



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS February 2024



Our girls basketball team is state-bound! They play at 1:30 p.m. CT Wednesday, February 28 against Millard West at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln. Best of luck to our student athletes and coaches!



Dear Supporter,

We are officially immersed in event-planning mode and are looking forward to our events this spring.

Give-Education Day is on March 6th! This 24-hour online day of giving supports Central High School. **We are excited to share that Dorrie Mattson Chiarella, CHS 1962 will be matching all donations received for the Central High School Foundation during Give-Education Day, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000!** Thanks to

this challenge fund, your donation will double and make twice the impact! [You can make your donation early by clicking here.](#)

The 2024 Central High School [Rock the Nest Silent Auction](#) will open to Eagle Nation on March 15th! You can bid on an array of awesome items and packages regardless of your participation in trivia night. [To register for the Silent Auction, click here.](#) Early Bidding will close on Friday, April 5 at 8:45 p.m. CT. As always, proceeds from this event will support the needs of Central's students and staff through scholarships, classroom grants, capital projects, and much more!

Lastly, I wanted to give a special shoutout to a few of our academic teams for their performances over the past month. The Math Team, made up of various levels of competitors, most recently attended Math Day at UNL. One of Central's teams placed 4th and the other went undefeated. At the state

Academic Decathlon competition, our Eagles claimed three gold medals while finishing 5th in the Super Quiz. We are so proud of our Eagles!

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 165 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

March 6th is Give-Education Day



The Central High School Foundation is getting ready for Give-Education Day on March 6th! This is an effort to help K-12 public schools across the country. "This is a great way for not only our community to support Central High School, but also an avenue for others to help K-12 organizations close the opportunity gap," said CHSF Executive Director Michele Roberts.

Your donation on this day will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000 thanks to alumna Dorrie Mattson Chiarella, CHS 1962. Mark your calendars today for our annual online day of giving and help Eagles soar!

[Schedule Your Donation](#)

3 for 3: National Merit Finalists



In October, we shared that three Eagle seniors had been named National Merit Semifinalists. We are excited to share that all three are now National Merit FINALISTS!

Lachlan O'Keefe, Lucy Rawlinson and Brayden Simpson are now being considered for National Merit Scholarship Awards that will be determined later this spring. In addition to a strong academic record, a National Merit application encompasses essays and information about extracurricular achievements, awards, and leadership positions. Congratulations to Lachlan, Lucy, and Brayden for continuing a long-standing tradition of Central excellence!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

Trivia Night is Back!



Rock the Nest Trivia Night: April 5, 2024

Join us at the Paxton Ballroom for our Rock the Nest Trivia Night as we play an interactive trivia contest to raise money to help Central High School! Start rounding up your team of eight now: former classmates, neighbors, coworkers

or really anyone who is just plain ole fun. Add “watch Jeopardy!” to your to-do list and get ready for an evening full of fun, prizes, dinner, and some very special guests.

Our Rock the Nest events will include the following:

- A professionally-produced, high-quality experience emceed by Mike'l Severe
- Teams of eight for trivia
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners
- Dinner and dessert
- Special Appearances and Performances
- [Online Silent Auction](#)
 - Bidding Opens March 19 at 9 a.m. CT
 - Bidding Closes April 5 at 8:45 p.m. CT

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. With your support, the Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future. *Please note: registration for this event will close once sold out or on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.*

Order of Events

- 5:30 p.m. – Registration & Social
- 6:15 p.m. – Dinner Served
- 7:00 p.m. – Trivia Begins

We hope to see you there!

[Register for Trivia](#)

ACT Prep Course Helps CHS Students Raise Scores, Gain Admission, and Earn Scholarship Awards



The State of Nebraska requires all juniors to take the ACT to determine college readiness and assess student performance. Funds from the Central High School Foundation cover the registration fee for the OnToCollege test preparation course for students in an effort to help students raise their scores which impact college admission options and scholarship dollars.

While the ACT is associated with college readiness, its impact on career readiness stems from the skills and competencies it assesses. The ACT includes an optional Interest Inventory section that helps students explore potential career paths. This can guide students to make informed decisions about their future careers. The skills tested in the ACT, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication, are considered essential for success in the workforce.

"The prep class absolutely taught me what to prioritize when looking at test questions. I can definitely say that this helped me avoid over-analyzing questions on the test and helped me to save time in completing it. This helped with tests in my regular classes and aided in my ability to properly understand those questions as well."

- Class of 2024 Senior

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our students at Central High School, including those involved in ACT prep courses. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation "C" today!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

Central Cheer Returns to Competition and Makes History



Participating in their first competition since 2019, Omaha Central Cheer "crushed state" with zero deductions to take 4th place and also earned the Academic Excellence Award! The Eagles competed against 25 cheer teams in the Class A non-tumbling division of the competition. Coaches Meg Bullock

and Biz Steinauer spent months preparing their cheer squad for this event.

"You have 2 minutes and 30 seconds to leave it all on the mat and give it everything you've got. Six months of grinding for 2:30. There is not a chance for a do-over," said Coach Bullock.

The 4th-place finish with 79.8 points is the highest ranking in school history. Congratulations, CHS Cheer!

Join Generation "C"

Alumni Spotlight: Cody Banks, CHS 2000



One Eagle has a perch above some of the world's biggest sporting events!



2000 alumnus Cody Banks is a professional cameraman who has worked at events such as this month's Super Bowl as well as the Stanley Cup hockey championship series. An Army veteran, Cody prefers to work where large events are taking place. His main job right now is working on the PBR (Professional Bull Riders) tour.

