CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY

850 Newman Springs Road • Lincroft, NJ 07738-1698

August 2026

Dear Juniors and Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you are enjoying a restful summer. As we prepare to return to school in September, the School and College Counseling Office wanted to provide you with an outline for your junior year. Additionally, we are excited to announce that Ms. Anna Maria Demonte will be joining our team at CBA! Ms. Demonte first began her career in education in the classroom as a teacher with a background in special education. After completing her Master's Degree in School Counseling, she began working in the counseling office at high schools in New York and New Jersey. During her time as a school and college counselor, Ms. Demonte has also been named the Student Concerns Coordinator and the Interim Academic Advisor. Her years of experience as both a counselor and teacher will be invaluable to our students during their high school years. Please join me in welcoming her to our CBA community.

With the addition of Ms. Demonte to the staff, we had to reshuffle counselor assignments towards the end of the alphabet. Below is a breakdown for the counselor assignments based on your son's last name.

Counselor Assignments by Last Name

Mr. David Frick----------A - D
Mr. Kevin McCaig----------E - K
Mrs. Rosellen Leo----------L - Pl
Ms. Anna Maria Demonte------Po - Sa
Mr. Patrick Brennan----------Sc - Z

Through scheduled meetings, formal programs, a College and Career Planning Class and the use of our Maia Learning software, we will come together, learn about the college admissions process and discuss strategies that should prove helpful in pursuing your son's college dreams. The College and Career Planning Class is one of the most unique aspects to our college advising program. This class will meet once every cycle throughout the year.

Each counselor will schedule an initial meeting with their junior students in the late fall; yet, students are encouraged to schedule a meeting earlier, if needed. We will schedule parent meetings during the school day between January and March when your son has either lunch or a free period. These parent, student and counselor meetings will provide a tremendous opportunity for us to come together and discuss your son's college application process. Further enhancements have been made to create a robust evening programming schedule centered around the college application process. Please see the school calendar for additional information.

In the College and Career Planning class, we will explore the various aspects of the college search and application processes. We will discuss critical factors, such as your son's grades and test scores while encouraging him to dig deep to find the school that meets all of his needs. Skills learned during junior year will assist in his preparation for the journey ahead, we expect your entire class to be met with equal success and the recognition earned by CBA classes prior.

Topics will include:

- The use of Maia Learning to gather and analyze significant amounts of college & career data
- The college selection process – how do college admissions officers evaluate applicants?
- The competitive nature of selective admissions – qualified vs. competitive
- College "hooks' – special interests
- The definition of a "good" college; the use and misuse of college rankings
- Finding the "right fit"- the matching process between you and the college
- Finding college information from different sources – use of college search engines
- Importance and use of standardized tests – what can they predict, what can't they predict
- Importance of college visits – tips to maximize your visits – interview hints
- Using personality profiles & career assessment surveys to discover potential majors & careers
- All types of financial aid including need-based aid, merit scholarships and more
- College application essays – what works, what doesn't
- Importance of extracurricular activities – building resumes and activity sheets
- College applications – detailed review of the entire Common Application
- Developing your self-profile – background information that helps us write recommendations

Special Considerations:

- Athletics (Recruitment Process, NCAA rules, etc.)
- Military (Academies & ROTC Programs)
- Music, Art, Filmmaking, etc. – portfolios

The importance of earning solid grades throughout junior year cannot be emphasized enough. We can assure you that continuing to work hard in your classes while maintaining your involvement in activities, athletics as well as your commitment to service will lead to your best possible college choices.

We have a busy agenda ahead of us but by working together we can enjoy a fruitful and productive year. Included on the class page you will also find a calendar of important tasks to guide you through the year. We look forward to our continued partnership and to seeing you at the Junior Parent Night on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00PM.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

The CBA School and College Counseling Office