



Omaha Central High School

A TRADITION *of* EXCELLENCE SINCE 1859

BE AN EAGLE.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DEAR FUTURE EAGLE,

Welcome to Omaha Central High School. We are glad you have chosen to visit our nation's finest downtown high school where "A Tradition of Excellence" is not just our motto, it is our legacy.

Beginning in 1859 as Nebraska's first high school, Omaha Central has always been an academic powerhouse, preparing students not only for success in the nation's finest colleges and universities, but for success in business, agriculture, academia, sports, entertainment, government, and the military. It is no coincidence that four Fortune 500 companies are headquartered within our attendance area. There is no other school in the metro that can boast such distinguished alumni, including three Nobel Prize winners, a Pulitzer Prize winner, an Academy Award winner, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and numerous other graduates who have been local and national leaders for over a century and a half.

Central's consistent success is predicated upon our traditional and rigorous academic program that includes numerous Advanced Placement courses, extensive Dual Enrollment offerings, and the prestigious International Baccalaureate Programme. Well-rounded students are able to make their mark in the fine and performing arts, in numerous extracurricular and co-curricular activities, and in our nationally recognized athletic program. We expect excellence from all students and constantly promote the importance of academic rigor, outstanding behavior and ongoing community engagement. Our students love being Central Eagles, and their amazing accomplishments are sources of pride for our school and community.

Thank you for your visit today, and we hope you consider joining Central High's "Tradition of Excellence."

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Bennett
Principal of Central High School

*"A Tradition of Excellence"
is not just our motto,
it is our legacy.*



WE ARE CENTRAL

Our Mission:

To continue a tradition of excellence emphasizing academic achievement, responsible global citizenship, pride in diversity, and enduring scholarship.





English

Courses of Interest: Holocaust Literature, Creative Writing, and Photojournalism

Department offers a writing program with almost 100 years of tradition

Students may participate in Louder than a Bomb/Poetry Out Loud

Science

Courses of Interest: Forensic Science, Marine Biology, and Environmental Science

Department offers hands-on learning in laboratories

Students may participate in field trips to relevant sites, including a professional anatomy lab

Art

Courses of Interest: Graphic Design, Pottery, Applied Design, and Studio Art

Teachers mentor young artists so they can compete at the highest levels for external awards and honors

Students may engage with works of art at neighboring Joslyn Art Museum, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, and the Kent Bellows Studio

Math

Courses of Interest: Differential Equations, Enrichment Math, and Honors Advanced Topics

Faculty volunteers and students host the largest middle school math contest in the city

Students regularly excel in math competitions throughout the region

Business, Marketing, and Technology

Courses of Interest: Fashion Marketing, Entertainment and Sports Marketing, Digital Design, Web Design, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Java, and Visual Basic

Courses help develop students' college and career readiness with employability skills

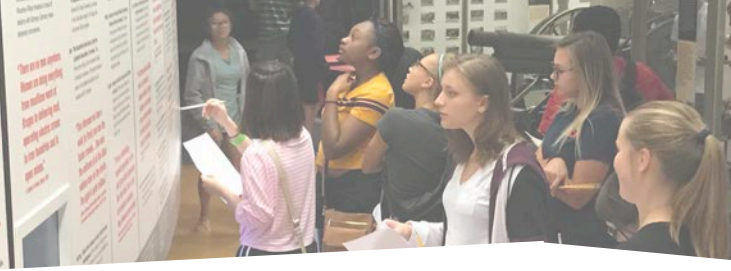
Students may engage in field trips and internships with Downtown Omaha business partners, and they may participate in local, state and national competitions in their areas of interest



CENTRAL EXPOSED ME TO A UNIQUE TYPE OF DIVERSITY. THE CLASSES CHALLENGED ME, AND MY TEACHERS PUSHED ME TO DO MY BEST.

