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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS May 2023



Snapshot of Brilliance: Celebrating the top 10% of our 2023 graduating class at Senior Recognition Night, where their remarkable achievements were honored.



Dear Supporter,

We hope you, your family, and friends, are well!
And for those celebrating graduations,
congratulations!

First, coming up on Monday, June 5th is our 21st annual Golf Fore Eagles Golf Outing! This year's event will honor Dr. Rusty Crossman, CHS 1966. This event is sold out, and we appreciate Eagle Nation's support!

Our [silent auction is open](#) now through Monday, June 5th at 4pm CT! There are some excellent items available to bid on, and, as always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more.

Secondly, congratulations to the Class of 2023 who will be graduating on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Your dedication and resilience continues to inspire us

all! We are excited to see you all spread your wings and soar!

Finally, The Central High School Hall of Fame will held Thursday, October 19, 2023, at Central High School. Inductees are selected by the Central High School Alumni Association Selection Committee, and the program is presented by the Central High School Foundation. We look forward to sharing with you more information in the upcoming months, but for now, mark your calendars!

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Michelle Roberts

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

Swing into Action: Golf Fore Eagles Silent Auction Now Open



The 2023 Golf Outing Silent Auction is now LIVE! Bid on a wide variety of great packages from now until Monday, June 5th at 4pm CT!

The silent auction is open to all, regardless of your attendance at the Golf Fore Eagles Golf Outing! There are some great items to choose from including GolfTec Swing Evaluation & 5 Golf Lessons; 2 Front Row Loge Tickets to My Fair Lady; Family Day Pass to The Durham Museum; Foursome with Carts at Field Club of Omaha; 4 College World Series Tickets to Game #2 on Saturday, June 16 & CWS Basket; and more!

As always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more. Our mission remains the same: to support the current and future students of Central. Through your support, the Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future.

[Click Here to Begin Bidding!](#)

Scoops for Support a Success at ECreamery in Dundee!



We would like to thank everyone who came out and supported Central High School at our Scoops for Support event at eCreamery in Dundee! It was awesome to see many of our seniors celebrating their graduation. Congratulations, Class of 2023! Throughout the month of May, stop by and sample our signature flavor "Cones, Caps, & Gowns" in honor of the Class of 2023!

CHS Teachers Soar to New Heights in Landmarks Program!



Congratulations to Central High School teachers Adam Raffety and Scott Wilson! They were selected from over 200 national applicants to participate in the NEH Landmarks program and will be traveling to Saipan in July to study the 1944 WWII battle.

The Central High School Foundation is thrilled to see our CHS teachers recognized for their dedication and commitment to their students and profession. This opportunity to study history in a unique and immersive way will undoubtedly enrich their teaching and benefit our students for years to come.

We wish Adam and Scott safe "flights" and a wonderful learning experience. Thank you for representing Central High School with such distinction!

New Episode of Eagle Tales - Listen Now

A new episode of Eagle Tales has been published! Eagle Tales is a podcast from the Central High School Foundation that highlights the amazing things that alumni have achieved since graduating from Central.

Episode 13 of Eagle Tales features an interview with 2002 alumna Maya Taylor. Maya is an MTV Video Music Award-nominated choreographer and movement



director working in New Orleans, Los Angeles.

You can subscribe to Eagle Tales on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or wherever you listen to your podcasts!

Martha Omar Named 2023 CHS Teacher of the Year



The Central High School Foundation hosted the 2023 Senior Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Central High School Auditorium. This year, the graduating Class of 2023 earned more than \$20 million in national and local scholarships: a demonstration of their outstanding work ethic and resiliency, as many of them attended a portion of their high school careers online during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to these national and local scholarships, sixty-eight scholarships were awarded by the Central High School Foundation, totaling in more than \$200,000.

The 2023 DeEmmett Bradshaw Zerbe, CHS 1943, and Mason Speltz Zerbe, CHS 1948, Central High School Students of the Year Scholarships were awarded to Rayya Haider and Joshua King. The 2023 Teacher of the Year Award was awarded to Martha Omar!

