

# **Making the Most of the CBS Experience: A Guide for Parents**

# Table of Contents

- I. Why You Sent Your Son to CBS
- II. Your Role as the Primary Educator
- III. The Middle School Boy
- IV. Homework
- V. The Teacher is on Your Team
- VI. Nothing is Working
- VII. More Than Just Academics
- VIII. Technology?!
- IX. Fit for Life
- X. Rest Easy on the Pillow
- XI. Addendum-Technology and Other Items

## **I. Why You Sent Your Son to CBS**

There are a number of reasons why you decided to send your son to Christian Brothers School. Perhaps you yourself went here and remember fondly the Brothers, the old building, and your days in the park. Perhaps you heard from a friend about the great experience his or her son had. Perhaps you're hoping the academic challenge will prepare him for the next steps of his educational career. Or perhaps you read an ad in the newspaper and did some research of your own. In any case, you made the decision to send your son to CBS because you love him, care for him, and want the best for him. Perfect—because that's exactly how we feel about him too.

Although every parent chooses CBS for a different combination of reasons, we would like to share with you what we think makes CBS special. Since its inception, the school has been dedicated to providing the highest quality academic program possible. Each subject is at least one grade level advanced. Teachers challenge students with thought-provoking material and rigorous assignments in an attempt to help children reach their full potential as academic learners. We strive to stay abreast of the latest educational technology and curricular advances while also staying true to the traditional, time-tested methods the Brothers introduced over fifty years ago. We understand that somewhere in between yesterday and tomorrow lies today—an environment where students can be challenged to learn in new ways and with new materials while also acknowledging the foundation that our previous educators have laid for us.

In addition to a solid academic foundation, CBS believes that co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences are vital to the overall development of a young boy. We provide students with many opportunities to participate in activities outside the school day such as athletics, academic games, the arts, spiritual formation, and leadership training—all which engage students with one another and some physical, mental, or spiritual learning. As with all CBS experiences, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are meant to broaden a student's view of the world and develop relational skills that help him grow into a civic-minded, engaged leader in his community while sharing the vision of Christ.

As the founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Saint John Baptist de La Salle believed that the primary aim of the school was the salvation of souls. Each and every event, activity, class, and policy is devised with this goal in mind—to ensure that the students entrusted to our care may fully participate in the eternal salvation that Jesus Christ provides for us. Thus, we provide experiences of religion classes, Mass, daily prayer, weekly chapel, sacrament of Reconciliation, service learning days, and retreats. We work hard to fulfill the motto, "Your sons into young men, young men into Christian gentlemen."

Whatever the reason you sent your son to CBS, know that we are as happy that he is here as you are. We will work diligently to get to know him, his passions, his strengths, his weaknesses, his family, and everything we can in order to provide him and you with the best possible middle-school experience.

## **II. Your Primary Role as Educator**

Without a doubt, you as the parents of your son, are his primary educators. As the primary educators, you have, in turn, chosen us to help you along the way. For this, we are honored and privileged. The relationship between parents and educators is one of the highest respect and appreciation for the challenges that each partner faces. We recognize that you work hard to give your son the best education possible. You recognize that we work hard to give your son the best education possible. The key to a successful partnership in the education of your son is to recognize the gifts that each person brings to the partnership.

We provide educational expertise and the resources necessary to teach. You provide the love and support your son needs in times of successes and failures. Since you are the primary educator, we also recognize that you make final decisions regarding what you believe to be in the best interest of your child. Because you chose CBS to be your partner in education, you trust us to advise you and guide you along the way in matters related to your son's education. In fact, as the role of the school in the lives of young people has expanded and continues to expand, we understand that our roles as educators often extend far beyond the classroom into the lives of our students and their families. We are proud to be able to provide services to our students that help them reach their full potential as children of God.

Thus, we encourage you to be proactive in your son's CBS experience. Get to know his teachers, his classes, the expectations we have for him, the extracurricular activities, and all the experiences he comes home talking about each afternoon. We encourage you to participate as a volunteer and attend social functions in order to truly experience what it means to be a part of the CBS family.

We also encourage you to trust us, to allow us to help you, and to allow us to help your son in the ways that we know best—tried and true ways that we have come to develop through many years of experience educating middle school boys. Trust that we have the best interest of your son in mind, and that this partnership between parent and teacher and parent and school can only succeed if both parties recognize the strengths and gifts of one another and trust that we are each working toward a common goal.

### **III. The Middle School Boy**

Your boy is growing up in entirely too many ways to mention in this section. However, we will explain to you some of the changes we witness in the students as they transition into young adulthood and attempt to make their way in the world. Keep in mind that each boy is different and that each characteristic mentioned will manifest itself individually in the unique person of your son.

