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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## EAGLE NEWS December 2024



### Dear Supporter,

From our Eagle family to yours, the Central High School Foundation would like to wish you a very happy holiday!

The holiday season is a great time to let loved ones know we are thinking of them or to remember the passing of a dear friend. A tribute gift is a thoughtful way to celebrate a special occasion or to recognize family or friends. Click [here](#) to make a tribute gift for that special Eagle in your life!

Our annual campaign, Generation "C," is also in full swing. This annual giving campaign makes it possible for your generous contribution to help the Foundation maintain the legacy of excellence that was established at Central more than 165 years ago. Gifts and donations from the extended Central community are essential to the Foundation's ability to enhance the Central experience. Click [here](#) to join Generation "C" today!

We are also working hard to get ready for all the great things coming in 2025! A new year of class reunions is coming together. Scroll to the end of this email for the most up-to-date information if you have an upcoming class reunion. Also, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your physical invitation and event communications are mailed to the correct address.

Finally, we are looking for donations of silent auction items for our 2025 Rock the Nest Trivia Night! If you have an item, service, or gift card that you would like to donate to the Central High School Virtual Rock the Nest Silent Auction, we would love to hear from you! Please contact [Erika Buffington](#) at (402) 556-1996 if you are interested in donating an item or have any questions.

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

Sincerely,  
*Michelle Roberts*  
Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

### Honor an Eagle with a Tribute Gift



A tribute gift is a thoughtful way to celebrate a special occasion or to honor family or friends. The Central High School Foundation's Honor and Tribute Gift Program allows you to recognize individuals, couples, groups, special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries, or someone's passing.

When you make a tribute gift, a personalized card and acknowledgment is sent to the individual or family being honored. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your gift and the gift amount will appear on your donor acknowledgement for your records. All donations will be recognized in the CHSF annual report.

To make a gift in honor or memory of someone, fill out the form on our [website](#). If you would prefer to have the Foundation send information regarding tribute giving to you, please contact the Foundation Office at 402-556-1996 or [foundation@chsfomaha.org](mailto:foundation@chsfomaha.org).

[Make a Tribute Donation Today](#)

### Your Impact: *Beauty and the Beast*



Each year, Central produces a full-scale mainstage musical production with students performing on stage, playing live music in the pit orchestra, and working as part of the stage and tech crews. Funding from the Foundation supports licensing, script and costume rentals, set, lighting, special effects equipment, choreographer's fees, and other related production expenses.

**Students Impacted: 150**  
**Amount Funded: \$25,000**

#### **Commitment to Closing the Opportunity Gap**

Through the grant from the Central High School Foundation, CHS students are able to receive training from guest artists who are experts in performance, dance, dialects, and technical theater. The grant also helps with expenses for renting beautiful high-quality costumes, painted backdrops, set props, moving-light equipment, special-effects equipment, and purchasing specialized makeup. These funds also allow the CHS Performing Arts Department to purchase scenic supplies and props such as lumber, paint, electric tools, and other items to enhance the production. By having access to these resources, students on stage and backstage have opportunities to fully engage in a professional theatrical experience.

#### **Translation to College and Career Readiness**

When students have opportunities to access and work with guest artists in the entertainment industry and professional-grade production elements, they have better opportunities to get into and receive scholarships in college/university programs, and roles in the local, regional, and national theater community.

*"Being part of Beauty and the Beast was incredible. The entire cast, crew, and orchestra felt like a family. I was able to pour my heart into something bigger than myself and make beautiful art with my friends. The sense of pride that came with being able to perform as an individual and with the cast in this show was second to none. I am thankful that the Foundation helped make this experience possible, and I am grateful for Mr. Mead and Mrs. Bohn who put in long hours during rehearsals. Beauty and the Beast truly resonated with the CHS community as people continue to talk about it even though it's been weeks since our final performance."*

**- Devon Richards II, Class of 2025**

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

[Where is the CHS Logo?](#)



This month, the CHS logo could be spotted all the way in Antarctica, worn by Christina Chesters, CHS 2009. Way to show your Eagle pride at The Ice!

Submit photos of yourself featuring the Central logo to be included in future editions of this segment.

[Submit a Photo](#)

### Accepting Donations for Silent Auction



If you have an item, service, or gift card that you would like to donate to the Central High School Virtual Rock the Nest Silent Auction, we would love to hear from you! As always, proceeds from this spring event will support the needs of Central's students and staff through scholarships, classroom grants, capital projects, and much more. Through your support, the Central High School Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future. After you donate, you will receive a gift-in-kind letter for tax deduction purposes based on the retail value of your item or service. Furthermore, you will be recognized on the Silent Auction publicity materials. For your convenience, click below for our Gift Information Form to submit with your donation. Please contact [Erika Buffington](#) at (402) 556-1996 if you are interested in donating an item or have any questions! Your generosity is appreciated by the entire Central High School community!



[Donation Request Form](#)

## CHS Singers Bring Holiday Cheer



This month, the CHS Singers spread holiday cheer by caroling all across the community! They performed holiday music at senior centers, churches, Joslyn museum, Joslyn castle, JP Lord school, and more!



