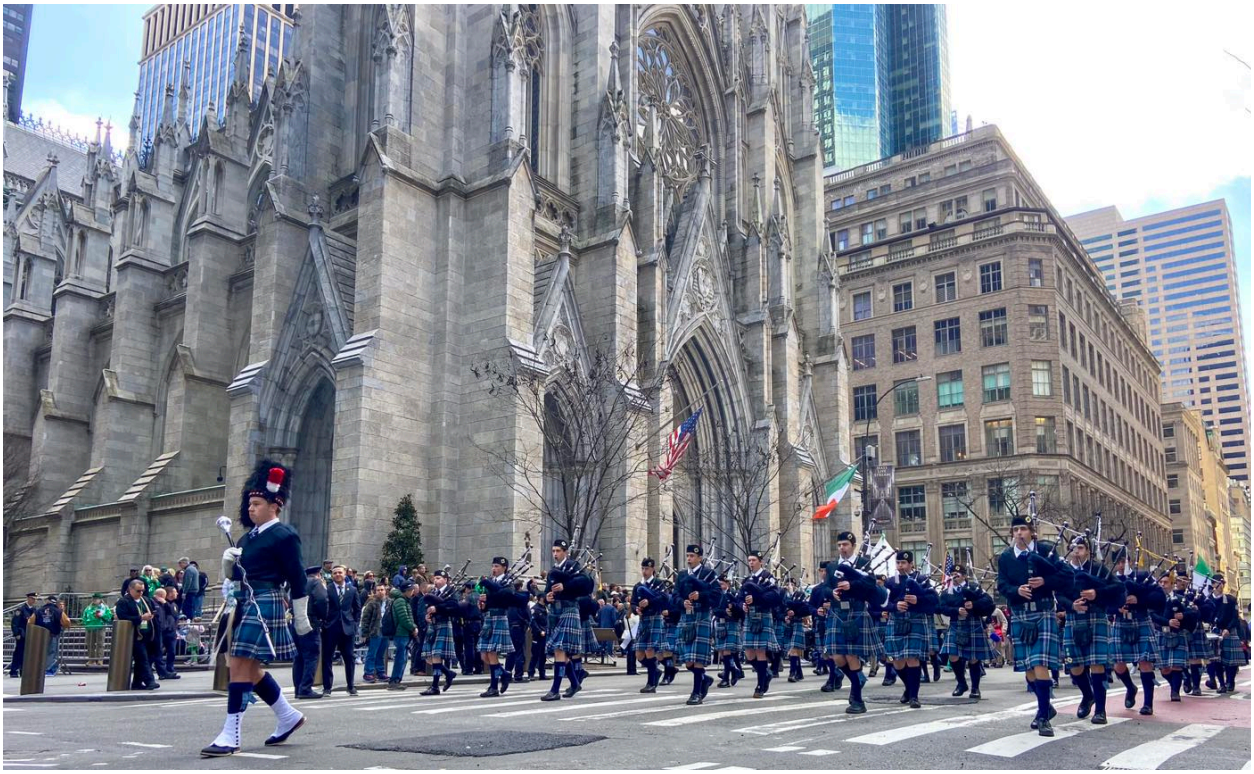
The History of Christian Brothers Academy Pipes and Drums



2011-2012

- Matt Buckley and Gorsha Saling from the Class of 2013 asked if they could start a bagpipe band. They put a poster together entitled *"Why Join a Bagpipe Band? I'll give you 17 Good Reasons."* They listed 17 colleges that gave out bagpipe scholarships.
- Dennis Kelly '78 arranges to have Gordon Bell and Frank Johnson come to CBA once a week for instruction. Gordon took the drummers, and Frank took the pipers.
- In the spring of 2012, about fifteen students begin learning the bagpipes and drums.



