



Dear Friend of CB,

My name is Nancy and I want to tell you a little bit about myself so you'll know who you're helping when you give to CB.

I was in middle school at St. Patrick's Academy when my family started to talk about CB.

My family is small but close. Growing up in our house, it was always me, my mom, my three siblings and my great grandfather. Even though it's not the biggest family we have a lot of fun together and talk about everything.

We joke a lot. But when my mom said that it was the family's wish for me to go to CB, it was serious.

When I went to the shadow day at CB, it felt like a good place. The whole environment felt friendly and welcoming. It felt like family. It became my goal to be a student at CB.

I knew it was financially out of reach for us but mom said, "You do your part and keep your grades up and I'll do my part to help you get in."

I kept my grades up. I applied, and my mom filled out the information. When I got in – and received a scholarship - she cried and cried! She was so happy! And my great grandfather was so proud. It makes me happy to think about how proud he was to see me get in.

The best thing happened during summer school before my freshman year. Mr. Delgado saw me and talked to me. He told me that he'd gone to school here too, and not to set limits on myself. I felt at home at CB right away because a teacher took the time to talk to me.

That made a big difference for me because at first, I was afraid I didn't belong here.

I compared myself to other people. I remember thinking that I wasn't as good as they were. I had a lot of self-doubt. But now, with the help of my teachers, friends and family, I've recognized my strong points as a student and as a person. I have my art. And I have my voice. And I can use both to make a difference for myself, and for other people.



Meet Nancy, Class of '20

- Enrolled in 4-year art program
- First generation to attend college
- Aspires to major in art
- Hopes to create understanding and unity through her art
- Highly focused on grades
- Found a support network at CB which helps her achieve and aspire
- Influences at CB include Mrs. Mundo, Mr. Diaz '94, Mr. Delgado '79 and Mr. Capogreco '86
- Younger brother, Anthony, in Class of 2022

"I started to think about what kind of difference I'm making here at CB. I have my art. And I have my voice. And I can use both to make a difference for others."



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Next year, I will be the first in my family to go to college. I want to major in art, and someday see my work in galleries and museums.

I'm in CB's 4-year art program. Right now, I'm focused on refining more of my work so that I have it for my college application portfolio. I believe that art can help build closer bonds with other people. It lets people know what we have in common and can create understanding. Art is definitely one of the best things that happened here for me.

One of the other best things that happened is that my brother Anthony started at CB last year. It's fun to have him here and to teach him new things along the way.

When he got in, my mom cried and cried again!

Tuition assistance makes it possible for both of us to have this opportunity. I am so grateful for the people who helped me and my brother study at CB. It's an amazing education.

At this school, I have caring teachers, friends - or should I say *family* - and the best environment. All these things make me feel safe and welcomed.

This opportunity helped me realize that I should be thankful for everything I have. It's really a dream, one which I can share with my brother Anthony now.

I will always remember when Mr. Delgado talked to us about how we can make an impact on the school. He asked me to think about how I am going to make *my* difference at CB. It was good to have him ask that question because ever since then, I started to think about what kind of difference I'm making here. And I have decided that what I can bring is my particular outlook, experience and opinions. I can use my art to help bring understanding.

I am a senior this year, and can't wait to see what this year has in store for me and for Anthony. We have so much to look forward to because of CB!

Thank you,

Nancy Chavez

Nancy, Class of 2020



Untitled artwork by Nancy Chavez '20