[Shop the Alumni Store](#)

## Last-Minute Shopping? Consider the Alumni Store



Your Eagle alumni, students, or soon-to-be students would love some new Eagle gear. Hoodies, t-shirts, Stylebooks, ornaments, and more are available in

the [Central High Alumni Store](#). Orders can be shipped nationwide.

Join Generation "C" Today

## Your Impact: Robotics Club



Financial support from the Central High School Foundation has helped to provide students with the tools, equipment, and resources necessary to build and program competitive robots. These funds also helped to cover the cost of materials, specialized software, and participation fees for robotics competitions. By investing in these young Eagles, the Foundation not only enhances their technical skills but also encourages teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity, which prepares them for future careers in science, technology, and engineering fields.

**Students Impacted: 100**  
**Amount Funded: \$10,000**

### Commitment to Closing the Opportunity Gap

Robotics education often involves hands-on learning with technology, programming, and engineering principles. A growing number of careers in robotics, automation, and artificial intelligence offer lucrative and rewarding opportunities. By exposing students to robotics education early, schools help diversify career pathways, which can be particularly impactful for students who may not otherwise have been exposed to these options. When students see pathways to success in fields they might not have considered, it opens doors that would otherwise remain closed.

*"As an instructor, the support from the Central High School Foundation has been an absolute blessing. To feel like I have the support to provide my students with the necessary materials is a very rare and comforting feeling in education today. By working with robots, students not only develop technical skills like coding and mechanical design, but also critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork abilities."*

**- Marshall Barney, CHS Robotics Teacher**

### Translation to College and Career Readiness

Providing students with access to these types of courses equips them with critical skills for the future job market, where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers are increasingly in demand. By offering these opportunities to a diverse student body, schools help ensure that all students, regardless of background, can develop valuable, marketable skills.

*"The Foundation has helped me by providing resources for learning about robotics. I want to become an artificial intelligence researcher and plan on attending UNO for that degree. The Foundation has provided me with*

opportunities within my robotics classes and competitions that I would never have been able to experience without their support.”

- Seamus Haldeman, Class of 2025

Join Generation "C" Today

Alumni Spotlight: Lacey, CHS 2019, and Lisa, CHS 2016, Grabowski



Lisa addressing the cast of Disney's *Descendants*

While Lacey, CHS 2019, and Lisa, CHS 2016, Grabowski were at CHS, they were heavily involved with the theatre department. Lacey's focus was on sound design and Lisa's was shared between stage performance and stage managing.

Over this past summer, the sisters got back into theatre through two different local companies. Lacey worked as a sound designer for the Papillion Area Community Theatre's production of *Crazy for You*, and Lisa worked as a choreographer for the Elkhorn Community Theatre's production of *Descendants*. These shows were the first of their scale that the women have worked on since they graduated from Central.

Recently, the Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards announced their nominations for their upcoming awards show. Both sisters were nominated for their work over the summer with Lacey being one of two women who were nominated in a category dominated by men.

“For both of us, none of this would have been possible without the training we received through CHS Theatre.”





Lacey working on sound for *Crazy for You*

[Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight](#)

## 2024-2025 Generation "C" Chair



Evelyn “Eve” Mayberger (CHS 2005) has long been a fierce supporter of Central High School. Since graduating, she has watched her younger brothers and cousins pass through the esteemed classrooms of Central. While a student at Central, Eve was involved in music (concert band and orchestra), athletics

(cross-country, swimming, and track), and Academic Decathlon. Eve took full advantage of the honors and AP courses offered and particularly loved history, math, and English classes. Eve credits her dedicated Central teachers for her interest and passion in these subjects.

Using what she had learned at Central, Eve earned a scholarship to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Eve fell in love with the interdisciplinary field of art conservation; a profession that combines art history/archaeology, chemistry/material science, and studio art/craft skills. After finishing her undergraduate degree, Eve interned for two years at different East coast museums to gain more practical art conservation experience.

Eve was then admitted into the art conservation graduate school program at New York University. In 2016 she accepted a post-graduate fellowship at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston (MFA). Upon completing her fellowship, Eve was promoted to Assistant Conservator at the MFA. During her career, Eve has



participated in multiple excavations as an archaeological conservator in Turkey, Sicily, Egypt, and Sudan.

Her time at Central laid the foundation for her professional trajectory; Eve feels it is important to give back so others can follow their dreams and aspirations. She believes it is our duty to invest in our communities and to contribute what we can for the betterment of society for current and future generations. A tangible way to do this is to keep our public educational institutions, such as Central High School, strong and well resourced.

[Join Generation "C"](#)

[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](mailto:michele@chsfomaha.org).

[View the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

[2025 Class Reunion Schedule](#)



Class of 1989 at their reunion in September!

## Upcoming Reunion Schedule

### Class of 1965

September 5-6, 2025

[Contact Holly Jepsen Hoberman](#)

[Contact Gary Green](#)

### Class of 1970

July 25-26, 2025

[Contact Gary Willis](#)

### Class of 1975

October 10-11, 2025

Susan Vrbanac Lerdahl, Mark Kresl, Suzanne Tarver, Bridget Brown

[Contact Sue](#) 402.320.6489

### Class of 2010

September 19-20, 2025

[Contact Anna Venditte Dietrich](#)

**\*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.**

**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](https://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](#) or [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)? 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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