

HOUSE SYSTEM







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The student experience at Christian Brothers is in the midst of a transformation led by the students themselves. In the fall of 2012, leaders from every grade level assembled in order to redefine the nature of student leadership and, thus, student life at Christian Brothers. Their efforts resulted in a new student government body, the Brothers Leadership Council (BLC), complete with its own constitution and bylaws. In order to reflect the mission of the school, the BLC is organized into four cabinets: Mission, Brotherhood, Academics, and Spirit. The boys reverse the mission and seek to bring it to life in every BLC initiative.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the new organization is the Brotherhood Cabinet's new advisory structure and corresponding house system. Brotherhood at CBHS is sacred, a spirit that comes to animate each class sometime during the Christian Brothers experience. The advisory structure is built to ensure intentionality in building meaningful relationships among students and with faculty. Every student is assigned one faculty advisor for all four years, with brief daily meetings and one weekly extended advisory period. Advisors form the boys in both the practical and the moral – from school expectations, time management, and academic accountability to the lessons of The Brother's Call, the responsibilities of brotherhood, building honorable female relationships, and leading a faith-filled life. Each class is divided into 10 advisories of 20-24 boys which will remain a unit until graduation.



Houses are formed through the vertical association of four advisories, one freshman, one sophomore, one junior, and one senior, and are built to foster mentoring relationships down the classes. The unifying centerpiece of the house system is the annual competition for the Brothers' Cup. Points can be earned in categories such as intramural sports, athletic and cultural event attendance, grade point average, and generosity to missions. The victorious house will be enshrined on the Brothers' Cup trophy with student names on plaque in its case, will get a day off of school, and will share an after-school "field trip," chosen and financed by the BLC. Upperclassmen have a vested interest in the development of the younger boys.

The houses also extend into the family unit. Brothers from any given family will always be in the same house. In addition, the CBHS Parents' Association is now organized by house. Just as the house system is designed to make the student experience more intimate and formative, houses provide parents with opportunities to plug in on a more "local" level.

St. John Baptist de La Salle founded the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1861 with the intention of his teachers serving as "elder brother" figures to their students, hence the term "Brother." The Brothers have always built men through positive, trusting relationships. The Christian Brothers house system is the next step in fulfillment of our mission.

The following pages include a brief description of each of the 10 houses – why the particular name was chosen, what is the color for each house, what is the symbol of each house. This demonstrates how tradition and history of our school is incorporated into all aspects of life here at Christian Brothers High School.



ABBAN HOUSE

The book is a symbol of intellect, thought, logic, knowledge and learning, and is represented in the rabbat (collar) of the Brothers' habit. At the same time, the book symbolizes sacred teaching, the Bible and faith.



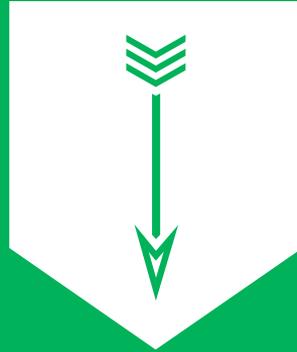


BROTHER ABBAN OF JESUS

John Shelle, 1843-1929

Born in Meinkembracht, Germany, John Shelle immigrated to Canada with his parents and older brother, Gaspard. In 1858, both John and Gaspard entered the Brothers' Montreal Novitiate – and with his habit, John took the name Brother Abban of Jesus. After teaching in the Brothers' schools in Canada for some years, Br. Abban was transferred to New York where he continued to teach mathematics and science. In 1870, when the St. Louis District was officially formed, Br. Abban was assigned to Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, where he taught for two years.

Following his assignment in St. Louis, he taught and served as Sub-Director of Christian Brothers College in Memphis from 1873-1877. While in Memphis, he served as the president of the Literary Society, and one of his pupils, Malcolm Patterson, later became governor of the state of Tennessee. After 73 years of serving as a De La Salle Christian Brother, Br. Abban passed away at the age of 86.



ANTHONY HOUSE

Locally, the American Indian arrowhead is homage to the Chickasaw Indians, the first settlers of Memphis. The “Chickasaw War Chant,” “Hullabaloo Kaneck Kaneck” and “Chicka-boo-rip” are yelled in the Christian Brothers Fight Song, the “Wave War Hymn.” In Native American cultures, the arrowhead signifies alertness - the bow and arrow required great strength and accuracy.





BROTHER ANTHONY OF ROME

John Walsh, 1854-1919

John Walsh was born in Wilmington, Ohio and first met the Christian Brothers when his family relocated to St. Louis. On April 2, 1866, John earned the distinction of being the youngest man to ever enter the Brothers' Novitiate, at 11 years old. On May 9, 1866, he received the robe of the Brothers in Carondelet, Missouri and took the religious name of Brother Anthony of Rome.

He first taught at St. Patrick School in Chicago, where he remained until 1871, teaching at Bridgeport Orphanage and St. Mary's School.