Congratulations to Mrs. Omar and to all of our scholarship winners!

[Endow a Scholarship](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Halley Taylor



Halley Taylor, a proud graduate of Central High School's Class of 2004, is an accomplished leader and advocate for youth empowerment in Omaha, Nebraska. As the Executive Director of Omaha Girls Rock, Halley has made it her mission to uplift and empower young girls and women through music education and mentorship.

Halley is an accomplished educator and community leader based in Omaha, Nebraska. With over a decade of experience in the education field, Halley has dedicated her career to advancing anti-bias and equitable programming and empowering students to reach their full potential.

Halley currently serves as the Executive Director of Omaha Girls Rock, an organization dedicated to empowering girls and gender-expansive youth through music education and performance. Prior to her role at Omaha Girls Rock, Halley worked as the Education Director at the Anti-Defamation League and as an English teacher at Omaha Public Schools. In both roles, she worked tirelessly to develop and implement anti-bias, equitable, and trauma-informed

programming, and to build strong communities that empower students, educators, and staff.

Halley's expertise in education is rooted in her academic background, which includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and Public Relations from Stephens College and a Master of Education degree with certification in 4-12 English and K-12 English Language Learners from the College of Saint Mary. She has also been recognized for her contributions to the field, including being named the 2012 Education Student of the Year and receiving the 2020 "Volunteer of the Year" award from the DEI committee.

Beyond her work in education, Halley has also demonstrated her leadership and community-building skills as the Shelter Relations Coordinator for the Central Missouri Humane Society, where she helped to secure a million-dollar renovation for the shelter facilities through a national competition.

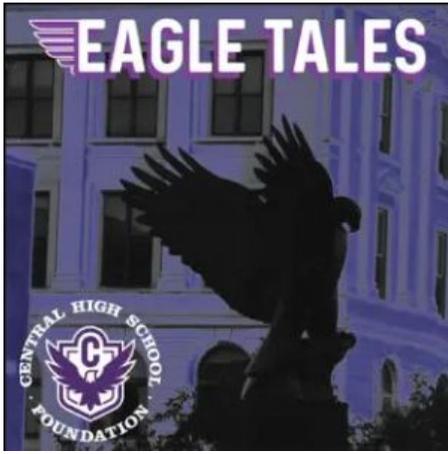
Halley's passion for education, equity, and community-building is evident in all aspects of her work, and she continues to be an influential and respected leader in Omaha, Nebraska. Her time at Central High School instilled in her a passion for education, community engagement and social justice. As the current Executive Director of Omaha Girls Rock, Halley continues to give back to her community and inspire future generations of Central High School students to pursue their dreams.

Do you know an exceptional graduate from our beloved high school who is soaring high in their field or community? We're on the hunt for remarkable alumni to feature in our upcoming 'Alumni Spotlight' section. Whether they're spreading their wings in groundbreaking achievements or leaving an eagle-sized impact, we want to hear about it! Nominate an outstanding alumnus today and let their feathered success take flight in our next newsletter!

[Nominate an Alum Today!](#)

[Keep Up With Eagle Nation Anytime](#)

Do you enjoy listening to podcasts? Do you like to learn new information about Central High School? There are two fascinating podcasts about the faculty, staff, and students (current and former) of our favorite high school!



Eagle Tales is a monthly podcast in which, our creative director, Josh Bucy, sits down with a Central High School alum to talk about their time at Central and how it has impacted them. Listeners get to hear all about the amazing things that Alumni are doing to change the world! You can find this podcast on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or the [Central High School Foundation website](#).

Maya Taylor, CHS 2002, an MTV Video Music Award-nominated choreographer and movement director working in New Orleans, Los Angeles, and New York City joins host Josh Bucy for episode 13 of *Eagle Tales*.

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps our Eagles connected to Central High School. To continue to help our Eagles connect to the nest, join Generation "C" today!