Anna Pieper, CHS 2016
St. Cecilia's Cathedral Grade School





ACADEMICS

English as a Second Language

Courses serve students at four levels of English acquisition

Courses develop students' skills in speaking, reading and writing, allowing them to meet the same OPS graduation requirements as other students

Students may participate in field trips that familiarize them with American culture and traditions and celebrate the students' cultural heritages

Family and Consumer Sciences

Courses of Interest: Creative Textiles, Culinary Skills, Computer Fashion Design, Sports Nutrition, and Foundations of Healthcare

Courses develop career preparation and life skills through labs and project-based learning

Students may participate in competitions and relevant field experiences

World Languages

Courses of Interest: Chinese, Latin, German, Spanish, and French

Department houses a digital language lab

Students may participate in field trips, including a visit to an immersive language camp or travel to other countries

Social Studies

Courses of Interest: Intro to World Religions, Omaha History and Anthropology

Department maintains the CHS archives, including a photographic history of Downtown Omaha captured from CHS

Students may travel to historical sites across the country, including Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Physical Education

Courses of Interest: Aerobics, Weight Training, Lifetime Sports and Team Sports

Teachers emphasize cooperation, teamwork and healthy life skills

Students utilize state of the art equipment and facilities on site, including a dedicated aerobics room and two weight rooms

OUR STAFF IS SECOND TO NONE

Experience:

On average, our teachers, counselors and administrators have **13** years of experience in education.

Dedication:

70% of our certified staff members have earned at least one graduate degree.

Quality:

13 of our current teachers and counselors have earned the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award.

BE AN EAGLE.

ACADEMIC TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



Dual Enrollment

Through Dual Enrollment (DE), students earn college credit while taking a class at Central High School.

We offer DE through the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Midland University, and Metropolitan Community College.

Advanced Placement

We offer 26 Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English, world languages, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology.

Students may earn college credit or skip introductory college courses by scoring well on AP exams.

AP courses challenge students with college-level course work and help students refine their skills to meet college expectations.

Honors

Numerous honors-level courses are offered for all grade levels and subjects.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Central High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme prepares students for effective participation in a rapidly evolving and increasingly global society as they:

Study rigorous content from six subject groups.

Study two languages and cultures, including their own.

Make cross-curricular connections and explore the nature of knowledge.

Construct and present new knowledge in an extended research paper.

Engage in personal and interpersonal development through creativity, action and service.

IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Did You Know?

It was the principal of Central High School who, in 1921, envisioned and created the National Honor Society.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS celebrate those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.



ONCE AN EAGLE

ALWAYS AN EAGLE

The Central High School Foundation

1823 Harney St. Ste. 203 Omaha, NE 68102 402-556-1996 www.chsfomaha.org

Since 1859, Central High School has offered educational excellence and personal growth to all of its students. The Central High School Foundation was established in 1996 to provide support for present and future CHS students to ensure the tradition of excellence continues. Contributions of time, energy, and resources are essential to preserve and enhance the timeless values of a Central High School education.

The Alumni Association

www.omahacentralalumni.com

The Alumni Association's mission is to "keep Central Central." Alumni recognize the outstanding education they received from Central. The tradition of excellence, and the mystique that is Central, is what our alumni association is all about. We are creating and nurturing a lifelong reciprocal relationship between Central and its students, past and present.

1859

Omaha High School opens its doors with 5 teachers on staff.

1911

Omaha High School becomes Central High School.

1979

Central added to the National Register of Historic Places.

1996

The Central High School Foundation was created.

2012

CHSF completed a \$1.4 million capital campaign to make Central the first OPS high school to be completely wireless.

1876

Electrical engineers wired the school to give Omaha its first demonstration of electric lights.

1926

The Eagle is adopted as the school mascot.

1981

Central adds a roof to enclose the courtyard.

2001

4th Floor cafeteria is converted to computer labs.

2019

CHSF is projected to complete a \$22 million Arts and Library Addition onto the east side of Central

\$71.2 MILLION

Amount of scholarship money earned by the classes of 2015-2018

In December 1980, a member of the Class of 1932 donated \$2,000 to start the CHS Scholarship Endowment Fund. Principal G. E. "Doc" Moller immediately started to solicit money from various sources in order to guarantee the perpetual growth of the fund.

Today, the Scholarship Endowment has grown to almost \$1,000,000! Currently, the Central High School Foundation awards 17 endowed scholarships to graduating seniors. Recipients are chosen by the CHS Scholarship Committee on the basis of application, scholarship, citizenship, and need.

TRADITIONS OF CENTRAL



The Road Show



One of the most enduring traditions of Central High School is the annual **Road Show**. Established in 1913, the Road Show is an opportunity for students to perform in front of an audience of spirited students, alumni, and community members. Whether it's a musical performance, dancing extravaganza, or special skill that you want to share, the Road Show allows students to showcase their talents to the community. This beloved tradition, which is over 100 years old, is something that you can be part of!