#### *Energy, Games, and Fun*

Boys are full of energy. Oftentimes this is misinterpreted as disruptiveness or unruliness. We understand that more often than not, they are simply exercising the personalities and characteristics that God has given them. We create activities and learning environments that allow boys to be themselves and learn in a manner that suits them personally.

Since the beginning of CBS, the Brothers and subsequently the lay teachers, have understood that boys require a certain level of healthy gamesmanship and sportsmanship that foster healthy competitiveness in and out of the classroom. Both on the field and in the classroom, we provide the students with opportunities to combine their love for the activity with their desire to be the best they can be. We firmly believe that it should be the goal of every student to enjoy his activity while also aspiring to accomplish all his goals.

#### *Resilience*

Believe it or not, your son will bounce back. It is our experience that boys are incredibly resilient. What may affect us for days or even weeks is quickly forgotten by the middle school boy. He often overcomes obstacles in ways that we could not. Allow your son to face his obstacles head on, knowing that he has the ability to meet his challenges with great resilience and steadfastness.

#### *Sensitivity*

Boys can be sensitive—especially 10, 11, and 12 year old boys. Remember, they are still boys—attempting to meander their way through boyhood and eventually sdolescence—but nevertheless still boys. They laugh when they are happy; they cry when they are sad. Oftentimes, they will face adversity and situations with which they are unfamiliar as they attempt to grow and learn and make their way in the world. With this unfamiliarity, they often have emotional reactions to situations that we, as adults, may consider inappropriate. However, for them, these reactions are completely appropriate for their chronological, mental, and social development. Please remember this as you interact with your son about potential situations. Also, please remember that

we understand what your son is going through and would love to assist him and you in his life ventures—school related or not.

### *Friendships*

Though most often boy relationships are fairly simply based, the advent of the internet and social networking has resulted in the increased complexity of friendships among peers of all ages and sexes. Whereas the friendships of 10, 11, and 12 year old boys in the past were solely relegated to video games, baseball games, movies, and sleepovers, today's friendships are complicated by 24-hour-a-day online interactions of boys and girls alike.

You should be aware of all of your son's social networking interactions. You should continue to pry at the dinner table as is the custom of all American families as they sit down for the night. You should encourage a healthy environment of sharing and acceptance so that you can ensure that your son is willing to ask you for help if he needs it. You should ask questions about where your son is going and what he plans on doing when he gets there. You have every right to monitor who your son interacts with and engages in activities with during his middle school years. Your son's friendships are critical to his development during the middle school years. We should all work to ensure that your son is creating and fostering healthy friendships that allow him to grow in his Christian faith while simultaneously exploring his personality as a child of God.

### *Adolescence*

Now matter how you slice it, adolescence has always been a complicated process for anyone involved. Today's children seem to be experiencing an even more complicated version than we could ever have imagined. Unlike the peer pressure of a decade or so ago, today's children are driven and formed by the societal pressures they experience through their online and other social media interactions. In every facet of life, today's children are affected by adults other than us. As caring adults, we should be aware of this and work to be examples of Gospel values and Christian faith. We should confront them in difficult situations and be open to asking for help from each other. We should understand that we all live in a very fluid world in which technology plays an integral part. Your adolescent experience is not necessarily the same as your son's. Be open to advice and a new way of thinking. If we work together toward a common understanding of what your son is experiencing, then we can all do what is best for him.

### *Competitiveness*

Most boys are competitive. They are driven by the desire to be the best they can be. Healthy competition balanced with a civic-minded desire to make the world a better place can create the “Christian gentleman” for which we are both striving. At CBS we recognize that healthy competition helps create an atmosphere that not only mimics their future high school, college, and life experiences, but also fosters their desire as middle school boys to accomplish goals they have set for themselves.

You sent your son to CBS so he could be challenged, so he could challenge himself, and so you could challenge him. This healthy environment of respectful interaction between teammates and classmates can do just that.

### *Feelings and Communication*

Despite all common understanding, boys have feelings! For decades American research has demonstrated that boys for many different reasons are less communicative than girls. Our experience does not show that. Given the right circumstance, the right relationship, the right experience, boys are willing to share and tell just as much about themselves as anyone else. Allow your boy to share his emotions with someone—whether it be you or his teacher or the school counselor or a friend. Encourage him to have an outlet for expressing his feelings, even if this is not your method in your house. Establish a conduit through which he can talk to a trusted person during the most important times of his life. Now is the time for him to forge relationships with those he can trust and rely upon for life. It is important that this communication is willing and not forced in order to gain trust and enable healthy conversation.

