

Welcome to Centennial and to 2nd Semester

Welcome back Eagles! We've had a good and a challenging start to our school year. We had our first ever Eagle Expo to show off the brilliant work of our students. We will be exhibiting student work again during the upcoming Incoming 9th grade night on March 8th.

We are currently preparing for accreditation – Every 5 years high schools get accredited. 2018 is our year. The accreditation team will visit on February 6th and 7th. A group of educators from outside the school and district will come in and study our systems, visit our classrooms, talk to our students, staff, and parents. At the end of an intense two-day visit they will report back to us on what we do well and what we need to improve upon.

We are participating in the district wide strategic planning process –so there will be a blueprint for the next five years. Here is a link to the process Destination 2023. We have five staff members participating in the Strategic Planning process at the district level. We are leading our entire staff through some of the exercises and this input will be folded into the district level work. There is also a group of high school and middle school students going through some of the exercises and their input will be folded into the district plan.

Upcoming Make-a-thon – For the last year several staff members have been working with the Construct Foundation, the d.school at Stanford and Innovate Oregon to incorporate more “Deeper Learning” at CHS. In April we will hold a make-a-thon in partnership with Innovate Oregon. We will spend one day, learning to code, program circuit boards, Arduinos, and then ultimately solving a design challenge. The participants will be a mixture of 20 students, 20 staff members, and 20 community members/ industry representatives. The teams will have one member from each area. We will be doing this in conjunction with Centennial Middle School. Here is a link to a make-a-thon that was held at La Creole Middle School in Dallas Oregon. <http://innovateoregon.org/2017/12/02/dallas-make-thon-video/>

Highest ever graduation rate – Our 2017 four-year graduation rate was 84.3%. That is our highest rate ever. One of our goals is to raise our 4-year graduation rate to 95% by 2022. This was a good first step. We have sent a team to Chicago three times this year to learn what Chicago Public Schools has done to raise their graduation rates and we have been hard at work to make our grad rate even better.

Freshman Success Team - The team went to Chicago and brought back some indicators that we are looking at with our Freshmen. We have defined Freshman-on-track as students who earn 6 or more credits their freshman year and have no more than one semester failure in a core subject area. The University of Chicago has found that this indicator is 80% effective in predicting which freshman will graduate on time. We are defining freshman as being on track for college if they have a GPA higher than 3.0. We have put together a team of teachers that have 50 – 60 students

in common so that they can meet regularly and help students who are not meeting all these indicators. We hope to expand teaming next year for all freshmen.

MakerSpace designed by students – With the addition of Measure 98 funds, the high school is opening a MakerSpace. Students in our newest course offering “Design What.” will develop the maker space. This space will be open for classes to use and should allow more design thinking and projects to take place at CHS.

Variety of student activities and clubs – We have a large number of clubs and activities that take place before and after school. Our students support each other, have fun, and serve the community at large through their clubs and activities. Our Speech and Debate team has been quite successful with an expanding group of students. Our MeChA club along with REAP and SUN is putting on our Multicultural Night on February 20th. Our students’ activities range from Video Game club, Human Trafficking Awareness Club, GSA, to a variety of classes and tutoring offered by SUN. Our newest club is our Black Student Union. We constantly strive to offer the clubs that meet students’ interests.

Attendance/Chronic Absences – Centennial High School has a high percentage of students who miss more than 10% of the school year. 10% of the school year is only 17 days and amounts to less than two absences per month. There is a large body of research that shows that missing more than 10% of the school year makes students more likely to fail courses. We are committed to reducing our chronic absences. Our attendance committee is kicking off an attendance study that will point us towards the actions that we need to take. We will be surveying staff and parents. We will also interview students and staff members. We will collect data from the hallways and review our policies and procedures.

You should hear more conversations about attendance and we hope you will monitor your student’s attendance and make sure they are not missing more than 17 days in a school year. Here is a link to the parent attendance survey in both English and Spanish. Parent Survey – English Version

link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L353LYN>

Parent Survey – Spanish Version link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L35DNMS>

As you can see CHS is a busy and exciting place, constantly trying to improve for our students. Come to one of our events to see our students performing in a play, concert, athletic competition, or an event like Multicultural night. You will be amazed at the dedication, intellect, and skills our students possess.