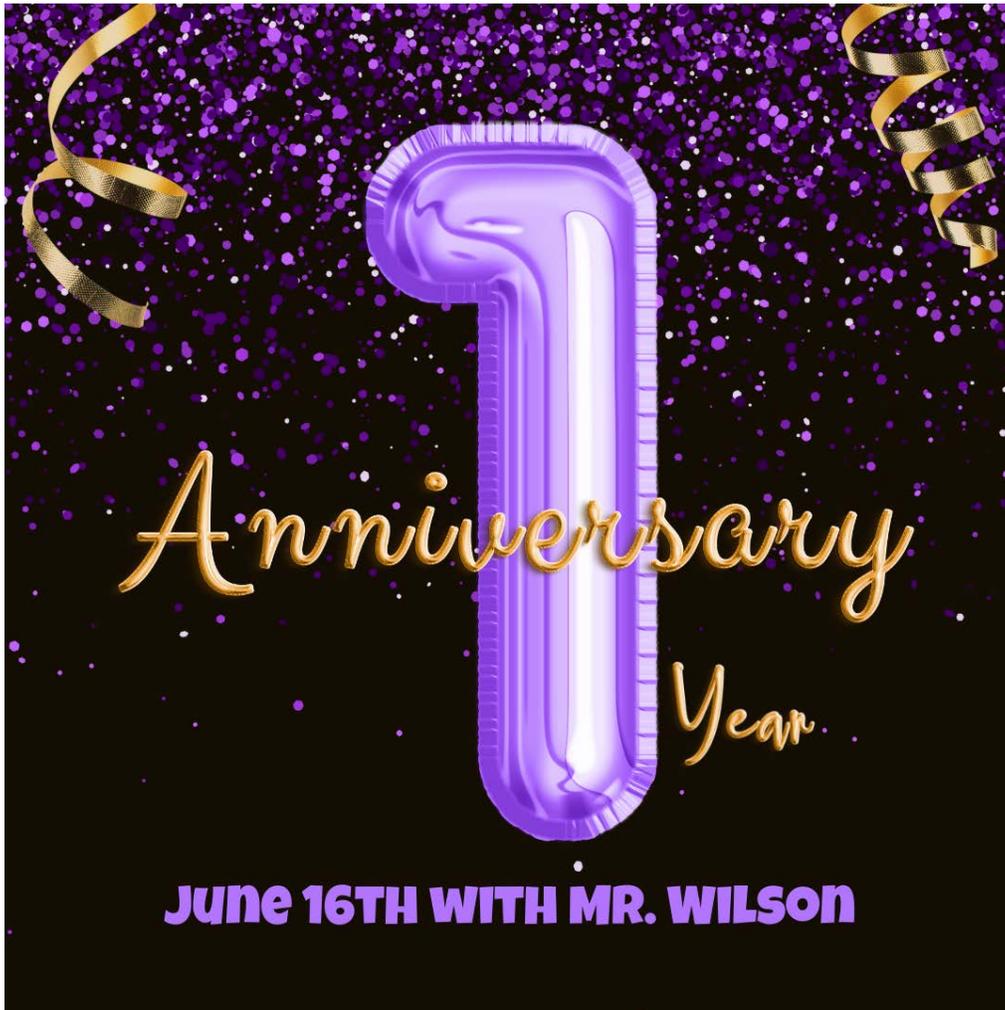
[Join Generation "C" Today](#)



Chatting at The C, run by current Central High School teacher Ben Boeckman is a podcast for Omaha Central Eagle Nation! Their goal is to share the groundbreaking things that happen at Central High and to get to know people in the Eagle family. They interview different people from the legends of Central High to new teachers just getting their start. You can find their episodes on [Spotify](#), [Youtube](#), and [Apple Podcasts!](#)

Episode 21 of the podcast features a conversation with Assistant Principal Mrs. Danielle Brandt.

Chatting at the C Celebrates One-Year Anniversary!



Chatting at The C is celebrating its 1-year anniversary on June 16th! It has been an amazing year talking with teachers who are changing the world one student at a time. Since it has been a year, they are hosting a legend: Scott Wilson, CHS History Teacher extraordinaire on the podcast!

