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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## Eagle News *March 2026*



**Dear Supporter,**

It's slowly warming up and spring is in the air!

This year's annual 24-hour online day of giving was a great success thanks to the power of Eagle Nation! One Day for Central 2026 raised over \$68,000 from 226 donors for Central High School. Thanks to your generous support, the Central High School Foundation can help our Eagles soar. Did you miss One Day for Central but still want to support the Central High School Foundation? [Join Generation "C" today!](#)

Registration for Bingo Rocks the Nest is now open until Friday, March 20th, so register today! This year's theme is "Glow Up for Good," and we're thrilled to share that each bingo round comes with Prizes with a Purpose. That means if you win a round, YOU get to choose the cause. [Click here to register now.](#)

The 2026 Central High School [Bingo Rocks the Nest Silent Auction](#) is now LIVE and you won't want to miss out! Whether you're joining us for bingo or not, you can still bid on an incredible selection of items and packages. Start bidding now for the Silent Auction by [clicking here](#). Remember, bidding ends on March 29th at 8:45 p.m. CT. Your participation helps fund scholarships, classroom grants, capital projects, and so much more for Central's students and staff.

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**



## 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.**
- **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 open NOW
  - Bidding closes March 29 at 8:45 PM CT

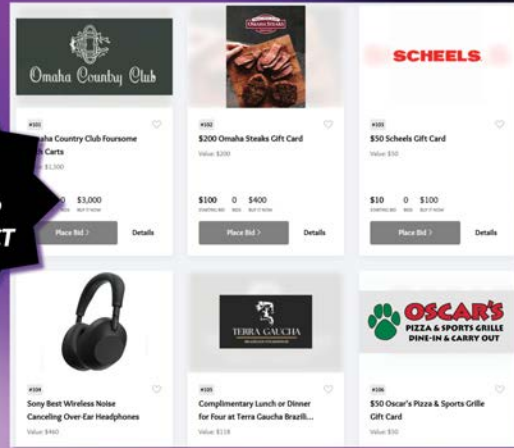
As always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more. With your support, the Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future. *Please note: registration will close on Friday, March 20, 2026.*

[Register for Bingo](#)

**Silent Auction is LIVE**

# CHECK OUT OUR SILENT AUCTION

**Auction  
Closes  
March 29  
8:45 pm CT**



[CHSFOMAHA.ORG/SILENT-AUCTION](https://chsfomaha.org/silent-auction)



Even if you're not participating in Bingo, you can still bid on items or packages! The auction is now LIVE so [start bidding now!](#) Bidding is open until Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 8:45 PM CT.

Proceeds benefit Central's students and staff through scholarships, classroom grants, capital projects, and more. Your support helps the Foundation honor the past, thrive in the present, and plan for the future. Thank you to everyone who donated items and made our silent auction possible!

[View the Silent Auction](#)

## Your Impact: Nebraska Thespian Festival



WHERE TALENT MEETS OPPORTUNITY:  
CHS STUDENTS SHINE AT NEBRASKA  
THESPIAN FESTIVAL

### YOUR IMPACT

30 STUDENTS IMPACTED

AMOUNT FUNDED: \$3,000



### Project Proposal

Each year the CHS Drama Department takes students to the Nebraska Thespian Festival. In this 3-day immersive theatre experience, students participate in workshops, learn from keynote speakers/performers/technicians, compete in improv acting and technical challenges, perform/present "Thespy's," and meet and make friends with theatre students from across the state of Nebraska. Funding from the

CHS Foundation allows CHS thespians to attend regardless of their families' ability to pay.

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

Prior to the festival event, students engage with and learn from guest artists and theatre professionals from the Omaha community. While attending this festival, students are exposed to a variety of high-quality theatrical workshops, events, and productions. They also meet other theater students from across the state which helps to build the theater community. These experiences are costly and thus not readily available and accessible to students without the extra support that the CHS Foundation offers.

*"I'm incredibly thankful to the Foundation for their support so that I had the opportunity to participate in the Thespian Festival. The workshops help you hone skills you are already practicing and provide you with hands-on experiences that can be hard to find outside of the festival. This experience helped me gain more confidence in socializing with strangers when I went to workshops without my Central friends and met new people. Having confidence and learning to be more comfortable in a new situation with unfamiliar people is a valuable skill in college and life."*

**Grace Messina**, Class of 2027

Opportunities like this one are thanks to YOU, Eagle Nation! To continue making an impact, [join Generation "C" today!](#)

Join Generation "C"

## **March Madness Bracket Challenge**



March Madness is here, and we are thrilled to invite you to participate in our **Men's and Women's March Madness Bracket Challenges!** Whether you are a die-hard basketball fan or just looking for some friendly competition, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved and have some fun.

You will be rewarded as you correctly pick teams that advance further in the tournament, and you can see up-to-the-minute point standings online at [www.CBSSports.com](http://www.CBSSports.com) or [on the CBS Sports mobile app](#). Registration is FREE and open to those 18 years and older.

You are encouraged to participate in both bracket challenges, as prizes will be awarded for first place in each competition.

