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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## EAGLE NEWS January 2025



The CHS Drama department won many awards at the Nebraska Thespian Festival, including the highest honor of the three day event.



**Dear Supporter,**

Happy New Year!

The Central High School Foundation hopes your 2025 is off to a great start!

We are officially immersed in event-planning mode and are looking forward to One Day for Central on March 5th, and our very last Trivia Night for Rock the Nest on March 30th!

We are pleased to announce that the Class of 1959 is the winner of the 2024 First Class Challenge! Thank you for all that you do to help aid Central High School and future generations of Eagles. There are numerous class reunions planned for 2025, and invitations for those reunions will be sent out in the coming months. If you have a reunion this year, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your physical invitation will be mailed to the correct address. This is especially important for recent graduates; we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

We are also 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 [events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or (402) 556-1996 if you are interested in donating an item or have any questions.

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 166 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*Michele Roberts*

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

### Thank a Teacher with a Valentine



Central wouldn't be the amazing place it is without our incredible teachers! Let's show them some love this Valentine's Day.

For just \$5, you can send a CHS teacher or staff member a valentine with your personalized message. Want to send a valentine to a specific staff member, past or present? We'll make sure it gets to them! You can also write a general valentine for any staff member to spread the love.

Your heartfelt messages will be delivered on Friday, February 14th. Let's make this Valentine's Day special for our wonderful staff!

[Send a Valentine](#)

### CHS Drama Takes International Thespian Festival



This month, the Foundation sent the CHS Drama Department to the Nebraska Thespian Festival where they received many awards and recognitions, including the Gold Troupe Recognition (which is the top recognition) for the 3rd Year in a row!

**ITS NE Thespian State Festival 2025 CHS Results:**

**Superior Rankings for Individual events (Thespys):**

Tessa Priesman- Solo Musical Theater

DeVon Richards II & Ray Bartlett - Duet Scene Performance

Grace Spicka- Tech Thespy-Stage Management

**Improv Challenge:** CHS took 4th place out of 20 schools and performed for the whole festival.

*Improv Challenge Team:*

Ray Bartlett, Charlie Gaillard, Grace Messina, Tommy Melone- Reynoso, DeVon Richards II (Team Captain), Mass Smith

*Improv Support Team/Alternates:*

Tessa Priesman

**Tech/Back Stage Challenge:** CHS took 5th Place out of 18 Schools.

*CHS Tech (Theater) Challenge Team:*

Ady Borchert, Ashton Fisch, Ash O'Brien, Grace Spicka (Team Captain), Jack Wilderman- Nielsen, Will Wisneski

*Support team/Alternates:*

Scar Taylor

**Filmworks:** Sam Hoshaw and Mikey Juarez Blanco created a short film in 2.5 days and then shared with all attending the festival.

**Display:** Best Festival Display

**Selected for a 2025/26 NE Thespian STO (State Thespian Officer):**

Joshua Shapiro

**Nominated (by CHS Students) for Teacher of the Year:**

Mr. Scott Mead

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our

students at Central High School, including experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation "C" today!

Join Generation "C" Today

Save the Dates!



**One Day for Central: Wednesday, March**

**5th** Get ready to show your support for Central during our 24-hour virtual fundraiser!



**Rock the Nest Trivia Night: Sunday, March 30th**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 30th as we host the last Trivia Night for Rock the Nest. It's been an amazing journey, and we can't wait to see you all there for one final round of fun and excitement!

But don't worry, Rock the Nest isn't going anywhere! We'll be back in 2026 with a brand new theme to keep the good times rolling. Stay tuned for more updates!



**Senior Recognition Night: Tuesday, May 13th**

Join us as we celebrate the incredible achievements of our graduating seniors and honor them with well-deserved scholarships.



**Golf Fore Eagles: Monday, June 2nd**

Get ready to tee off for a great cause! Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a beginner, come out and enjoy a day of fun, friendly competition, and eagle spirit. Let's make a difference together!



[Learn More](#)

And the Winner is...



Congratulations to the Class of 1959 for winning the 2024 First Class Challenge!

The Class of 1959 raised the most money among all the participating classes that held reunions this past year. We would also like to recognize the Class of 1964 for having the highest number of individual donors for the First Class Challenge.

2024 was an outstanding year for reunions, and the classes of 1959, 1964, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 2004, and 2014 truly impressed us with their dedication and motivation to support Central High School through their donations to the First Class Challenge.

Thanks to the sustained gifts and donations from our Central family, the exceptional educational experience offered at Central continues to thrive. Congratulations once again to the Class of 1959!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

Your Impact: Job Corps



### **Empowering Students Through Job Corps: a Journey of Opportunity**

Thanks to the generous support from the CHS Foundation, students were able to visit the Job Corps campus in Denison, Iowa. This initiative aimed to introduce students to the numerous benefits and opportunities offered by Job Corps.

