



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

Eagle News

April 2019

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Michael Lebens ('70) and David Slosburg ('70), co-chairs of the Arts and Library Addition campaign, hold the ribbon for Susie Buffett ('71) at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Arts and Library Addition on April 11

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring! Last week, I had the honor to officially welcome our students and staff into the Central High School Arts and Library Addition with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. I would like to applaud the co-chairs of this campaign, Mike Lebens ('70) and David Slosburg ('70) for making this dream a reality. We are also grateful to general contractor Sampson Construction, project manager Project Advocates, and architect DLR Group for seeing this 19 month project through until the end. This project wouldn't have been possible without the overwhelming generous support from alumni, donors, parents, and faculty. While the inside is completely finished, there is still some work that needs to be completed on the exterior. But we couldn't be prouder to have our Eagles



already in the new space using it!

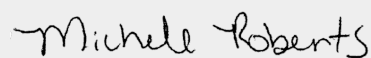
The Omaha Design Center was rocking on March 24th for our annual Rock the Nest Trivia Night. Thirty-nine teams competed in this sold out event, and congratulations to Table #4 for their winning efforts! Our prize sponsors were Omaha Steaks, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and Scooters Coffee. I'd also like to thank our trivia round sponsors: Band Parent Organization, Broadmoor Apartment Communities, Cynthia Peacock, Drama Club, P.E.P., The Simmons Family, Sampson Construction, Terry Hughes Tree Services, and CHS VOICE. This event wouldn't be successful without your support, so thank you!

Please mark your calendars now for OmahaGives! on Wednesday, May 22nd. We are very excited to share with you that this year, Matt ('74) and Sheri Aden will be matching all donations received for the Central High School Foundation on this special day of giving, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000! Watch for our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds during OmahaGives! week. Current Eagles, CHS teachers, and Central alumni will be sharing how the Central High School Foundation has impacted them. Please feel free to contact us at 402-556-1996 if you have any questions about how to make sure your donation gets matched.

Congratulations to our Facebook milestone winner Barb Bakhit! We recently surpassed 3,250 likes on Facebook, and Barb was selected at random to pick a prize from the [Alumni Association store](#). Be sure to [like us on Facebook](#) to be eligible for our next milestone - 3,500.

Finally, the Omaha Public Schools is redrawing the district lines for OPS schools this fall. They are hosting seven public meetings for you to voice your opinion, including one at Central on April 29. I strongly recommend you to attend as many as possible. I've included some information later in the newsletter, including meeting times and district maps, that you should look at.

Again, thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!



Michele Roberts
Executive Director

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Arts and Library Addition



The Central High School Foundation held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Central High School Arts and Library Addition on Thursday, April 11. Held in the Phillip G. Schrager Black Box Theater, more than 300 alumni and faculty were on hand for the special ceremony. Guest speakers included Michele Roberts, Executive Director; Matt Aden ('74), Central High School Foundation Board President; Dr. Cheryl Logan, Omaha Public Schools Superintendent; and Dr. Ed Bennett, current Central High School Principal. Campaign co-chairs Mike Lebens ('70) and David Slosburg ('70) held the ribbon for Susie Buffett ('71) to cut and officially open the Arts and Library Addition.

Following the brief ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to explore the new homes for the band department, vocal music department, and art department. People were swept away with the breathtaking views from the Digital Library, which is three times larger than the old library. After the completion of the tours, a brunch reception was held in the courtyard.

Faculty and students moved into the Arts and Library Addition over spring break and are already enjoying the new space. Now that the departments have moved, Omaha Public Schools will begin the repurposing of those spaces in the existing school building into more classroom space.

The Arts and Library Addition also features a new "C" as you walk into the space. As you can tell, the colors are inverted from the original "C" that is at the west entrance to the school building. This new "C" is not roped off yet, but we know that it will be a meeting place for students in the Arts and Library Addition.



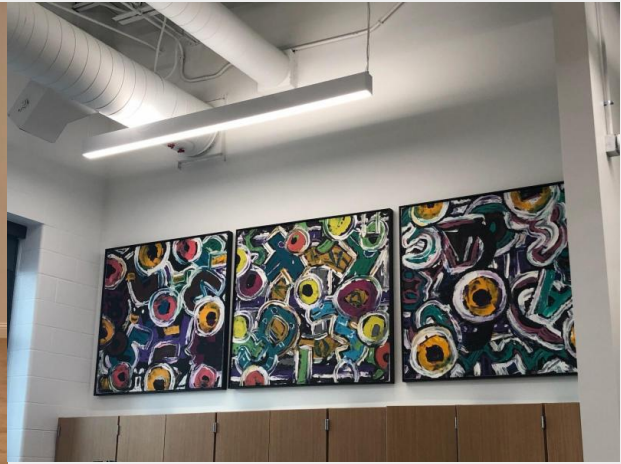


Pictured to the left are the five most-recent Central High School principals.

