



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE SINCE 1859

October 19, 2011

Dear Member of the Christian Brothers Academy Community:

Because Christian Brothers Academy is important to you, we wanted to inform you directly of a major decision reached by the Board of Trustees as part of our strategic plans to strengthen the future of CBA and provide opportunities to our students. As with every major decision, we carefully balance CBA's incredible tradition with the challenges we face today.

Of the 1,675 JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) programs in the country, less than 1% is mandatory in day schools. Beginning in the 2012 school year, the JROTC program will become optional for all CBA students. We strongly believe that this decision will play a major role in our efforts to attract a greater diversity of students, enhance our JROTC program, and will allow students more opportunities to pursue other academic or co-curricular activities.

While we are excited about the prospects of this change, we are strongly committed to the JROTC tradition at CBA. In making JROTC optional, we are 100% steadfast in the commitment to foster and sustain one of the nation's elite JROTC programs. We will maintain our Honor Unit with Distinction designation by the United States Army, continue to nominate students to Service Academies, and will support students who wish to pursue ROTC scholarships. We believe the JROTC will be stronger because the students who choose to participate will be fully dedicated.

This decision may not come as a surprise to many of you. This move has been discussed for a number of years. It is also not a decision that we made in a vacuum. As part of our strategic visioning and dialogue within the CBA community to grow the student body and enhance our student programs, we have spent a great deal of time studying national and regional success stories. Other Lasallian schools around the nation have made similar changes with tremendous long-term success.

Paramount to any decision-making is the opportunities we provide to our students. Our decisions are made with Saint John Baptist de La Salle and his teachings in mind.

Since our founding in 1859, CBA has prioritized academic success and achievement. We want our student body to have more time to pursue academic interests. We want to do more to prepare students for college and expand student interest in Advanced Placement (AP), other college credited courses, and special programs we have in math, science and technology. We want our students to have a deeper commitment to programs that interest them, including our music program, service ministry, speech and debate teams, and other programs that will enhance the educational experience at CBA.

In 2012, we expect that a majority of the student body will actively participate in the JROTC program. Those students who participate in JROTC today will have the same high standards that have been part of the long CBA tradition. Our color guard, honor guard, our band, and our drill and raider teams will remain important and visible representatives of CBA's commitment to honor and duty, ethics and good citizenship. All students will be held to the same high standards of the CBA Code of Conduct. All students will wear uniforms, with those not in JROTC wearing traditional catholic school attire. All of our students will continue to learn leadership skills and character development. We have always believed that these principles come from the Lasallian education traditions.

We hold dear CBA's long and proud traditions. We are also constantly responding to the changes around us to ensure we are preparing our students to meet today's challenges. With any change we make, we are careful to ensure that the school is always one of which you can be proud. We believe this change is one of which you can be proud.

During the upcoming Open House on October 27, we will be showcasing the school and publicly announcing the change. This important topic will also be discussed at our planned State of the School night on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 pm. We will continue to keep you apprised of important information that affects the CBA community.

Please stay tuned to our website www.cbaalbany.org for regular updates on school and alumni activities, and to view a short video message about this particular change.

St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us. Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!

Sincerely,



James Schlegel
Principal



Christopher Scaringe '82
Chairman, Board of Trustees