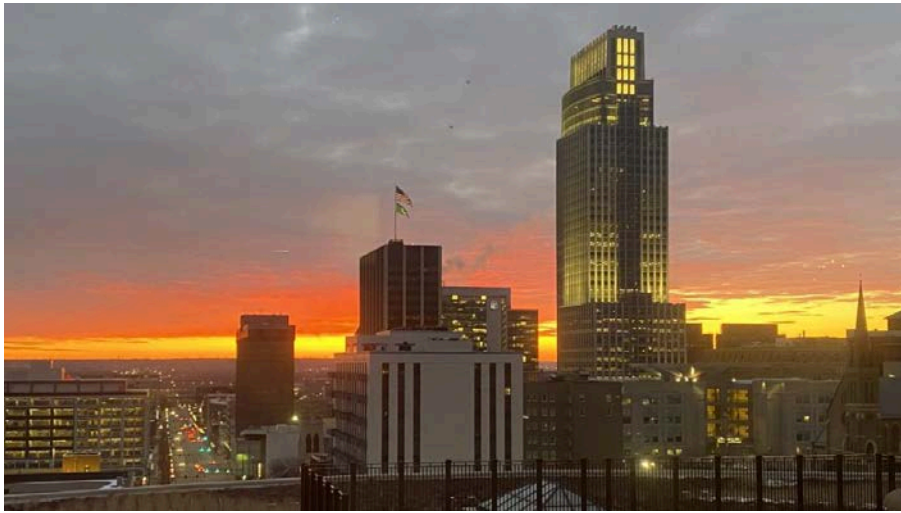
"I love telling the story of the game. If a player is having a big game, let's show how the crowd is reacting, his teammates, opponents; there's so much story to show in one play. I also cherish getting the opportunity to travel to different places and experience the culture of that city. I

love my coworkers and getting to meet different people from all walks of life and share big moments with them," Cody said.

At Central, Cody played football and was on the track and field team. Way to go, Cody!

Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight

Join the CHS Alumni Association for 'Sunrise in the Stacks'



Come to Central on Saturday, March 23rd for an Eagle eye view of the sunrise!

Arrive by 6:45 a.m. for donuts and coffee and the chance to see the spectacular dawn over downtown that's visible from the Library in Central's Arts and Library Addition. Following the sunrise, stay for a talk by Central ESL teacher Molly Davies and a behind the scenes historical tour of the building with Central history teacher Scott Wilson.

This free event sponsored by the Central High Alumni Association will benefit the Central High School Nest program, which provides needy students with personal care items. They will be accepting donations at the event, with participants eligible for a raffle to win a beautiful print of Central!

Spaces are limited, so sign up soon to reserve your spot.

Register for this Event

Join the 1859 Society Today



What is Your Legacy?

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@chsfromaha.org.

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

Upcoming Class Reunion Schedule



The Class of 1967 at their class reunion in 2022!

Upcoming Reunion Schedule

[Class of 1959](#)

April 26-27, 2024

[Terry Foster](#) 402-871-7275

[Dave Krecek](#) 402-677-3607

[Larry Gilinsky](#) 402-598-7006
[Join the 1959 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1964

September 20-21, 2024

Contact [Jeannene Rice Mason](#) or [Jeannette Rice Johnson](#)

<https://chsfomaha.org/events/class-of-1959-reunion/>

Class of 1970

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

Class of 1974

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact information for each day:

[Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#) 402-677-1227 Friday and Monday activities

[Cindy Goff](#) 402-510-6537 Saturday activities

[Sara Achelpohl](#) 402-707-9190 Sunday activities

[Kevin Buckner](#) 240-432-7268

Class of 1979

November 9, 2024

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1984

September 6-7, 2024

Contact [Beretta Smith-Shomade](#) or [Betty Brown-Broughton](#)

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

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

2023-24 Generation "C" Chair - Leslie Gotch

The Central High School Foundation is proud to announce Leslie Gotch, CHS 1964 as the 2023-2024 Generation "C" Chair.

With 27 years of consecutive giving, Leslie Gotch has never wavered in his support of Central High School.

Born in San Diego to two WWII Navy veterans, Leslie, the eldest of five children and his family moved to Omaha in 1952. He attended Pickard, Belle



Ryan, and Jackson Elementary Schools. “I could not wait to get to Central High School in 1960. My grandmother had just retired as the pastry cook in the cafeteria, so when I went through the lines, the ladies would sometimes put a brownie or piece of

cake on my tray and not charge me the 7 cents!”

Leslie has fond memories of his time at CHS. “I loved being a student at Central - the opportunity to be able to study several courses with different teachers was exciting. My teachers taught me to be a critical thinker which was integral in my future career as a computer security engineer.”

His talents were in high demand by not only the private sector, but also the U.S. military. “My company produced a specialty product that would scan every email and file passing through the network. This product was incorporated into the military’s new messaging systems used on bases from Qatar to Pearl Harbor. Eventually my customers included NATO, The Department of State, and other intelligence agencies.”

While at Central, Leslie participated in activities outside the classroom. “I was very involved in the JROTC program. I was on the crack squad rifle drill team for two years and the Hussars my senior year. The Hussars were a precision drill team that performed at the Aksarben coronations.”

Now enjoying his retirement, Leslie continues to value the importance of education and giving back to his community - core values he learned, in part, during his time at Central High School - he volunteers at the information desk at a local library and went back to school to study five international languages.

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.

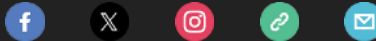
It's easy to do! Just go to the link tagg.today, snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

Stay Connected With Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X](#)? Follow and like us across social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news.

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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