

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL?

Christian Brothers High School is a community of believers in the Catholic, Lasallian tradition, inclusive of students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni, who represent various religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, working together to achieve a shared mission: To give a human and Christian education to the young and to promote peace and justice, with a commitment to the service of the poor.

We value the uniqueness and dignity of the individual and the well-being of the entire Christian Brothers High School community. We value the ongoing development of our spiritual, academic, social, and physical formation in light of gospel values.

In an atmosphere of academic excellence and in appreciation of individual differences, we at Christian Brothers High School inspire and direct individuals toward an increased understanding of themselves and their community. We strive to encourage a personal sense of honor and self-discipline, service to others, a respect for all life, and a growth toward a mature relationship with God.

In light of our shared mission, the Christian Brothers High School community works together to minister in an orderly environment which encourages learning as a lifelong process, independent thinking, concern for the individual, and service to the community.



Lasallian Education and Christian Brothers High School

WHAT IS THE LASALLIAN EDUCATIONAL MISSION?

The Lasallian Educational Mission takes its name from Saint John Baptist de La Salle, a priest who, with a few lay companions, in France in 1680, formed a teaching community called the Brothers of the Christian School that operated free schools for the poor. This pioneering group eventually became the Catholic Church's largest order of religious Brothers dedicated exclusively to education. Familiarly known as the De La Salle Christian Brothers,



the order continues to give *“a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it.”* The distinctive Lasallian approach recognizes all young people as children of God, deserving of respect and opportunity, and seeks to help them to realize their full potential.

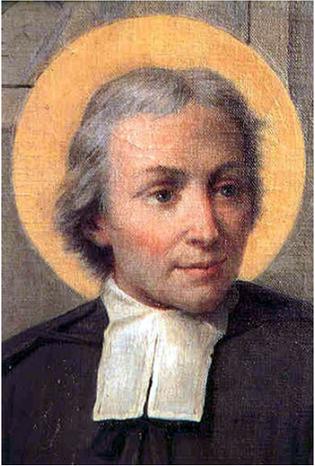
Today the global family of Lasallian educators includes 4,800 Brothers and 80,000 dedicated Lay Partners serving nearly 860,000 students in a thousand educational institutions in more than 78 countries. In the United States alone, there are a hundred Lasallian educational ministries serving more than 74,000 students. Fifty-five of those ministries are secondary schools — making Lasallian schools the largest network of Catholic secondary schools in the nation.

For more information, contact us:

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WHO IS JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE?

John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719) was a priest in Reims, France, a well-born young man who, almost by accident, was brought face to face with the unmet need for education of children from families that were poor and marginalized. Trusting that he was doing God's will, he gradually assumed the leadership of a small group of lay teachers who devoted themselves to providing free education for the poor. The community called itself the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Despite opposition from the for-profit educational establishment and resistance from some church authorities, De La Salle and his Brothers persisted in responding to the needs of the poor with practical innovations – teaching the students in everyday French rather than traditional Latin, engaging the whole classroom in

each lesson, providing secure and focused learning environments, integrating religious instruction with secular subjects, and—perhaps most importantly—developing the vocation of the teacher as a “Brother” to students, religiously devoted to their welfare and relating to them with love. Other innovations included teacher-training colleges, weekend schools for workers, and a home for wards of the court. John Baptist de La Salle devoted forty years to the establishment of this unprecedented educational enterprise. He died in Rouen, France, April 7, 1719. He was canonized a Saint in the Catholic Church in 1900, and in 1950 was named the patron saint of teachers.

WHAT IS A LASALLIAN SCHOOL?

A **Lasallian school** shares in the Catholic educational mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, which has been consistently developing for more than three hundred years. Lasallian schools are called to propose, but in no way impose, Jesus Christ, accepting with love and respect all the young people entrusted to their care. These educational ministries embrace and give life to several particular characteristics that together give them their Lasallian identity.

A school can be said to be truly Lasallian —

- ◆ When it is animated by a spirit of faith that recognizes God's abiding presence in the world and that seeks to follow the example of Jesus;
- ◆ When it manifests solidarity with the poor and promotes a deep commitment to social justice;
- ◆ When it shows a profound respect for the dignity of each member of the school community;
- ◆ When it offers a quality, holistic education that values achievement in the classroom and in co-curricular activities;
- ◆ When it forms an inclusive community that recognizes and affirms the contributions of each member; and
- ◆ When its administrators, teachers, and staff have made their own the characteristics of Lasallian education.

WHAT IS A LASALLIAN EDUCATOR?

A Lasallian Educator is one who

- ◆ Knows each student as an individual and is interested in his or her whole life.
- ◆ Tries to see in each student the image and likeness of God.
- ◆ Is willing to try to maintain an open and friendly relationship with each student.
- ◆ Teaches by witnessing to the values taught.
- ◆ Is open to asking God's help to overcome difficulties, misunderstandings, or challenging situations.
- ◆ Recognizes that close association with fellow teachers and sharing ideals with them is a way of being mutually supportive in the ministry of teaching.

