

C-Good evening everyone and congratulations on your acceptance into this wonderful school! My name is Chris Bushnell and this is my friend Mary Kilmartin! We are so excited to have you here tonight. Mary and I would like to speak a little about our CBA experience and why it's been such a good fit for us.

M-I'm Mary Kilmartin. Like many of you, I began touring junior high and high schools in 5th grade. I was attending Holy Cross elementary school after starting at St. Charles. I live on Onondaga Hill so the natural inclination might have been to go to a school closer to me. I looked at schools on the West Side of town and the East side of town. I found myself arriving at CBA open houses. My mom went to CBA, and was the first class of girls to complete 7-12 grade there. CBA always had a special place in my heart from hearing stories about my mom and aunts and uncles attending, as well as my grandparents and great uncles attending. My parents left the decision up to me about where to attend junior high and high school. And I thought about it, but I was very quick to exclaim CBA. There was something about the spirit of CBA and the community of people. Everyone we met was involved in a variety of sports, volunteering, and clubs. I saw myself in them and began to think that this would be a good fit.

C-I also started at CBA in 7th grade, except I transferred from Eagle Hill Middle School, in the FM district. CBA's clear community and dedication to its students was obvious at the open house and shadow day that I attended. It was no surprise when I asked my parents if I could go here.

What made me nervous about starting in 7th grade was that I only knew of one other person from my home district planning on attending in the fall. Thinking about having to make new friends in a new place made me anxious. I soon realized that this was no problem at all, because everyone else was in the same boat as I was. All of my classmates came from various schools as well and everyone had to make new friends, not just me. Not only was making new friends no problem at all but some of my closest friends are from schools that I was unaware of. For example, Mary and I came from two completely different schools and locations but we quickly became very close friends. This same example is repeated with every student in my class.

M- Very quickly you make these long lasting relationships at CBA. You hear the phrase "Brothers for Life". Although he says he doesn't remember this, it was at the 7th Grade Back to School Dance that I first met Chris. He was a sweaty mess in the center of the dance floor jumping up and down. He had to periodically stop to grab a glass of water and rehydrate. We were laughing about it while writing this speech. To think we are standing together 6 years later and have become such good friends. CBA truly fosters the phrase "Brothers for Life."

C- In 7th grade I made the varsity golf team, and interchanged lacrosse, and track as a third sport to swimming, my year round sport. CBA has an incredibly supportive network of coaches and teachers who push you to your full potential. In athletics I am proud to say that this is my second year qualifying for States in multiple events for swimming and my first year competing in State Qualifiers for golf. I also was awarded Athlete of the Week by News Channel 9 for breaking a 14 year school record last Spring. Academically, teachers have pushed me to take challenging courses and helped me succeed in making High Honor roll multiple years here. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of the administration, friends and coaches. I've learned that this support package can truly be expected at CBA, and that everyone is treated as an individual.

I also quickly found out about the other extracurriculars here. In 8th grade I heard some very important advice from my teachers, "Try new things even if it's out of your comfort zone." CBA definitely fosters and encourages this. I jumped into Model United Nations, Salsa Club, and Spanish Club. In 10th grade I was even able to Co-Found my own Club, Peer 2 Peer. This is a mentor program that buddies Junior High Students with Upperclassmen. Peer 2 Peer is something that incoming 7th graders can be a part of. It currently has grown to include over 80 members. Mr. Keough stresses that YOU make CBA what it is, and he could not be more right. Your fresh ideas and creativity will surely expand on CBA's excellence in the years to come.

M-I joined the Varsity tennis team as a timid, shy seventh grader in mid-August and I've never felt more welcomed or comfortable. Those girls made me feel so confident walking through the doors the first day, guiding me and helping me. I've been on the team 6 years now and seen our team grow and win sectionals. Although I was scared for the first session of August practices. This is my favorite time of year at CBA. You see the football players on the field, the swimmers completing their core exercises, the soccer players running around the tennis court, baseball players keeping up practice in the batting cage. You see the CBA community coming together once again.

There is an intangible part of CBA: the kindness promoted by peer Ministry and the spirit encouraged by Student Senate. These are two programs I joined in ninth grade and feel honored to be Co-president of now. From planning school masses to designing the homecoming t-shirts, these programs help instill what it means to be a Brother. CBA is a community that welcomes everyone and strengthens everyone's interest. It hosts a diversity of students and creates leaders for the future. Among Chris and my other friends, there is a student going to study ballet in college, two close friends joining the Air Force and National Guard, a horseback rider going to play college lacrosse, and a female hockey player committed to St. Michael's. CBA instills great values in students, preparing us for the future and continuing a tradition of excellence.

C- Both Mary and I have been working all fall on our college applications. And there has been plenty of help doing so. Mr. Keough's supportive greeting at the entrance every morning, an open door to the guidance counselors office, caring teachers, and Brother Joe's wisdom have truly helped us make great choices and progress towards our futures. Mary and I are excited to be accepted into our top choice schools, after applying Early Decision. Mary will be attending Villanova University and I will be attending and Swimming for the University of Rochester this fall.

CBA guides its students towards community service but you will find yourself being a leader and a servant outside of this school. I was told about Francis House in 8th grade and have been volunteering on the Youth Auxiliary Board there ever since, rising to be Co President. We both are Leaders here in the Peer Ministry program, and strive to give back to our school and communities. This is a value that I know will be continued long past graduation. Mary and I feel that CBA has fully prepared us for whatever lies ahead and we are both confident and excited about our future.

M- I'm the oldest of six kids, each with completely different personalities and interests. The three oldest Kilmartins, myself included, are all thriving at CBA. Tonight, the 4th Kilmartin is sitting in the audience as an accepted student.

In this community you will find students staying until 5 or 6 O'Clock to talk with teachers and participate in clubs or athletics. Students are excited for one another and excited about doing well at CBA. There is nothing comparable to: these banners surrounding the gym, the pictures of each graduating class lining the hallway, Founders Day celebrations, and hearing students chant in the student section. This spirit is both what I looked for in a college and what I'll miss most about CBA. I hope all of you will join us in experiencing the traditions, community and defining traits that CBA offers. You never know the life long friends you will meet at your seventh grade dance.

Thank you everyone and we hope you choose CBA! GO BROTHERS!