2012-2013

- Practice continues, and the number of students who continue to learn the instruments remains at about 15.
- Gordon Bell gets us into the South Amboy Parade for March 2013, and Rumson invites us into their inaugural St. Patrick's Parade for March 2013.
- We decided on the Prince Andrew Tartan, and hire Missy O'Kane to do our first set of kilts. Pipes are ordered from Willie McCallum in Scotland, we purchase a used bass drum from a band in North Carolina, and Gordon Bell gives us a couple of snare drums. Gerry Ward, father of Roddy Ward '13, helps us secure other items for our uniform.
- On March 9, 2013, we march in our first parade in South Amboy. Since we are still a bit weak with the music, Gordon Bell marches with us, and we hire two other pipers to march. Brother Tim Ahern begins his service to the CBA Pipes & Drums as our bus driver.
- The students who marched that day were Matt Buckley '13, Gorsha Saling '13, Roddy Ward '13, Zach Barden '13, Allan Cuttle '14, Tom Palisi '14, Michael Collins '14, Connor Foor '14, Bryan Smyth '15, Andrew Wessel '15, and Jack Ruiz '15. Roddy was selected as the first Pipe Major of the band.
- The Band received our first award, *Best Junior Marching Unit,* at the Rumson Parade.
- In May, the CBA Pipes & Drums had the first "Pipe Out" of the seniors. Previous to the band, it was Andrew O'Sullivan in 2009, Br. Frank in 2010, and Roddy Ward and Br. Frank in 2011 and 2012.



2013-2014

- New members join the band, which now has 30 students, 19 of whom are able to march.
- The Band marches in St. Patrick's Day Parades in South Amboy, Rumson, and for the first time in Belmar. In May, we are invited to march in the Freehold and Farmingdale Memorial Day Parades. The Band receives awards at the Rumson and Freehold Parades.
- The Band is invited to perform at St. Benedict's School for a fundraiser, and for a CBA Crew fundraiser at Trump National Golf Club.
- The band raffles off Super Bowl tickets to help pay for uniforms and equipment, and we raise $23,000.
- Bryan Smyth '15 was the Pipe Major this year.



2014-2015

- The band now has just over twenty members marching.
- Oak Hill Academy invites us to play at their Veteran's Day Assembly. This will become an annual event for the band.
- Keansburg invites the band to play in their St. Patrick's Parade for the first time.



2015-2016

- Matt McLoughlin ‘16 takes over from Bryan Smyth as Pipe Major.
- The CBA Pipes & Drums wins 2 awards at the Freehold Memorial Day Parade.
- The Little Silver Firemen invite the band to play at their St. Patrick Fundraiser. This will become an annual event for the band.



2016-2017

- Anthony Frawley ‘17 takes over as Pipe Major for the band.
- The CBA Pipes & Drums performs for the first time at the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the Jersey Shore Black Tie Dinner. This was a “surprise” appearance, since Br. Frank was being honored as the Irishman of the Year. The band parents also presented Brother Frank with a new set of bagpipes!
- CBA Pipes & Drums will be the official band of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.
- Keyport invites us to their St. Patrick’s Parade. We take 3rd Place as *The Best Appearing Band.*
- CBA Pipes & Drums receives 2nd Place as *The Best Band Award* at the Freehold Memorial Day Parade.



2017-2018

- Shane Hanney ‘18 leads the band as our Pipe Major.
- Middletown invites the band to play in their Veterans Day Parade.
- The band takes 1st Place at the Rumson St. Patrick’s Day Parade and 2nd Place at the Freehold Memorial Day Parade.
- The band performs for the 100th Anniversary of Sea Girt, and also at the Colts Neck 9/11 Commemoration.
- The number of band members marching is now just over 30 for the first time.
- The band moves over to Henderson Hall in order to get more space.



2018-2019

- Chris Wright ‘19 steps in to lead the band as Pipe Major.
- The CBA Pipes & Drums wins awards this year at the Rumson, Keyport, and Freehold Parades.
- In December, the CBA Pipes & Drums are asked to participate in *Wreaths Across America* and honor our Veterans in a ceremony at Oak Hill.