Save the date for the 105th Road Show: April 5-6, 2019

JROTC Eagle Battalion



Established at Central High School in 1887, the **Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)** is one of the oldest organizations at Central High School. Today, JROTC teaches leadership fundamentals, self-reliance, requirements of national security, discipline, oral and written communications, and responsible citizenship. The United States has had many skilled service men and women come from Central's JROTC program, including William Roark, CHS 1956. Roark was the first United States pilot killed in action. He was killed on April 7, 1965, while on a bombing mission over North Vietnam. A United States Navy frigate was named in his honor.

Purple Feather Day



In 1977, principal Doc Moller and P.E.P. (Parents, Educators & Pupils) created a day to honor academic excellence of Central students. This tradition, called **Purple Feather Day**, honors students who earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Traditionally, students gathered on the lawn outside the school every spring to release a purple balloon to celebrate their achievement. Beginning in 2018, students now receive flags rather than purple balloons. This is a new tradition that will continue to make Purple Feather Day a special event! It is up to the discretion of the principal to decide what day the event will take place, so an element of surprise is added to the event each year.

Journalism



Central is nationally known for excellence in **journalism** and media ethics. Central's student newspaper, *The Register*, was established in 1886 and continues to be printed six times every school year. *The Register* was named by Quill and Scroll as the oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi. The journalism staff also produces the annual yearbook, called *The O-Book*. These publications have won numerous awards and honors, including multiple Pacemaker Awards, the highest honor in high school journalism. Graduate editors and staff members have gone on to write for publications such as *Time*, *The New York Times*, and most recently *Buzzfeed* and *Mashable*.



ACTIVITIES

CLUBS AT CENTRAL

- 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- Academic Decathlon
- ACE Peer Tutors
- African-American History Club
- All Nations Club
- Art Club
- Bowling Club
- Chinese Club
- Chess Club
- Computer Programming Team
- Culinary Club
- DECA (Marketing)
- Dimension*
- Drama / International Thespians
- Duct Tape*
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Eagle Slam / Fine Lines Writing
- Early Childhood Education Pathway
- Educators Rising Chapter
- ESL International Club
- French Club
- French National Honor Society
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Future Educators Association
- Freshman Vocal Ensemble
- Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
- German Club
- Girls! Rock
- Hand Bell Choir
- HOSA - Future Health Professionals
- Junior Classical League (Latin Club)
- Junior Statesmen of America
- Key Club
- Latino Leaders
- Light Club
- Math Club
- NaNoWriMo Club
- National Honor Society
- O-Club
- PEP Club
- Philosophy Club
- Physics/Engineering Club
- Power Lifting Club
- Rock Climbing Club
- Science Olympiad
- Sewing Club
- Sign Language Club
- Spanish National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Student Democrats
- Teenage Republicans
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- VEX Robotics
- World Languages Club

Central Students Are Involved

Central High School offers more than 50 clubs and activities, allowing students to pursue their interests and make new friends.

Performing Arts

With a focus on increasing students' ability to perform in concert and on stage through unique individual and ensemble experiences, Central High School provides an array of opportunities for students to shine:

Instrumental Music

CHS Instrumental Music includes Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Intermediate Strings, Eagle Marching Band, and Guitar.

Drama

CHS Drama Department offers more performance and production opportunities than any other high school in OPS. Student thespians are involved in three major productions every year at CHS: the fall musical, winter play and annual Road Show. Students also have the opportunity to join the International Thespian Society and the National Honor Society for Theater.

Vocal Music

Our Vocal Music students are provided multiple opportunities to strengthen their voices as a group and individually through large-scale and individual mentorship. A Cappella Choir and CHS Singers are two of the ensembles available to students.

Central's Athletic Tradition of Excellence

State Championships

Football	1908, 1917, 1960, 1984, 2007
Cross Country, Boys	1965, 1972
Tennis, Boys	1954, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1985
Tennis, Girls	1975
Soccer, Boys	1992
Golf, Boys	1929, 1930, 1936, 1951, 1956
Wrestling	1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1954, 1955
Basketball, Boys	1912, 1974, 1975, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
Basketball, Girls	1983, 1984, 2012
Baseball	1939
Track & Field, Boys	1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1922, 1924, 1945, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1982, 1983, 1989, 2007, 2010, 2011
Track & Field, Girls	1974, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990

ATHLETICS AT CENTRAL

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Pom Squad
- Soccer
- Softball
- Student Trainers
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

NOTABLE ALUMNI

What's one way to see the legacy of a great school? Watch what its alumni do. Here are just a few Central alumni who are making a difference in the world today.