**Students Impacted: 44**  
**Amount Funded: \$3,500**

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

In today's high schools, some students may find it difficult to adapt to traditional educational settings. Some students' top priority is earning a paycheck to help support their families. As CHS Counselor, Mr. Todd Hunter explains, "These students are more interested in non-traditional classroom methods of learning and their personal style of learning. Not every student goes to college, but every young person deserves the chance to pursue their dreams. Job Corps provides these students with that opportunity."

### **Pathways to College and Career Readiness**

The visit to the Job Corps campus exposed students to an opportunity they may not have had without the help of the CHS Foundation. They learned about the various career training programs such as carpentry, bricklaying, CNA certification, pharmacy technician certification, and more. They learned that students who attend Job Corps are trained and prepared for an apprenticeship program while also being provided with housing and meals at no cost to them. Currently, Central has nine students who are signed up to apply for a spot in the Job Corps. The program offers these students the opportunity to transfer from Central to the Job Corps campus where they can train for a career that they are passionate about and earn their high school diploma simultaneously.

*"The Job Corps staff made us feel welcome and comfortable. They gave us insight into living there and working toward a career. That would not have been possible without the support of the Foundation."*

**- LaMont Valentine, Class of 2025**

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our students at Central High School, including experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation "C" today!

Join Generation "C" Today

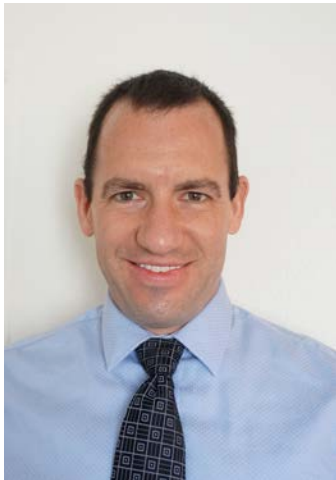
## Accepting Donations for Silent Auction



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](#)

## Listen Now to a New Episode of *Eagle Tales*



### **A new episode of *Eagle Tales* has been published!**

We are excited to share the release of *Eagle Tales* Episode 21! Tune in to hear our host, Josh Bucy, speak with Aaron Maurice, CHS Class of 2003. A graduate of the University of Michigan and Arizona State University, Aaron has worked at Orbital Sciences and is currently the Senior Engineer for Advanced Programs at Moog, which designs and manufactures aerospace, defense, industrial, and medical applications.

[Eagle Tales](#) is a podcast during 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 hear all about the amazing things that alumni are doing to change the world!

Want to be notified of new episodes as they are released? Subscribe to *Eagle Tales* on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or wherever you listen to your podcasts!

Alumni Spotlight: Hannah Harlow, CHS 2011



CHS 2011 alumna Hannah Harlow marked her seventh year working at Chicago's WGN-TV with some big milestones! She earned her first Chicago/Midwest Emmy nomination producing on WGN's history show *Backstory with Larry Potash* and became a member of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.



The nominated piece, *Achieving the Impossible Journey*, honored open-water long-distance swimmer Ted Erikson, who was the first person to swim across Lake Michigan in 1961. Hannah attended his memorial at Chicago's Promontory Point and interviewed his first wife and other loved ones, to capture firsthand accounts of his boundless spirit. Hannah found archival footage from throughout Erikson's career, highlighting his record-breaking swims in the English Channel and the shark-infested waters of the Gulf of Farallones.

While her story didn't win, she is honored to have the opportunity to tell the story of a true trailblazer. And at the awards, she was able to accept an Emmy on behalf of the *Backstory* team for Outstanding Achievement for Magazine Program – Short Form Content.





Additionally, this month Hannah will launch a new original show, *What a Day!*, on the WGNTV+ streaming app and will serve as the supervising producer. On the show, Hannah will join anchors Brhett Vickery and Marcus Leshock for a deep dive into the day's big topics, as well as offer

behind the scenes content and interviews with the WGN Morning News team. Check out the show everyday at 2pm CST on the free streaming app WGNTV+!

[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 1985**

TBA

[Contact Daniel Schinzel](#)

[Contact Carrie Roberts](#)

[Facebook page](#)

### **Class of 1995**

September 12-14, 2025

[Contact Clay Wulf](#)

### **Class of 2000**

September 19-20, 2025

Contact [Jono Croskey](#)

Contact [Tanesha Burns](#)

Contact [Mary Jane Tritsch](#)

[Facebook page](#)

### **Class of 2005**

October 10-11, 2025

[Contact Michael Smith](#)

### **Class of 2010**

September 19-20, 2025

[Contact Anna Venditte Dietrich](#)

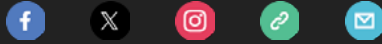
**\*If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date, please [contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.**

**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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