They want YOU to ask the questions! Click the button below to submit an audio question to be featured on the show. The application Flip has you create a quick account, but it is quite simple. When you submit, please include your name, what class you are part of or how you know Wilson, and your question. We are recording this episode soon, so submit today!!

[Ask Mr. Wilson a Question!](#)

[Eagle Debate Team Land Their Arguments](#)



We're excited to share our soaring Eagles with you! With funding from the Foundation, Central High School was able to host an annual debate competition that helps Eagles develop their communication skills and compete on a national level. With research tools, entry fee funding for tournaments, and other resources, our students are truly competition-ready!

As CHS Teacher and Debate Coach Mr. Andrew Ruchti says, "From Pete Davidson to Justice Brown Jackson, debate has helped so many young people with many different interests develop skills that help them reach incredible heights." And we couldn't agree more!

During the 22-23 school year, 35 students benefited from this amazing program, with 10-15 active debaters. But it's not just about competition - debate creates a scholarly space for students who may not fit into the average definition of an academic. These are intelligent students who thrive on being challenged and showing off their skills.

And the translation to college and career readiness? Debate is like a research methods class, an independent study, and a crash course on how to cram for a test all rolled into one. Our students are tackling sophisticated topics every month and honing their skills in research, communication, and logical argumentation - skills that will serve them well in college and beyond.

But don't take our word for it! As Charlie Yale, Class of 2024, says, "Debate has taught me valuable research skills and how to properly articulate my train of thought. I can see this in my classes outside of debate as well. My writing

has improved immensely, especially under timed conditions. I've also learned how to help to elevate the voices of others through my role as captain."

We are so proud of our Eagles and the amazing things they are accomplishing! And we couldn't do it without your support. Click below to join Generation "C" to support the Central High School Foundation and help us keep our students soaring to new heights!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

The 2022-2023 Generation "C" Chairs



The Central High School Foundation is proud to announce Charles "Chuck" Dickerson III, CHS 1959, and his wife, Judie, as the 2022-2023 Generation "C" Chairs.

Chuck Dickerson is part of a Central High School legacy dating back to 1900. Chuck was raised in Omaha and describes himself as a "dyed-in-the-wool Midwesterner." He graduated from Central in 1959 and attended Penn State University for his undergraduate degree. After graduating from Penn State in 1963, Chuck served as a navigator and in communications and cryptology aboard the light cruiser *USS Springfield*, the flagship of the Sixth Fleet. He served on active duty for two years and in the reserves for another five before resigning his Navy commission in 1970. Following his time in the military, Chuck attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. Following graduation, he took a job with AT&T, where he worked for more than thirty years before retiring as a division technical manager in 1997.

His wife, Judie, is an alumna of the University of Iowa. She is a fourth-generation college graduate whose great grandfather was the first Black lawyer to pass the Illinois state bar in 1869. Together, the couple has two daughters, two granddaughters, and one grandson. In his retirement, Chuck started a company that assisted in the installation of an undersea internet cable from New York City to London. In addition, he taught at County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey, where Judie was working, and later became an adjunct instructor at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Today, he and Judie volunteer for several nonprofit organizations, are active in the Episcopal Church, and are philanthropic supporters of multiple educational institutions

including the University of Iowa, Penn State University, and the Central High School Foundation.

Chuck and Judie have been very involved with Central High School. During the unveiling of the Central High School Arts and Library Addition, the Dickerson, Myers, and Wright families honored their Eagle lineage with a Legacy paver donned with fourteen names of family members who had graduated from Central dating back to 1900. They recently endowed a scholarship for a graduating Eagle to continue their education. This award, named the Dickerson/Fletcher/McWilliams Scholarship, highlights the several generations of family members who have graduated from Central High School.

Join Generation "C" Today

Eagle Eye Alert: Flock Together at the Next Reunion!



As we prepare for our upcoming reunion season, we wanted to remind you to check our website for the dates and details. We promise it will be a hoot, and you won't want to miss it!

Reunions are always something to chirp about, providing the perfect opportunity to reconnect with old friends and flock together for a fun-filled event. It's a time to spread your wings and catch up on what your fellow eagles have been up to since last we met.