In the wake of the Great Chicago Fire, Br. Anthony was one of the four brothers sent to Memphis to establish the first community at Christian Brothers College. He spent seven years in Memphis before being assigned to Christian Brothers College in St. Louis. He would return to Memphis to become the second president of CBC and for the next 40 years, Br. Anthony held leadership positions throughout the Midwest, including being named Inspector of Schools in 1910. His 53 years of service as a Brother came to a close with his death in 1919.



BERNARDINE HOUSE

The weight, or mass, is not only used as a balancing force in scientific measurement, but also in athletic preparation and strength training. It symbolizes strength, balance, athleticism, and stability. The symbol reminds students of the careful balance between athletic and extracurricular activities and intellectual pursuits.





BROTHER BERNARDINE PETER

John Robinson, 1856-1930

John Robinson was born in Toronto and entered the Brothers' Novitiate at Carondelet at the age of fourteen - he received the habit and religious name of Brother Bernardine Peter on August 14, 1871. After teaching several years in St. Louis, Br. Bernardine was assigned to CBC in Memphis in 1876. While continuing to teach, he helped to establish the Committee of Hygiene with the aid of the Br. Maurelian, to fight the yellow fever epidemics that plagued the city. Later, the State Legislature officially approved the committee under the name The National Council of Health.

For the next 25 years, Br. Bernardine served in various positions throughout the Midwest and East Coast districts. At age 66, he experienced an attack of paralysis which deprived him of his speech. He was sent to the Community of Ancients at Glencoe, Missouri, where he continued his interest as a collaborator in the Review of Education. In 1930, at the age of 74, he died on the same date as his entrance, July 19, after serving as a De La Salle Christian Brother for exactly 59 years.



CLEMENT HOUSE

The Oriole served as the first mascot of Christian Brothers College in Memphis. Specifically, the Baltimore Oriole is a reminder of the city that bore the first permanent school in the United States, at Calvert Hall in 1845. The Oriole is also a symbol of positive energy and optimism.





BROTHER CLEMENT BERNWARD

Joseph Eul, 1833-1902

A native of Kurscheid, Prussia, Brother Clement immigrated with his family and would enter the Carondelet Novitiate 1867, at the age of 34. The Brothers initially assigned Clement at St. Mary's in Chicago, where he served as prefect and professor of languages. After the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, Brother Clement was one of the four Brothers assigned to Tennessee with orders to establish Christian Brothers College in Memphis.

After surviving two separate yellow fever outbreaks, he was transferred to Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, Missouri in 1878, where he served as prefect and teacher of German and drawing. He succumbed to pneumonia in February of 1902, after serving as a De La Salle Christian Brother for 35 years.



FLAVIAN HOUSE

Memphis was built on cotton. While it symbolizes simplicity rather than luxury, it can be dyed, printed, or woven into luxurious creations. Locally, the Cotton Carnivals of the mid-20th century were a linchpin of Memphis culture and society. Christian Brothers teachers and students participated in celebrations and parades revolving around the week-long celebration of cotton. The Christian Brothers Band was the official band of the Cotton Carnival, and the school celebrated cotton in its annual show “The Cotton Capers.”



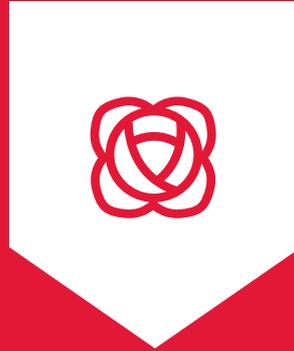


BROTHER FLAVIAN OF JESUS

John Baum, 1849-1924

Brother Flavian immigrated to the United States from Cologne, Prussia and entered the Novitiate of the Brothers at Carondelet, Missouri, on June 13, 1876. He received his habit and religious name in August of the same year, and was assigned to Christian Brothers College in Memphis in December, where he taught in the primary grades. After a brief two-year term in St. Louis, he returned to CBC in Memphis in 1882 and served six years before being assigned to teach in New Orleans.

For the next 15 years, Br. Flavian held positions across the Brothers' Midwest District - he was not only a "capable teacher, he was a repair man...and financier." Br. Flavian faithfully served the institute as a Christian Brother for 48 years.



LUPERIUS HOUSE

The Rose is symbol of love, chivalry and secrecy. Medieval Christians identified the five petals of the rose with the five wounds of Christ, and later the red rose was adopted as a symbol of the blood of the Christian martyrs. The Rose is also a reminder of the Memorial Garden that was begun by Ralph Hale in memory of John Sandridge, who passed away in 1969 in an auto accident while attending CBHS, and continues to this day as remembrance to all students who have died while attending CBHS.



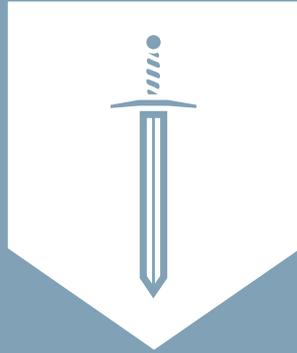


BROTHER LUPERIUS

Thomas Bray, 1848-1874

St. Louis-born Thomas Bray entered the Brothers' Novitiate in June of 1868, at Carondelet, Missouri where he received the habit of the Brothers and the religious name of Brother Luperius. He was sent to teach at St. Mary's in Chicago and, after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, Brother Luperius was assigned to Memphis, where he and three other brothers founded Christian Brothers College.