Left to right: Dr. Gary Thompson (1995-2002), Dr. Keith Bigsby (2010-2013), Dr. Ed Bennett (2013-Present), Gregory Emmel (2006-2010), and Jerry Bexten (2002-2006).



The bench in front of the library was designed by Jay Novak ('67) in 2015 and built in his Vernon, California factory. He owns Modernica, a furniture store in Los Angeles. Thank you Jay for your incredible donation!



These paintings hung in one of the new art rooms came from Jay Milder's ('52) gallery in his New York Chelsea Art Studio. Thank you to Jay for donating these beautiful pieces!

Class of 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees Announced



Congratulations to the Central High School Class of 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees!

H. Bruce Bernstein, CHS 1961
Sharon Gidley Marvin Griffin, CHS 1954
Robert Holts, CHS 1946
John Kuhns, CHS 1965
Bruce Krogh, CHS 1971
Zahn McClarnon, CHS 1986
C.M. "Nick" Newman, CHS 1943
Richard Speier, CHS 1958
Madree Penn White, CHS 1909
Eugene Zweiback, CHS 1955

To learn more about the Central High School Hall of Fame, [click here!](#)

Is there someone you would like to see in the Central High School Hall of Fame? Remember, for them to be considered by the Central High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee, they have to be nominated! [Click here to nominate an Eagle for the CHS Hall of Fame!](#)

Rock the Nest is Roaring Success



More than 350 Eagles rocked the nest at Rock the Nest Trivia Night on Sunday, March 24th. Parents, faculty, alumni, students and friends gathered at the Omaha Design Center in Omaha for a night filled with good food, fun trivia, and ice cream! The event raised over \$35,000 for Central High School.

Trivia was one of the evening's activities that brought everyone together. Categories for the trivia included: Can You Hear Me Now? (pop culture), Home of the Brave (history), 90s Playlist (music category), Better than the Original (movie sequels), Live from New York (Saturday Night Live), and Here I Come to Save the Day (superheroes).

First Place - Table #4: Donna and Matthew Johnson; Kathryn Johnson Krueger ('04); Nick Krueger; Holly Herman ('78) and James Nolan; Darin Taylor; Jennifer Johnson Taylor ('91)

Second Place - Table #26: Paula and Gary Groff; Brooks Humphreys; Victoria Deniston-Reed and James Reed; Matthew Shafer; Timothy Shipman; Scott Wilson

Third Place - Table #14: Trish and Thomas Egbert ('90); Jane and Wiff Farrell ('91); Jen and Rob Likes ('91); Stephanie and Samuel Shearer ('89)

The Grand Prize winner of a one week stay at the Surfside Resort in Destin, Florida and two round trip airline tickets, donated by Matt ('74) and Sheri Aden valued at \$4,000, was Sue Roberts.

The following individuals were raffle prize winners:

The Perfect Watch – Jerry Bexten
Golf and Dismal River Club – Mike Ziskey

Color Me Purple – Dr. Kristie Hayes ('73)
2019 International Omaha – Holly Herman ('78)
An Eagle on the 18th – Catherine Farrell Proctor ('88)
Feel Your Heart Race – Brent Bloom ('76)
Who's on First, What's on Second – Erin Bunton
Historical Omaha – Kim Kuzelka
Treat Yourself – Stacy Wilson
A Tee-rific Time – William Farrell ('91)
Hunt at Dismal River Club – Jon Roberts
Driving to Excellence – Jeanine Freeman
On to College with John Baylor – Kelly Seidl Titus ('96)
3MT Test Prep – Jeff Mahoney

Thank you to everyone who attended, purchased raffle tickets, or donated to the giving tree! A big thank you to Mike DiGiacomo ('91) for emceeding our event as well as to the CHS staff and faculty and Rock the Nest committee for making sure the event ran smoothly. In addition, a big thank you to the CHS jazz band for providing music for the evening. We will see you in spring 2020 for another edition of Rock the Nest Trivia Night!

Time to Hit the Driving Range - Golf Fore Eagles is Back



On Monday June 3, 2019, the Central High School Foundation will host its 17th annual Golf Fore Eagles presented by Project Advocates at the Field Club of Omaha. With over 200 participants expected to be registered, we are thrilled to be hosting both morning and afternoon flights to accommodate all the golfers. There are a few slots still available, so sign up now to reserve your

spot today. Don't miss out on all of the fun and register now!