### *Questionable Behaviors*

Well, we couldn't have an entire section about the middle school boy without a subtitle like this. Yes, your son will make mistakes. He will probably say things and do things that you never thought capable of him—that's exactly why we have this section on the middle school boy. There will be times when your child will exhibit behaviors for which you are unprepared. Though you as parents may not be prepared, we expect mistakes and seize the opportunity to turn them into learning experiences. We will leave the creative examples up to your imagination. However, please know that while these behaviors are wholly unacceptable and will be disciplined, they are also understandable in the sense that we have seen them before.

While we can't go into each and every example, we will present this general situation as an example of a time in which you can look to us for help. Oftentimes, events and “fantasies” from the classroom make their way into daily dinner table conversation. This is part of growing and developing. This is normal. Adults should listen but reserve judgment. If questions arise, please don't hesitate to see your child's teacher for clarification.

### *An All-Around Good Guy*

Having said all that, we do have certain expectations of your son. While we understand that each boy is unique and while we celebrate that uniqueness, we also have in mind what constitutes a CBS graduate and a Christian gentleman. If you are wondering what we expect of your son, here it is:

- a caring and loving boy who attempts to help others wherever possible
- a boy whose schoolwork is priority
- someone who strives to be the best he can be in every situation and is prepared to meet the rigors and challenges of high-school and life
- a person who holds his moral and ethical convictions in the highest regard
- someone who embraces his faith and uniqueness as a child of God while also respecting the faiths and differences of others
- someone who understands the difference between right and wrong and acts on that understanding
- someone who does the simple things—listens to others, shares his lunch, carries a friend's bag, brings home his classmates books, apologizes for a mistake or a misunderstanding, says thank you to everyone
- a boy who takes himself seriously
- a boy who doesn't take himself too seriously
- a person who is well-mannered, poised, and respectful in all situations, particularly those of adversity
- someone who understands his responsibility to improve the world around him through his civic-mindedness and promotion of social justice

## **IV. Homework**

Maybe you've heard the nightmare stories of boys staying up into the late hours of the evening completing a project or studying for multiple tests. On the other hand, you may also have heard stories of students who cruised through CBS once they found their footing. The reality is that each child is different, and there's no way to know for certain how your son will respond to the new demands placed upon him. However, there are some markers you can gauge along the way that will help you determine how your son is progressing. In addition, we will provide you with some go-to suggestions in the event that you're looking for guidance on how to deal with challenges you may be facing.

First, there will be homework. Educational fads come and go, and occasionally you will hear about how today's students are over burdened with useless homework which doesn't accomplish much and which prevents them from enjoying their childhood. Rest assured, CBS understands the needs of the middle school boy and recognizes that boys need a well-rounded approach which considers their mental, physical, and spiritual health. We believe that homework is meant to supplement the classroom experience and enhance learning. Homework should never be given out as busy work. If done thoroughly and correctly, homework will help emphasize important concepts taught in class by reinforcing



positive habits, similar to the way that practicing a sport or other activity helps improve skill in that area. It is important to note that homework done incorrectly or sloppily is not helpful to a student's academic progress.

To what degree should you help your son with his homework? Your role should be one of support. The degree of support you provide will most certainly vary from one student to the next, from one sibling to the next. In the beginning, your child may struggle with the change in the amount of homework he has compared to his previous school. **THIS IS NORMAL.** You should help him become more organized with his materials and time-management. You should provide him with a quiet place to work. You should check in on him occasionally and ask him to give you updates on his progress. Depending on what you know about your son, you may periodically check one of his completed assignments to see if he is giving full effort as the teacher expects. You should help him on a specific problem or with a question if he has one. These are the basic recommendations for a new parent in regards to homework and your son. In fact, the goal of your support should be the development of an academically independent student. To that end, the amount of support you provide should be less with each passing week, month and year. Otherwise, your support may be counterproductive. Consequently, keep this advice in mind. There is no need for you to stand over your son and watch him do his homework. There is no need for you to perform routine tasks for him such as making his flashcards. Have patience and recognize that your son is going through a new experience which will likely take him time to adjust to but in the long run will help him grow into an independent learner and diligent, conscientious young man.

Along the way, there will be road bumps. Your son's teachers are there to guide you. Seek their advice. Each boy is unique and requires specific strategies depending on his struggles. There are those who by Christmas are still taking longer than normal to complete assignments each night. There are those who continue to get Homework Slips for forgetting assignments or not following directions. There are those who struggle to understand the teacher's expectations, which tests are on which days, when projects are due, what material will be on the test, how a grade is calculated, and on and on and on. While these may all be new struggles for you and your son, they are not new to us. We have much experience in dealing with what we know are necessary pains in order to accomplish the educational philosophy we believe is in your son's best interests. Let us help you!

