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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

Eagle News *January 2026*



Happy New Year from the CHS Foundation!



Dear Supporter,

Happy New Year! The Central High School Foundation hopes your 2026 is off to a great start!

We are pleased to announce that the Class of 1965 is the winner of the 2025 First Class Challenge! Thank you to all of the classes that participated to help aid Central High School and future generations of Eagles. There are numerous class [reunions](#) planned for 2026, 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.

Get ready for a fun-filled 2026! Registration for the 112th Annual Road Show on January 30–31 is officially LIVE. Don't miss out, [grab your tickets](#) today! We're kicking off something new with our first-ever [Bingo Rocks the Nest](#) on Sunday, March 29 at the Pella at Blackstone, featuring a [silent auction](#) opening March 15 at 9:00 a.m. And tee up for [Golf Fore Eagles](#) on Monday, June 8 at The Players Club Omaha. A brand-new location for the same fantastic event!

Thank you for being a vital part of the Central High School community. Together, we continue to uphold more than 167 years of tradition and excellence.

Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts

Michele Roberts, Executive Director



Class of 1965 Wins First Class Challenge



Congratulations to the Class of 1965 for winning the 2025 First Class Challenge!

The class of 1965 raised the most money among all of the participating classes that held reunions this past years. We would also like to recognize the Class of 1960 for having the highest number of individual donors for the First Class Challenge.

2025 was an outstanding year for reunions, and the classes of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2015 truly impressed us with their dedication and motivation to support Central High School through their donations to the First Class Challenge.

Because of 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 1965!

Register for Bingo Rocks the Nest

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION PRESENTS



GLOW UP FOR GOOD!
A BRIGHT NIGHT OF GIVING BACK

— SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 —

Join us at the Pella in Blackstone for our first-ever [Bingo Rocks the Nest](#) as we play an interactive bingo contest to raise money to help Central High School! Guests will enjoy Glow-In-The-Dark Bingo under black lights, surrounded by neon decor, music, and themed fun - all while supporting meaningful causes within the school!

Our Rock the Nest events will include the following:

- **3 Bingo cards per game included with your ticket. Extra bingo cards will be available to purchase at the event**
- **9 Bingo games with exciting rounds and community energy**
- **Prizes with a purpose - Win a game, pick a cause! Each bingo round winner gets to select a school area they are passionate about to receive the funds**
- **Dinner and music to create a festive, social atmosphere**
- **Every attendee plays a role in giving back!**
- **Emcee for the evening: Mike DiGiacomo ('91)**
- **[Online Silent Auction](#)**
 - Bidding opens March 15 at 9 AM CT
 - Bidding closes March 29 at 8:45 PM 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 will close on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.*

[Register for Bingo](#)

Your Impact: Kansas City Jazz



FROM OMAHA TO KANSAS CITY: CHS STUDENTS CONNECT CLASSROOM LEARNING TO JAZZ AND HISTORY

YOUR IMPACT

50 STUDENTS IMPACTED

AMOUNT FUNDED: \$2,200



Project Proposal

With financial support from the Foundation, students enrolled in Senior English classes and members of the Academic Decathlon team were able to visit the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City for a live performance by the Ryan Howard Trio featuring Lauren Manley in “The Blue Room” and guided tour of the museum’s exhibits.

Translation to College and Career Readiness

The goal of the experience was to expose students to the jazz era, especially those students on the Academic Decathlon team who are studying ‘The Roaring Twenties’ for tournaments later this year. The more prepared they are, the more successful they will be in competitions. This success in high school leads to success in life by rewarding risk-taking and building a strong identity and self-confidence in our students.

Commitment to Closing the Opportunity Gap

“This was an opportunity for our students to see themselves in expert, award-winning performers in their chosen field and hear them talk about their own high school experiences. It also highlighted for them that there are a lot of potential careers out there for people willing to work hard and follow their passions.”

CHS English Teacher, Mr. Matt Kable
In addition, some students reported that they hadn’t taken a field trip outside the downtown Omaha corridor since elementary school, and some had never been to Kansas City, so this trip was an opportunity to look beyond Omaha into the wider world.

“Visiting the American Jazz Museum was almost like visiting the past, experiencing the jazz age in modern day time, engraving out memories better than any book or lecture could, helping us grasp what we are learning in class fully. Being invited into ‘The Blue Room’ was such a surreal and beautiful experience for both watching and listening. The museum was also beautiful, seeing the evolution of jazz first-hand. The American Jazz Museum was truly an unforgettable experience.”

Jayda Lee, Class of 2026

Join Generation "C"

Send a Teacher 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 13th. Let's make this Valentine's Day special for our wonderful staff!

[Send a Valentine](#)

[Buy Road Show Tickets!](#)

ROAD SHOW 112

DOWNTOWN PROUD

JANUARY 30, 7:00 PM

JANUARY 31, 2:00PM & 7:00 PM

CENTRAL HIGH AUDITORIUM

The 112th annual Central High School Road Show is coming up! [Click here](#) to purchase your tickets!

[Purchase Road Show Tickets](#)

Save the Date!

SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY,
JUNE 8,
2026



PLAYERS
CLUB
OMAHA

24th Annual

Golf Fore Eagles

Presented By



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

NEW COURSE. NEW ENERGY.

