CB's tuition assistance has grown by more than \$2 million. The school proudly leads the region in need-based tuition assistance providing \$2.8 million to 421 deserving students this year. Ensuring that Lasallian Catholic education is affordable and accessible is a personal imperative for all of us.

The Christian Brothers High School motto of "*Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve*" first adorned the front of the school's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math wing tower in 2002. Yet, concern for the poor and social justice have been vital components of the educational philosophy of the Christian Brothers for more than 300 years. Centuries after De La Salle established the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the faculty, staff and students of Christian Brothers High School share that faith and zeal throughout our Oak Park community and beyond. Every month, students participate in Oak Park Clean Up, building relationships while improving the quality of life for all. Two afternoons each week, members of CB's Lasallian Youth walk to Oak Ridge Elementary where they tutor and mentor the boys and girls who receive after school care. They also organize a Christmas party, collecting and distributing hundreds of holiday gifts for students in pre-kindergarten classes and beyond. Every Friday morning, when many of us are still sleeping, CB's Wellspring Club members are busy making breakfast and bag lunches for the women and children served at Oak Park's phenomenal Wellspring Women's Center. Just this week, CB's art students took their talents and creativity to Oak Park's Art Garden where they further enhanced this emerging community gem. CB's La Raza Club is busy building and gathering altars for this month's Dia de los Muertos celebration in Oak Park and Christian Service is gearing up for the *Yes We Can!* food drive in partnership with Williams Memorial Church. CB's students enthusiastically collect and deliver thousands of food items to enhance Pastor Meeks's efforts at ensuring that Oak Park families have all that they need to enjoy a festive and filling holiday meal at Thanksgiving. While these are just a few examples of the myriad ways in which CB's students and families touch the lives of our community's most

vulnerable, the school's commitment to our neighbors and service is enduring and unchanged.

Throughout the coming months, students will be lovingly cared for by CB's dedicated team of faculty, staff and administrators who are fully committed to maintaining the school's strong, college preparatory curriculum and nurturing, faith-filled community. We recognize that change and uncertainty are not always easy, and we are grateful for your partnership and prayers as we work to further our 143-year tradition of excellent, Lasallian Catholic education in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

Steve Mahaney '69, Chair
On behalf of the Board of Trustees