## **V. The Teacher Is on Your Team**

It's very simple—your son's teacher is here to help your family. We are in the business of education, customer service, and touching the hearts of the young men entrusted to our care. The relationship between teacher and student and teacher and parent is critical to the success of your son and to your family's experience at CBS. We encourage you to get to know your son's teacher by contacting him in the beginning of the school year—by saying hello at parent orientation, a simple phone call, or an email—to introduce yourself. This creates a cordial atmosphere in which both parties can work mutually toward the benefit of the student.

Please understand that teachers have many students for which they are responsible; and while they work hard to know each individual, they also rely on parent feedback in order to provide your son and you with the best possible experience. Please do not hesitate to initiate a conversation with your son's teachers regarding a concern you may have about your son's progress. In fact, we know that reaching out to your son's teacher to address a concern is far more beneficial to all involved than speculating with a fellow parent or consulting your son's classmate to acquire information.

In the event of a disagreement with your son's teacher, coach or the school, please keep the following in mind. You must maintain a positive attitude toward all school officials and the school itself in the presence of your son. It is the single best way for a parent to help a child in the educational process! Thus, your son will frame his educational experiences in a positive manner at all times. Conversely, when a boy observes his parents speak negatively of the school or its officials, the student permits himself to shift the focus away from his own self-improvement, placing blame for any challenges on others, namely the school or its officials.

Lastly, just remember that we are in this together: teacher, student, and parents alike. Let's work together to ensure the success of your son.

## **VI. Nothing is Working**

Ugggg!!!! The frustration!!!! Sleepless nights, endless homework, never enough time, grades that don't match ability, too many homework slips...You've tried everything. You've talked to the teacher a couple of times. You downloaded exercises off the internet. He sees a tutor once a week. You stay up until 10 o'clock every night doing homework. Nothing is working.

Don't panic. Everything will be ok. Occasionally, the strategies we commonly suggest to combat the most frequently occurring challenges do not work on some students. Each student is unique and therefore requires a specific set of strategies tailored to his challenges.

Take a deep breath. It may be as simple as a re-evaluation of the expectations and goals you have set for your son. Experience has taught us that many parents are not satisfied with their son's performance or progress if the student does not earn straight A's or get named to the honor roll. While these are admirable goals and fantastic achievements, it is not necessarily the most realistic objective for every student every quarter. As stated previously, allow your son's teacher to help you determine if your expectations might be a bit lofty for your son.

In nearly all cases, the principal, the administration, and the faculty can work with you and your son to create a more comprehensive, in-depth plan. We have experience with a vast array of students over many years which allows us to creatively address the needs of all of our students. By choosing CBS, you are now a part of a community and family that will do what we can to help in the most troubling of times. We encourage you to stay positive and exhaust all possibilities. Rest assured, we are here to help you in any manner in which we are able.

## **VII. More Than Just Academics**

Christian Brothers School is so much more than just academics. We work hard to provide your son with a well-rounded program. We have over twenty extracurricular activities. There are school teams which require tryouts and selection through a competitive process, intramurals which foster participation and teamwork, and clubs which enable boys to experience new activities. Through a comprehensive program we are able to enhance the classroom experience by teaching teamwork, social skills, leadership, participation, and challenging oneself to reach beyond a certain level of comfort into the unknown.

Many life-lessons will be learned by students via their participation in the extracurricular program. We believe in the value of sportsmanship and the importance and benefits of personal sacrifice, dedication and commitment. Likely, all will learn both the thrill of victory along with the agony of defeat. With this in mind, it is important to prepare your son (and yourself) for the inevitable disappointment that comes with competition in extracurricular activities: being cut from a team for the first time, making a bad play in a critical competition, being on the receiving end of a poor call, being benched or suspended from an activity to be taught a lesson, or losing the big game. Not only are these inevitable disappointments possible but they are critical to the full experience of life we wish to provide for you and your son, and they become wonderful teaching moments for all involved.

In addition, we offer a well-developed spiritual program rooted in the Catholic, Lasallian tradition of Jesus Christ and our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The boys pray before each class, sing at chapel once a week, attend monthly Mass, attend a retreat day

once a year, and participate in a service learning day—all aimed at bringing them closer in their relationship with Jesus and encouraging the development of their faith life and moral aptitude. For St. La Salle the relationship between teacher and student was one of great importance, for through this relationship, both teacher and student reached his full potential as children of God, earning eternal salvation—the primary goal of the Christian school. Likewise, we believe that our teachers should be role models for the children entrusted to them.

## **VIII. Technology?!**

The prehistoric discovery of fire, the invention of the wheel, the printing press, the assembly line, the telephone, the television, and the Internet – all are examples of technology that has benefitted the human experience. With each of these examples has come the occasional challenge which made the use of the technology often difficult for people. Fires sometimes get out of control, people often print words we disagree with, assembly lines eliminated the need for human labor. Despite these obstacles, we would all agree that, in general, this progress has benefited mankind. This is what we all must remember: With proper preparation, training, guidance, rules, and a spirit of cooperation and progress toward the goal of educating children, we can use technology to engage 21<sup>st</sup> century children in a way that has never happened before. This is both exciting and daunting!