SAME GREAT CAUSE: OMAHA CENTRAL

[Register for Golf Fore Eagles](#)

Catch up with The Quill and Feather



As the year wraps up and we reflect on 2025, make sure you keep an eye out for new blog posts from The Quill and Feather, written by Brett Comstock. We are currently releasing a series of "Reunion Retrospectives" where we take a look at the senior year of every class that celebrated a reunion in 2025.



[Reunion Retrospective - 1960](#)



[Reunion Retrospective - 1965](#)

Read The Quill and Feather

CHS Drama Takes ITS Festival by Storm



This month, funds from the Foundation were used to send CHS Drama students to the Nebraska Thespian Festival!

Congratulations to the following students for their accomplishments and awards at the 2026 Nebraska Thespian Festival!

Performance Thespy: SUPERIOR RANKING

Tessa Priesman- Solo Musical Theater

Tommy Melone Reynoso- Solo Musical Theater

Charlie Gaillard Tommy Melone Reynoso & Tessa Priesman- Ensemble Musical Theater

Technical Theater Thespy: SUPERIOR RANKING

Ashton Fischer- Scenic Design

Jack Wilderman-Nielson- Sound Design

William Wisneski- Lighting Design

Improv Challenge Overall Placement: 3rd place!

Improv Challenge Team:

Boston Ellis

Audrey Fischer

Charlie Gaillard

Maggie Howard

Grace Messina

Tommy Melone-Reynoso

Ethan Kershner

Individual Tech Challenges: 1st Place Props Shift

Backstage Challenge Overall Placement: 2nd Place!

CHS Tech Challenge Team:

Ashton Fischer

Noelle Harbison

Jack Wilderman- Nielsen

Will Wisneski

Shin Younker

Rachel Zurita-Amburg

Scar Taylor
Oliver Beals

Central also received:

- + a NE Thespian Silver Troupe Honor Recognition Award
- + The BEST Festival Themed Banner Award:
- + The BEST Festival Themed Display Award:

AND... Joshua Shapiro was a Nebraska Thespian STO (Student Thespian Officer) who help to run the entire festival!

Great work and CONGRATULATIONS to all of these students!
Go Eagle Drama!

Join Generation C

New Podcast Episodes



Chatting at the C is a podcast series by CHS teachers Scott Wilson and Ben Boeckman, which focuses on highlighting the history of Central High School. In each episode, they interview past and present CHS staff to preserve their contribution to Omaha Central High School.



[Episode 47 - Rita Ryan](#)



[Episode 48 - Stan Standifer](#)

Listen to Chatting at the C

2025-2026 Generation "C" Chairs



The Past: A Tradition Begins

Jennifer Johnson Taylor, Class of 1991, was the first in her family to attend Central, and in doing so, she began a proud family tradition. Growing up in Omaha's Dundee neighborhood, Jen followed the classic midtown path: Dundee Elementary, Lewis & Clark Middle, and finally, Central High School. The historic architecture of Central first drew her in, but it was the vibrant community and transformative experiences that made her a lifelong Eagle. After graduating, Jen pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Hamilton College in New York, then returned to Omaha to earn her Juris Doctor from Creighton University School of Law. Her career has taken her from private practice to public

service, and today she serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Omaha - working in an office with a view of downtown that reminds her of her days at Central. Jen's sisters, Kathryn Johnson Krueger, Class of 2004, and Molly Johnson, Class of 2014 also joined the Central family further cementing the Johnson legacy at Central.

The Present: Soaring Higher

When she and her husband, Darin, started their family, Jen passed on her love for Central to the next generation. Her daughter, **Cecilia** Taylor, Class of 2026, is a four-year varsity swimmer and state qualifier, a varsity golfer, and an active member of HOSA and National Honor Society (serving as Activities Coordinator). She is also involved in several advanced academic programs outside of Central, including the Haddix STEM Corridor and the UNMC High School Alliance. Cecilia credits Central with connecting her to these incredible opportunities and inspiring her passion for science. She plans to major in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry and is exploring undergraduate research programs at the University of Washington and the University of Pittsburgh.

The Future: The Legacy Continues

The Eagle spirit lives on in Charles "**Chuck**" Taylor, Class of 2032. Currently a student at Dundee Elementary School, Chuck is already preparing to follow in the footsteps of his mother, aunts, and sister. An avid golfer in the Nebraska Jr. PGA League, Chuck also enjoys basketball, football, swimming, baseball, and chess. His teachers note his love of history and enthusiasm for fun facts. With his boundless curiosity and love for learning, Chuck is ready to carry the family legacy forward at Central High School.

Join Generation "C"

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@chsfomaha.org.

Upcoming Reunion Schedule



The class of 2000 at their reunion in 2025!

Class of 1966

September 4-5, 2026

Details TBA

Cindy Hadsell – clhadsell@aol.com

Class of 1976

Dates TBD

Rosalyn Cotton - rosalyncotton56@gmail.com

Class of 1981

Dates TBD

Scott Barker - sbarker@episcopal-ne.org

Bob Atherton - athertonrobert8@gmail.com

Class of 1986

Dates TBD

John Krecek - johnkrecek@gmail.com

Class of 1996

Dates TBD

Kelly Titus - kellytitus@me.com

Class of 2006

Dates TBD

Hannah Andahl-Newman - hannahandahl@gmail.com

Jim Hubbard - James.d.hubbard@gmail.com

Alvin Samuels - alvin.samuels1@gmail.com

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.



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