So, spread your feathers and join us for an unforgettable reunion. We can't wait to see you and watch your spirits take flight. Be sure to check our website for more information.

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your class reunion or would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org or call 402-556-1996.

[View the Class Reunion Schedule](#)

[Join the 1859 Society Today](#)



Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or michele@chsfomaha.org.

[Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

[Share Your Memories From Your Time at Central](#)



Did you know that the Central High School Foundation collects the memories of our alumni to paint a full, bright picture of life at Central for future generations? In fact, you can read all of the memories others have submitted on our [website!](#)

We would love to hear from you!

Submit your memory to the Central High School Foundation!
You can also share photos of your time at Central, which will be entered into our archives!

[Submit Your Memory](#)

[2023 Class Reunion Schedule](#)



Old friends reunited back at the Nest last year during the Class of
1991's class reunion!

Upcoming Reunion Schedule

[Class of 1961 80th Birthday Reunion](#)

August 4-5, 2023

[Contact Dick Zacharia](#)

[Class of 1963](#)

September 8-9, 2023

[Class of 1968](#)

September 8-9, 2023

[Contact Pam Weiss Friedlander](#)

[Contact Joanne Wagner Givens](#)

Class of 1970

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

[Class of 1973](#)

October 13-14, 2023

omahacentral73reunion50.myevent.com

[Class of 1974](#)

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact [Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#)

[Class of 1978](#)

45 Year Class Reunion

August 11-12, 2023

Contact [Sally Vrbanac Rehmeier](#) (402-670-8986)

[Reunion Website](#)

[Class of 1983](#)

September 29-30, 2023

Details TBD

[Class of 1993](#)

September 1-2, 2023

[Reunion Website](#)

[Class of 2003](#)

September 29-30, 2023

Details TBD

[Class of 2013](#)

September 29-30, 2023

[Mecca Slaughter](#)

402-981-7351

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your class reunion or would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please [contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.

Join Generation "C"

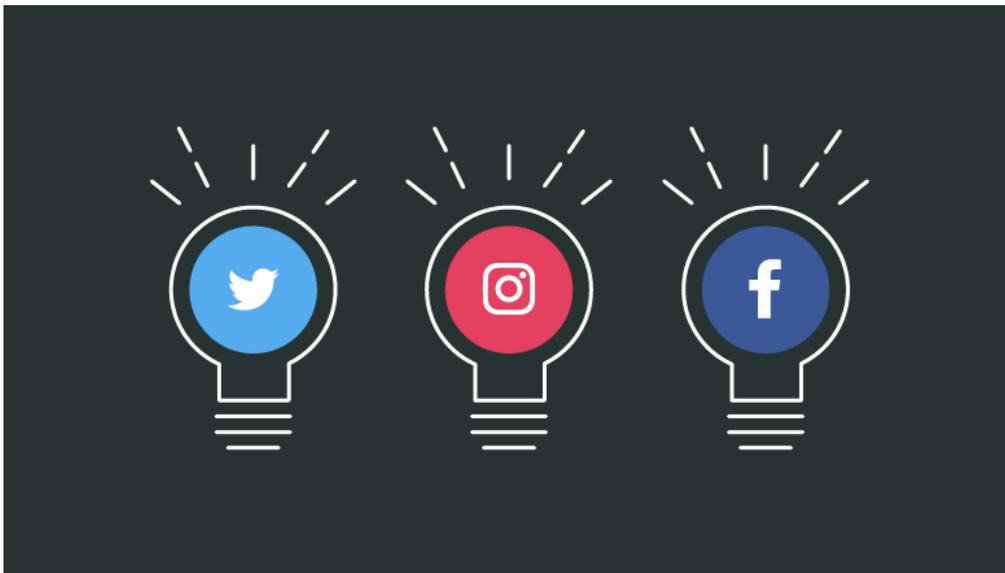
Support CHSF While You Shop



The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation.

It's easy to do! Just go to the link [tagg.today](#), snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

Follow and Like Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)? Follow and Like us across the social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news. As we hit fan milestones on each platform we will be giving out great prizes! Keep an eye out!

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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