We at CBS feel that the next step in education is to incorporate technology in the classroom using the iPad. While the iPad is awesome, it is just one more tool in your son's educational toolbox that should be used to foster his love of learning. To emphasize this point, all of our teachers have attended numerous technological conferences and workshops to assist your son on his educational journey using the iPad. Because we, the teachers, use the iPad and have seen its benefits in the classroom setting, specifically in cooperative ventures and differentiated instruction, and further, use the iPad to communicate efficiently and effectively with you, the parents, we view our 1:1 program as one more way to incorporate spiritual values into the curriculum.

Remember way back when you learned to print, and then your 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher introduced you to script? Surely, you felt excited, but frustrated at the same time! Now I have to learn a whole *new* way to write? Are you kidding me, Mrs. So and So? We often push back at things with which we are not comfortable. Perhaps your son sees that iPad as a gaming center – perhaps you see it as a distraction. Either way, the teachers are here to mentor digital citizenship while adhering to the tenets of Catholicism and the writings of our Founder. Your son will learn how to use that tool responsibly, and you will grow to appreciate the impact the iPad has on his learning.

Whether an overhead projector, TV, SmartBoard, desktop, or iPad, technology when used properly by both the teacher and student, will enhance the learning experience and prepare your son for the world in which HE lives (though it may be very different from yours!).

## **IX. Fit for Life**

Our goal after three years of providing your son with the best middle school education we know how is to prepare him for the world out there—a world in which he will be faced with greater challenges, uplifting successes, disappointing failures, and new experiences unlike any other we could possibly provide him with. However, we will attempt to provide him with the tools necessary in order to deal with those challenges, successes, failures, and new experiences in ways which will help him be the man you hoped he would become. We hope you look back fondly on your son's CBS experience and sigh with satisfaction, knowing that, in part, we helped you accomplish everything you wanted for him.

As we mentioned in the opening section, "Why You Sent Your Son to CBS," there are countless reasons why you have chosen us. Whatever the reason, we believe you can trust that your son will be prepared for his future, whatever that future may hold for him. Given the success of the of countless alumni who have walked the breezeways of CBS before your son, we believe with confidence that he will be ready for the rigors of high school and beyond—academically, physically, and spiritually.

## **X. Rest Easy on the Pillow**

As we mentioned before, while your experiences may be new to you, they are not new to us. Allow us to help you and your family so that you can rest easy on the pillow. We are all in this together.

## **XI. Addendum: Helpful Suggestions for Technology, Etc.**

## **I. Digital Citizenship**

"One of the many beautiful things about new technology is that if you control it, rather than letting it control you, it really does make your life better."

--Matt King, "Freedom Through Technology" on the 2014 Project RUSHMORE Touring family of motorcycles by Harley-Davidson, Hog Magazine, May, 2014

Though technology is a part of our everyday lives, it can get overwhelming at times. Cell phones, tablets, video games, television, music players, and more can create connections, but can also become a hindrance to the same. Learning how to use technology effectively is a life-long goal and one that is achievable through a cooperative effort between the school and parent.

Christian Brothers School strives to accomplish this goal by teaching what is known as digital citizenship to our students on a daily basis. Parents can be more involved and become part of this cooperative effort by arming themselves with information. The CBS-Tech Blog is an ideal place to start:

<http://cbs-tech.blogspot.com/>

There, you will find pages of information from technology How to..., to required apps, to Frequently Asked Questions, to digital citizenship and more.

## **II. Liability**

Since the device belongs to the parent/guardian and is used by the student, it is the student's responsibility to maintain and care for the device. The parent/guardian must agree to monitor student use at home and away from school. The best way to keep students safe and on-task is to have a parent/guardian present and involved.

## **III. Technology and Discipline**

Recognizing that children's behaviors do not always coincide with adult expectations, we offer you a table summarizing disciplinary issues that may arise regarding the use of

technology. In addition, in the right column we offer you examples of traditional disciplinary matters. We do this so that you can see that since the beginning of popular education as we know it today, the duties of teachers, administrators, and parents has been to ensure that students are following the prescribed guidelines in a manner that best provides for their safety and education. While we acknowledge that this may at times feel like uncharted territory for you, take what comfort may come from knowing that these disciplinary matters have arisen, albeit in different forms, for many, many years; and we as experienced educators are prepared to help you in these instances.