2019-2020

- Zack Miller ‘20 takes over as the 7th Pipe Major of the CBA Pipes & Drums.
- Thanks to Mr. Bill Coughlan, the band receives our first invitation to play in the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Due to COVID, the parade season is cut short, with only Belmar and Rumson able to have parades before the COVID shutdown.



2020-2021

- This marks the tenth year for the CBA Pipes & Drums!
- Michael Gibson ‘21 becomes the 8th Pipe Major for the band.
- With COVID restrictions still in place, the band performs outside at Oak Hill Academy for their annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

- The band is invited to play at Spring Lake Heights Elementary School for St. Patrick's Day, and we march outside for the students.
- Parades resume in the spring, and the CBA Pipes & Drums takes 2nd Place at the Freehold Memorial Day Parade. The band also leads the Class of 2021 outside for their graduation on the baseball field.



2021-2022

- Shane Wedlock '22 steps in as the 9th Pipe Major of the CBA Pipes & Drums.
- The St. Patrick's Day Parade returns to New York City, and 28 students march up 5th Avenue representing Christian Brothers Academy!
- The band receives awards this year at the Rumson and Freehold Parades.
- This is the 10th year that the band has marched in parades.



2022-2023

- Ryan Manley ‘23 leads the CBA Pipes and Drums as our 10th Pipe Major.
- Band membership is just above thirty,
- The band receives a 1st Place Award in Rumson and two Awards at the Freehold Memorial Day Parade.



2023-2024

- Liam McGuire ‘24 takes charge of the band as our 11th Pipe Major.
- Ryan Merkler ‘24 becomes our first Drum Major!
- The band moves into Solomon Hall, which provides much-needed space for the 35 members.
- The Band receives First Place Awards in the Rumson St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the Freehold Memorial Day Parade.



2024-2025

- The band reaches its largest membership with 41 students. Nineteen of the band members are seniors.
- Principal Neil Begley joins the band.
- Declan Sullivan ‘25 became the Drum Major, and Cooper Sanders ‘26 moved up to Drum Sergeant.
- The Pipe Major position is shared by seniors Brian Hughes ‘25 and Cormac Whalen ‘25.
- The band again wins First Place Awards in Rumson and Freehold.



2025-2026

- The CBA Pipes & Drums begins its 15th season!
- Nick Strausbaugh ‘26 steps in to lead the band as the Pipe Major, and Travis Mizerny steps into the Drum Major position.
- With the loss of 19 seniors from the previous year, the band looks to focus on improving the quality of music with a smaller number of members.
- Unfortunately, Pipe Major Nick Strausbaugh broke his ankle in February, and Pipe Sergeant Jack Schatzle ‘26 stepped up, along with Pipe Corporal Jack Slavin ‘28, to call the parades. We give Nick credit for getting part of the way up 5th Avenue with his leg in a boot!
- The band was invited to play in NYC before the parade at the JPMorgan Building before a crowd of several hundred. President George W. Bush and NFL star Tom Brady were there for the performance!
- We finished the marching season with the Freehold and Farmingdale Memorial Day Parades.

Christian Brothers Academy Pipes & Drums Band Awards

Best Junior Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2013
Best Band 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2014
Best Youth Band- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2014
Judges' Choice Award 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2014
Best Junior Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2014
Judges' Choice Award 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2015
Best Overall Youth Unit 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day 2016
Best Overall Band 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day 2016
Veterans Recognition Award- Middletown Veteran's Day Parade 2017
Best Band 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2017
Best Appearing Band 3rd Place- Keyport St. Patrick's Parade 2017
President's Award 1st Place- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018
Best High School Band 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2018
Best Marching Unit 1st Place- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019
Best Overall Band 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2019
Best Band 2nd Place- Keyport St. Patrick's Parade 2019
Best Band 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2021
Best Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022
Best Band - Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2022
Best Junior Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2023
Best Overall Band 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day 2023
Best Marching Unit 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2023
Best Junior Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2024
Best Band 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2024
Best Junior Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade 2025
Best Band 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2025
Best Junior Marching Unit- Rumson St. Patrick's Parade 2026
Best Marching Unit 3rd Place- Keyport St. Patrick's Parade 2026
Best Junior Band 1st Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2026
Best Marching Unit 2nd Place- Freehold Memorial Day Parade 2026