LEADERS



Susan Thompson Buffett
CHS 1950

President of Buffett Foundation and civil rights activist

- Carlton Goodlett, CHS 1931** - Civil rights leader and publisher
- Richard Holland, CHS 1939** - Philanthropist and promoter of arts
- Peter Kiewit, CHS 1918** - Built Peter Kiewit Construction Company
- Charlie Munger, CHS 1941** - Vice Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway

INNOVATORS



Alan Heeger
CHS 1953

Awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2000 for "the discovery and development of conductive polymers"

- Fred Burbank, CHS 1959** - Invented biopsy needle and owns SenoRX
- Lawrence Klein, CHS 1938** - Nobel Prize winner in Economic Sciences
- Saul Kripke, CHS 1958** - World renowned philosopher
- Henry Pollack, CHS 1954** - Nobel Prize winner for Climate Change studies

ENTERTAINERS



Henry Fonda
CHS 1923

Received Academy Award for Best Actor in 1981 and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

- Harry Friedman, CHS 1964** - Executive Producer of *Wheel of Fortune*
- Wynonie Harris** - Rhythm and blues singer who had fifteen top ten hits
- Dorothy McGuire, CHS 1934** - Actress with star on Walk of Fame
- Howard Rosenberg, CHS 1969** - Pulitzer Prize-winning television critic

CHAMPIONS



Gale Sayers
CHS 1961

Former running back for the Chicago Bears in the National Football League who is enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame

- Ahman Green, CHS 1995** - Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame running back
- Maurtice Ivy, CHS 1984** - Kodak All American at University of Nebraska
- Jed Ortmeyer, CHS 1997** - Former National Hockey League player
- Pat Venditte, CHS 2004** - Switch pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers

WHY CENTRAL?

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

I chose Central High School due to its IB program, long list of classes and extracurricular activities to choose from, and overall the safe, professional atmosphere here at Central. So far, I love Central, and I'd choose it again. I love the responsibility and standards I'm given, and I feel as if it helps me be successful.

Zoey Bieranowski
Monroe Middle School

Central is a great learning environment with great teachers who are ready to help anyone learn.

Anna Harris
Saint Margaret Mary School

You should attend Central because it will prepare you for the real world in both the academic and diversity aspects of life.

Carolyn Dillman
St. Columbille Catholic School

Here at Central, we're all different. That's what makes us the same.

Lauren Lewis
Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School

Not only great teachers exist here, but also great students, friends, and mentors.

Seth Tejral
Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School

There is something for everyone here!

Hannah Halvorson
Norris Middle School

You should choose Central because it will help you so much in preparation for the rest of your life. Whatever you want to be, there are classes you can take. You can join or start any club you want.

Isabela Weber
St. Pius X/St. Leo School

Eighth graders should attend CHS because it's a welcoming, diverse school.

Madison Mehser
St. Thomas More School

I chose to go to Central because of the academic as well as athletic opportunities. Central allows me to reach my highest potential in everything I strive to achieve.

Christina Spomer
Lewis and Clark Middle School

Central allows students to be the CEOs of their own education, which is something most schools don't possess.

Silas Perry
Homeschooled

I chose Central for its diversity and impressive performing arts department. In my time here, I have learned more academically than I could have expected. I have found my place in Central's theatre and choir departments and have made a tremendous number of new friends.

Mila Herszbaum-Harding
Marrs Magnet Middle School

I chose Central because of the IB program. I feel like Central will get me prepared for college.

Sophia Sidzyik
Marrs Magnet Middle School



CLASS OF 2023
BE AN EAGLE.

Adopt-A-School Partners



DLR Group
Architecture Engineering Planning Interiors

First National Bank

MIDLAND UNIVERSITY

NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE
THE JOSIE HARPER CAMPUS



Omaha Central High School
124 North 20th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-4801
402-557-3300



Guide produced by the
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION
Historic Library Building
P.O. Box 31610
Omaha, NE 68031-0610

 facebook.com/chsfomaha

 [@opscentralhigh](https://twitter.com/opscentralhigh)

 [@chsfomaha](https://instagram.com/chsfomaha)

 www.central.ops.org