Behaviors and Discipline Related to Student Computer Use

<b>Tech-related Behavior Violations</b>	<b>Equivalent “traditional” Classroom Violations</b>
Email, instant messaging, internet surfing, computer games (off-task behavior) Missing case	Passing notes, looking at magazines, games (off-task behavior) No binder/missing supplies
Cutting and pasting without citing sources (Plagiarism)	Plagiarism
Cyber-bullying	Bullying, harassment
Damaging, defacing, or endangering laptop or accessories	Vandalism, property damage
Using profanity, obscenity, racist terms	Inappropriate language
Accessing pornographic material, inappropriate files, or files dangerous to the integrity of the network	Bringing pornographic or other inappropriate content to school in print form
Using an electronic resources account authorized for another person	Breaking into or using some else’s locker

Violations Which Are Unique to Technology

*Behavior unique to the digital environment without a “traditional” behavioral equivalent*

There are some technology related behaviors which can be found only in the world of technology and do not have “equivalents.” Some of these include deleting browser history, using the electronic resources in a manner that serves to disrupt the use of the network by others, unauthorized downloading or installing software, attempting to defeat or bypass the school’s or home’s Internet filter.

**IV. Home Electronics Use**

The most important factor of safe and appropriate online student activity at home is

parent involvement. Making parental involvement a family practice as early as possible has many benefits.

### *A. Electronics Management*

1. Electronics Location - Limit the location of your child's online activity to shared public spaces in your home e.g., living room or kitchen instead of their bedroom. Check-in regularly, asking to see the game or website they are on.
2. Online Access at Home— Unlimited Internet access and cell phone use can and should be restricted if unrestricted access interferes with sleep, safety, appropriate use or meeting the expectations of parents. Network access can be restricted through password and parental controls on most operating systems.

### *B. Internet Safety*

1. Social Networks – Online social networking can be a beneficial forum for interaction, especially among friends who have a positive real time relationship. Most social media such as Facebook requires users to be a minimum of thirteen years old. Ask to view your child's page regularly. Inquire about friend lists, encouraging them to delete "friends" they know only online. Help them understand and use the features for restricting access to their social network page.
2. Identity Safety – Emphasize the requirement to never provide personal information in online forums to strangers or online "friends." Personal information is often leaked by friends and friends-of-friends in wall postings.
3. Illegal downloads (music, video, etc.) – Anytime music or a video is acquired without payment, unless the music or video was explicitly given for free by the creator, copyright laws were probably broken. CD reproduction and use of Limewire and similar download sites should be considered carefully before use. Purchasing and distributing an original gift (not a copy) as well as backing up one's own purchases are entirely permissible.
4. Supervised web activity – Sit with your child as often as possible to guide them through Internet searches and decision-making. Pop-ups, mouse-trapping and other lures of advertisement are confusing and distracting. Working together can help students learn to remain focused.



5. Filtering, Spam – All families are strongly encouraged to use updated anti-virus software and spam filters on their home computers. This is especially true for Windows-based operating systems, the primary targets of cyber-attacks and online vandalism.

### C. Best Off-Line Practices

1. Spell Check –For emerging spellers of all ages, the ideal spell check setting is to notify the user of spelling errors, permitting the user to make the correction themselves. Let the automated spell check be a reminder rather than allowing it to make the correction.
2. Research and Academic Honesty– Digital research has drastically changed the process of writing and submitting researched reports. Online research can too easily become copying and pasting data that has not been read closely, digested and integrated into a greater understanding. Have students explain their themes and conclusion as a way of confirming their engagement and grasp of the material.
3. Backups – All work should be saved in at least two different locations to prevent loss. Students should utilize the backup procedure initiated by Apple for any data on the iPad. Either using iTunes or iCloud will work. Other examples: save on the hard drive and on the thumb-drive or on the hard drive and emailed as an attachment or utilize a cloud service such as Google Drive, Dropbox, iCloud, etc.

## V. iPad Information

CBS is a 1:1 iPad environment. Students are required to bring an iPad to school.

For the latest minimum specification for iPads, go to the *iPad Initiative* page of our website:

<http://www.cbs-no.org/ipad-initiative>

A list of necessary apps and/or books that have to be downloaded to the iPad will be available after the first day of school on our Technology web blog.

To be ready for the first day at CBS, you'll need to have the enclosed *Authorized Use Policy* form filled out and ready to hand-in. You'll also need to have the following apps downloaded on your iPad:

**Scan:** <http://tinyurl.com/CBS-Scan-App>

**WebAccess:** <http://tinyurl.com/CBSWebAccess>

Speaking of blogs, we have created a website that has information on the iPad: *Frequently Asked Questions, How to..., Digital Citizenship*, and more are available to you by accessing this site:

<http://cbs-tech.blogspot.com/>

Many students want games on their iPads. Many parents don't like that idea. It is a dilemma. After years of observation, we have come to these realizations:

- Games can be a distraction, both at home and at school;
- They can be expensive.