In February of 1874, Br. Luperius was transferred to the College in Pass Christian, Mississippi and later that year to Sante Fe, New Mexico. He died at the age of 26, after serving as a De La Salle Christian Brother for only six years.



LYNE HOUSE

The entire post-secondary enrollment of Christian Brothers College enlisted during World War I, and many joined the military during World War II. The sword is a symbol to honor those Brothers Boys who have died in the armed services. The double-edged sword reminds students that their decisions can have both favorable and unfavorable consequences. A sign of chivalry, the sword should only be taken up as a last resort for the protection of one's life or that of another.





MR. DANIEL B. LYNE

1844-1905

Born in Ireland during the Great Famine, Mr. Daniel Lyne immigrated to the United States with his older brothers at the age of eight. After returning to Ireland for a time, he settled in Memphis in 1870 and began his service to the boys of Christian Brothers at the school's founding in 1871. Lyne wed Tennessee native Joanna Ford in 1874, and would welcome three sons, Thomas, James Joseph, and Eugene Daniel to their home at 90 Beale Street. Mr. Lyne serves as a reminder that the faithful have served alongside brothers from the beginning - he and four Brothers of the Christian Schools made up the first faculty of Christian Brothers College in Memphis. By 1880, he became a grocer and later a city salesman.

Dan Lyne left a long legacy of descendants who would become Christian Brothers alumni, including six great grandsons and seven great-grandsons. His lineage continues to breathe life into the school.



MAURELIAN HOUSE

A bell tolls to announce the beginning or ending of a period of time, like in classroom education and worship. As our founding leader of CBHS, Br. Maurelian began one of our city's great traditions - the Brothers' Boy.





BROTHER MAURELIAN

George Sheel, 1842 - 1920

A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, George Sheel entered religious life through the novitiate in Montreal, Canada on March 7, 1855, and he received the robe and the religious name of Brother Maurelian on July 2, 1855. He first taught at St. Michael's School in Philadelphia in 1856 before moving on to St. James in Brooklyn, where he assisted with both the choir and orchestra. In 1860, the Brothers sent him to St. Mary's School in New Orleans and appointed him Vice President of Christian Brothers College in Pass Christian, Mississippi in 1867. In 1871, Br. Maurelian was chosen to serve as founding president of the new Christian Brothers College in Memphis, which he opened on November 20, 1871. The following year, he founded and directed the Christian Brothers Band, which to this day is recognized as the oldest high school band in America.

He survived two Yellow Fever epidemics in 1873 and 1878 and did much to assist in eradicating the plague from the South. In 1894 he was named Auxiliary Visitor of the St. Louis District and was later chosen as chairman three times for national educational exhibitions. Because of his pedagogical devotion to the study of Latin in a well-rounded college education, the Brother's briefly removed him from duty but returned to Memphis in 1902, assuming the role of President. He died in 1920, having served as a De La Salle Christian Brother for 65 years.



OSMUND HOUSE

The fleur-de-lis is a symbol of the international community of the Institute of the De La Salle Christian Brothers and its founding in Reims, France. In the Middle Ages, the fleur-de-lis was associated with the Holy Trinity and later, with purity and French Nationalism. The color of the Osmund House is blue, one of the colors of the French Flag.





BROTHER OSMUND JOSEPH

Daniel O'Meara, 1839-1910

Following his family's immigration to the United States from Tipperary, Ireland, Daniel O'Meara entered the Novitiate in St. Louis in 1853 at the age of 14 and received the habit and religious name of Br. Osmund Joseph. After serving for nearly 20 years in various positions throughout the country, Br. Osmund served at Christian Brothers College in Memphis from 1874 to 1878, where he taught Latin and Greek. He continued on to postings in New Orleans, Sante Fe, New York, and St. Louis and retired in 1909, after 57 years, as one of the most noted linguists in the district.



SCHNEIDER HOUSE

The bugle, a brass instrument that has no valves or other pitch-altering devices, is used in the military and Boy Scouts to signal daily routine and battle formation. The bugle and its closest relatives, the trumpet and cornet, are more closely associated with power and strength than any other instrument.





PROFESSOR PAUL SCHNEIDER

1844-1912

Professor Schneider emigrated from his native Prussia and at the age of 18 enlisted in the U.S. Army as a bugler in the Fifth U.S. Artillery from December 1, 1862 through the end of the Civil War. His veteran's schedule listed him as "slightly wounded but entirely recovered." A trained bugler and cornetist, Schneider was also known for his skills as a violinist and performed in touring orchestras around the country, including one that performed in Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. the night President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

He married in 1871, and by 1874 he was living in Memphis with his first child. He was listed as a part-time music teacher in 1880 and taught on the Christian Brothers campus by 1883. He donated the first gold medals to the campus for the music awards, and directed the Christian Brothers band for President Grover Cleveland and for the dedication of the Great Mississippi River Bridge.







CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

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