Band Officers 2013 to 2027

Year	Name	Position
2012-13	Roddy Ward	*Pipe Major*
	Gorsha Saling	*Drum Sergeant*
	Matt Buckley	*Drum Corporal*
2013-15	Bryan Smyth	*Pipe Major*
	Andrew Wessel	*Drum Sergeant*
	Slater Richardson	*Quartermaster*
2015-16	Matt McLaughlin	*Pipe Major*
	Anthony Frawley	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Matt Cuttle	*Drum Sergeant*
2016-17	Anthony Frawley	*Pipe Major*
	Brandon Grillo	*Drum Sergeant*
	Clint Wilson	*Quatermaster*
	Nick Nowack	*Quartermaster*
2017-18	Shane Hanney	*Pipe Major*
	Jack Geiger	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Chris Wright	*Pipe Corporal*
	Andrew Campi	*Drum Sergeant*
	Luke Grover	*Quartermaster*
2018-19	Chris Wright	*Pipe Major*

	Rory Dunnigan	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Jack Crilly	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Andrew Campi	*Drum Sergeant*
	Tim Murray	*Drum Corporal*
2019-20	Zack Miller	*Pipe Major*
	JR Miller	*Drum Sergeant*
	Shane Wedlock	*Pipe Corporal*
	Michael Gibson	*Pipe Sergeant*
2020-21	Michael Gibson	*Pipe Major*
	JR Miller	*Drum Sergeant*
	Shane Wedlock	*Pipe Sergeant*
2021-22	Shane Wedlock	*Pipe Major*
	Liam Barret	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Nick Arena	*Drum Sergeant*
	Ryan Manley	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Will Coughlin	*Quartermaster*
	Jeff Frankenberg	*Drum Corporal*
2022-23	Ryan Manley	*Pipe Major*
	Ryan Hulse	*Drum Sergeant*
	Liam McGuire	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Jack Bailey	*Pipe Corporal*
	Dan McNamara	*Drum Corporal*

	Brian Hughes	*Quatermaster*
2023-24	Liam McGuire	*Pipe Major*
	Ryan Merkler	*Drum Major*
	Ryan Hulse	*Drum Sergeant*
	Jack Bailey	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Brady Prunty	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Cormac Whalen	*Pipe Corporal*
	Hunter Kilpatrick	*Drum Corporal*
	Brian Hughes	*Quartermaster*
2024-25	Brian Hughes	*Pipe Major*
	Cormac Whalen	*Pipe Major*
	Declan Sullivan	*Drum Major*
	Ryan Hulse	*Drum Sergeant*
	Hunter Kilpatrick	*Drum Sergeant*
	Nick Strausbaugh	*Pipe Sergeant*
	JT Guinnessey	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Jack Schatzle	*Pipe Corporal*
	RJ Verderese	*Pipe Corporal*
	Will Sullivan	*Quartermaster*
2025-26	Nick Strausbaugh	*Pipe Major*
	Travis Mizerny	*Drum Major*
	Cooper Sanders	*Drum Sergeant*

	Jack Shchatzle	*Pipe Segeant*
	Christian Sorensen	*Drum Corporal*
	Jack Slavin	*Pipe Corporal*
	JT Guinnessy	*Quartermaster*
2026-27	Jack Slavin	*Pipe Major*
	Travis Mizerny	*Drum Major*
	Christian Sorensen	*Drum Sergeant*
	Brayden Cosimano	*Drum Sergeant*
	Tim Sporopoulos	*Pipe Sergeant*
	Lucas Rauschenbach	*Pipe Corporal*
	Michael Romano	*Pipe Corporal*
	Ben Lauro	*Drum Corporal*
	Brandon Hughes	*Quartermaster*
	Eamon Whalen	*Quartermaster*