Thus, as a school, we recommend games **not** be downloaded to the iPad your child uses. If you decide otherwise, please be forewarned that those games should:

- a) be age appropriate. Games that are rated for older children or adult will **not** be allowed on campus.
- b) **not** be played at school. Playing games on campus will result in immediate disciplinary action, including but not limited to detention or suspension, depending on the severity.

We expect students to save the **first** page of the iPad home screen for school-related apps, books, etc. All the other pages may have other apps, books, etc.

Peripherals can be very useful. In fact, middle school students tend to use a stylus quite often. However, please do not buy something expensive. The cheaper ones will do just fine. We **strongly recommend NOT** buying a brand called **Jot**. We have seen it damage iPad screens on more than one occasion. As for a keyboard, we suggest waiting until after school starts to see what she or he **really needs** to best accomplish assignments.

Students should **never** have unlimited access to the iPad. Some recommended practices that have succeeded at CBS and in other schools that have gone 1:1 iPad include:

- a) The iPad never goes into the bedroom. When it is used for homework, it is done at the kitchen table, or some other area where the student can be monitored.
- b) Your child should never know the Apple ID and password used to download apps on the iPad they will be using
- c) At a specified time, the iPad is turned off and charged for the night. Some parents have **all** personal electronic devices turned off at a certain time (including their own).

There are others that both your child and you will be exposed to during the school year. Meanwhile, please take the time to go through our CBS-Tech website. After doing so, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Technology, Doug Joubert at [djoubert@cbs-no.org](mailto:djoubert@cbs-no.org)

- If the iPad bought by the parents of the student is insured, a copy of the policy should be handed-in to one of the members of the Technology Team of CBS, along with a borrower's agreement provided by the Tech Team. There is no charge for the borrowed iPad.
- If the iPad bought by the parents of the student is not insured, a borrower's agreement is to be filled out with the Technology Coordinator. There will be a \$10.00 per day rental fee for the usage of an iPad from the CBS bank of reserves.

## **VI. Email and Information Sharing**

### *Student CBS Gmail Account*

All students at CBS are issued an email through *G Suite for Education*. These free emails are created by the school through Google with this caveat: they will only work within the CBS domain (email addresses ending with cbs-no.org). This means that students and faculty may email each other, but no outside emails will ever reside in a students' inbox nor leave his outbox.

It also means no spam. Ever.

In addition, students cannot email someone outside the CBS domain, meaning emails sent from someone without cbs-no.org will never reach the student, and any emails sent by the student from his CBS Gmail account to someone outside the CBS domain will never get there.

Email is one of the ways teachers and students connect. Absent students can receive their assignments, worksheets, etc. via their CBS Gmail account.

### *Keeping Track of Data*

No matter how well you treat an electronic device, the most important rule to remember is this: technology will fail. In those instances, it is imperative to ensure data on the iPad is being backed up regularly. There are various methods of accomplishing this. However, CBS strongly recommends using a method that is consistent with others that are used at the school.

Most of the data being entered on the iPad is through the official note-taking app for CBS, *Notability*. The app has various automatic methods of backing-up data. One way is by using the student's Google Drive account, available through the CBS Gmail account. Another method of backing up data is through apps such as *Dropbox*. With those, the parent and student should set-up the account together.

You will find PDF versions of **Google Drive-Notability Backup**, and **Dropbox-Notability Backup**, along with other helpful instructions on our website:

<http://www.cbs-no.org/ipad-step-by-step-guides>

## VII. iPad Activities for Your Family

### *Theme 1 – Create a Blog that is reserved for only family members*

Creating a family blog can not only provide a personal dimension to learning, it can also open new ways to dialogue between family members. Although there are many social media sites, creating a blog can be extremely personal where other methods of sharing can be impersonal.

Try <http://www.wordpress.com>

### *Theme 2 – Infuse Prayer Throughout Your Day by Using Spiritual Apps*

Sharing apps can be a rewarding part of the learning process. Imagine your son reading the same prayer that you and your family members are reading at the same time – very powerful stuff.

Try these apps:

Prayer 2000+

Prayer notes free

Daily Bible Inspirations

### *Theme 3 – Set Aside Time to Play Together Using the iPad*

Entertainment is among the many things for which the iPad can be used. Watching favorite videos, playing games, and discovering new things using the iPad can be a bonding experience for you and your son.

The sites, games, and videos your son frequents are a direct indicator of his current interests; use the iPad as a tool to get to know your son better.

#### *Theme 4 – Use Time Limits to Enhance Student Learning*

Never before has it been so easy to manage time!

Simply use the clock app on the iPad to trip an alarm, to schedule breaks, monitor homework progress, or run study session reviews on a time limit for added enthusiasm.