**Prize Information:** The entrant with the most total points in each bracket challenge will receive a prize bag (pictured below) from the Central High School Foundation. To be eligible to win the grand prize, we will need your current contact information. To ensure that we have your current contact information, please [update your record](#). Each alum is allowed to submit only one bracket per competition.



The registration deadline is 11 a.m. CT on Thursday, March 19, 2026, when the first games begin.

Men's Bracket Challenge Signup

Women's Bracket Challenge Signup

Registration Now Open for Golf Fore Eagles

# 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**

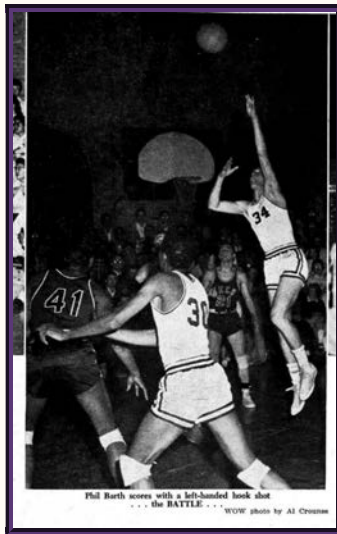
[Register for Golf Fore Eagles](#)

## **Alumni Spotlight: Phillip W. Barth, CHS 1958**

CHS alum, Phillip W. Barth '58, has been selected to be inducted into the 2026 Omaha Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame for his achievements in both high school and collegiate sports.

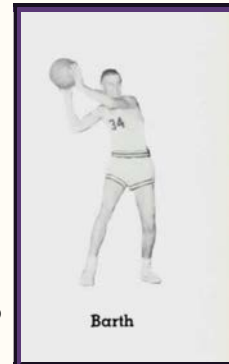
In his Senior year at Central alone, Phil was on the All-City Football, All-City Basketball, and All-Tourney Basketball teams, received the KMTV Regional Basketball Award and the WOW-TV Basketball Award, and was a candidate for All-City Baseball. He was also a member of the 1958 CHS Basketball team, which won the school's first intercity basketball championship in 17 years.

Following his time at Central, Phil attended UNL on athletic scholarships, playing both basketball and baseball. In his absence, his younger teammates at Central reflected on his leadership on the basketball team saying, "The fact



that Barth was a good basketball player is not so important. It was the fact that he was able to hold the team together in a crisis that made him great.”

Though he did not come to Central until his sophomore year, Barth made a lasting impact on CHS, and CHS made a lasting impact on Barth. In a memory submission to the CHS Foundation website, Phil wrote, “Moving to



Omaha my sophomore year from a small community in Indiana and meeting so many kids from different walks of life – different races, religions, prepared me for life and gave me an education I will always cherish and remember. The whole school was a great learning experience.”

If you wish to attend the OPS Hall of Fame induction ceremony to support Phil, [click here](#) to learn more.

Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight

## New Podcast Episodes



[Chatting at the C](#) is a CHSF-sponsored 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 51 - McKenna Paintin](#)



[Episode 52 - Lyn & Stephen Bouma](#)

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](mailto:michele@chsfomaha.org).

Join the 1859 Society

## Upcoming Reunion Schedule



The class of 1965 at their reunion in 2025!

### **Class of 1961**

August 21-23, 2026

Dick Zacharia - [dickzacharia@gmail.com](mailto:dickzacharia@gmail.com)

### **Class of 1966**

September 4-5, 2026

Cindy Hadsell - [clhadsell@aol.com](mailto:clhadsell@aol.com)

[Class Website](#)

### **Class of 1976**

September 11-13, 2026

Rosalyn Cotton - [rosalyncotton56@gmail.com](mailto:rosalyncotton56@gmail.com)

[Reunion Website](#)

### **Class of 1981**

Dates TBD

Scott Barker - [sbarker@episcopal-ne.org](mailto:sbarker@episcopal-ne.org)

Bob Atherton - [athertonrobert8@gmail.com](mailto:athertonrobert8@gmail.com)

### **Class of 1986**

October 2-3, 2026

Becky Reynolds Crowell – [rebeccajane67@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajane67@gmail.com)

Bart Lovegren – [bartl@cox.net](mailto:bartl@cox.net)

### **Class of 1996**

Dates TBD

Kelly Titus - [kellytitus@me.com](mailto:kellytitus@me.com)

Sally Reiser Christensen - [sallyachristensen@gmail.com](mailto:sallyachristensen@gmail.com)

### **Class of 2001**

October 2-3, 2026

Jenny Storm – [Jennifer.storm@ops.org](mailto:Jennifer.storm@ops.org)

Abby Waller – [Abigail.waller01@gmail.com](mailto:Abigail.waller01@gmail.com)

### **Class of 2006**

October 2-3, 2026

Hannah Andahl-Newman - [hannahandahl@gmail.com](mailto:hannahandahl@gmail.com)

Jim Hubbard - [James.d.hubbard@gmail.com](mailto:James.d.hubbard@gmail.com)

Alvin Samuels - [alvin.samuels1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.



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