#### *Theme 5 – Have a No-Tech Time for Family*

There's no doubt about it, having a personal device allows for easy access to a myriad of information, productivity, and entertainment; however, possessing a portable, personal device can also be a source of concern for some families.

That is why scheduling *No-Tech Time* is crucial to maintaining a social family dynamic. Interestingly, when we are connected most of the time, the conversation/quality time we spend with one another becomes all the more special. Especially when it comes to dinner after our days are done, it is nice to know that the only distraction will be the timer on the oven saying, "Come and get it."

#### *Theme 6 – Discover New Apps Together*

Too often, there is a discrepancy between parent and son regarding who really owns the iPad. For us parents, the line is clearly drawn, but for the boy who uses, carries, cares for, and charges his own personal device, one can see how easily the waters can be muddied.

One possible way that parents and sons can come together using the iPad is to talk about/purchase apps and explore the apps *together*. In recent conversations, I have found that the parent attitude can tend to lean more toward the *laissez faire* side rather than more engaged participant when it comes to updating the device. The result of discovering new apps together is a more connected experience with your boy and his learning.

#### *Theme 7 – Change Home and Background Screens Periodically*

This is an easy way to keep things fresh and exciting!

Let's say you have a boy who is having a tough transition to CBS, or he simply is petering out toward the end of the year or break. Change the home and/or background screen to allow your young man to look forward to a family vacation, a special dinner, or a promised reward.

He'll have no choice but to keep his "eyes on the prize" if such a technique is employed!

### *Theme 8 – Create a Means by Which to Share Published Work*

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then let your boy show you that great grade or share his finished paper with you!

Besides using Canvas, empower your son to be the first to tell you about his awesome performance on a test or task at school. According to the teacher's discretion, a student can use messaging/email to alert you when he does well. Various apps can be used as a means of effective and safe communication that can brighten your day.

Try these apps:

Showbie  
Haiku Deck  
Camera  
FaceTime

## **VIII. Other Useful Information and Suggestions**

### *Birthdays and Parties*

If you wish to bring something to eat for your son's birthday, teachers should be asked at least a day in advance. Napkins should be supplied, and if it needs to be cut, it should be done before the treat makes it to school.

Christmas parties should be planned ahead of time with the homeroom teacher. Ms Karen in the front office can supply guidance as to the usual guidelines.

### *Communications*

CBS uses Canvas as its main technological communication tool. It is imperative students and parents create their new accounts as soon as the Canvas materials are sent home. Students have their own accounts. Parents sign-in as Canvas "observers." Each should activate their accounts individually, with students getting help and guidance from parents.

Canvas is used for school-wide communications from the principal, class-wide communication from teachers, posting of grades, calendar events, and more. In addition, parents and students may contact teachers through the Canvas portal.

CBS utilizes School Reach if there is a need to contact parents en masse. Instances of when this could be used is for school closings in case of hurricanes, etc.

### *Extracurriculars*

Extracurricular activities are held at various times during the year. Please check the calendar on Canvas for more information.

### *Mass*

Each class sponsors a school Mass and a class, family Mass during the school year. The family Mass is held in the Chapel and family members are encouraged to attend.

### *Calendar Events of Note*

#### August/September

Parent Orientation Nights  
CBS Day at Drago's  
New Dad's Dinner  
Mother's and Grandmother's Coffee  
Father/Son Fishing Rodeo

#### October

Various High School Open Houses  
End of Quarter Exams (for 6th & 7th grades only)  
1st Quarter Report Card  
1st Quarter Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences  
CBS Open House  
CBS Family Picnic  
Voodoo Fest (closes school grounds)

#### November/December

Brother Amedy Thanksgiving Food Drive  
CBS Gala and Patron Party  
CBS Application Deadline for the Next School Year  
CBS Admissions Test  
CBS Christmas Cocktail Party  
End of 2nd Quarter Exams (for 6th & 7th grades only)  
Class-wide Christmas Celebrations

January/February

2nd Quarter Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences  
High School Application Day  
7th Grade Science Fair  
CBS Admission Status Letters Mailed  
Homeroom Pictures Taken

March/April

End of 3rd Quarter Exams (for 6th & 7th grades only)  
Danger of Failure Notices Distributed  
Speech Nights  
Standardized Testing  
3rd Quarter Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences  
CBS City Park Night  
Foundation Golf Tournament  
Mothers Day at the Race Track  
Mother-Son Mass & Jazz Dinner Cruise

May

Feast day of St. John Baptist de La Salle  
Music for the Missions  
Founders Day  
5th Grade Good Marks Auctions  
5th & 6th Grade Report Card & Awards Night  
7th Grade Graduation Mass & Ceremony

June/July

Summer Camp