Morning Flight: 7:30 a.m.
 Afternoon Flight: 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$150 per golfer and includes:

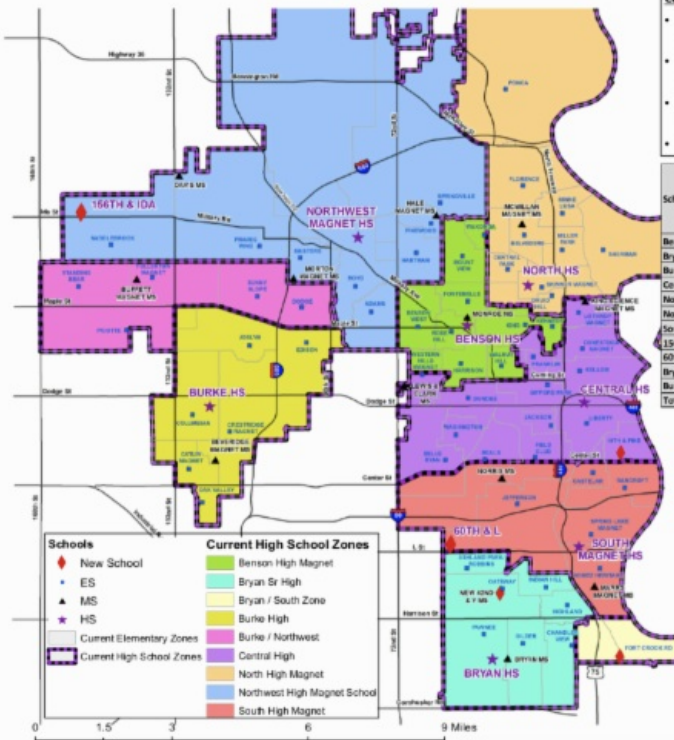
- 18 holes of golf, cart and driving range
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner for all participants
- Commemorative gift
- Chance to win a new car (hole-in-one)

This year's honorees are Matt ('74) and Sheri Aden.

[Click here to register](#) and learn more about the CHS Golf Outing!

Omaha Public Schools Redistricting Update

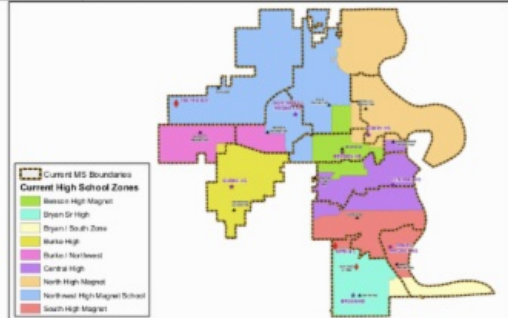
Current High School Boundaries



Current High School Boundary Overview

- The map and tables below show the student counts, utilization, and demographics of OPS students living in the current high school boundaries.
- All building capacity numbers do not include portables, and account for any planned renovations.
- Based on the current number of 9-12 students, and total planned capacity after the opening of two new high schools, the average live-in utilization of all schools is 77.2%.
- Currently 16 elementary schools split at HS

School	After Bond Capacity	Current Enrollment	Current Enrollment Utilization	Current Live-In	Current Live-In Utilization	Current Live-In F/R Lunch %	Current Live-In Asian, African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, & Pacific Islander %
Benson High Magnet	1,898	1,326	69.9%	1,088	88.9%	76.0%	73.7%
Bryan Sr High	1,482	1,815	122.5%	1,577	106.4%	81.0%	85.7%
Burke High	1,872	1,563	104.9%	726	38.8%	46.1%	47.0%
Central High	2,892	2,603	108.8%	2,055	85.9%	76.9%	77.1%
North High Magnet	2,574	1,842	71.6%	1,679	85.2%	85.5%	82.4%
Northwest High Magnet	1,924	1,583	82.3%	1,962	102.0%	56.2%	61.3%
South High Magnet	2,236	2,623	117.3%	2,308	103.2%	84.8%	87.8%
154th & Ida St.	1,500						
60th & L St.	1,500						
Bryan/South				80		87.5%	84.1%
Burke/Northwest				1,135		38.4%	43.3%
Total	17,378	13,755	79.2%	13,438	77.2%	73.9%	73.7%



Because there are two new high schools being built, Omaha Public Schools will be redrawing the boundaries for school districts. There will be 7 public forums where you can go to have your voice be heard, and we strongly encourage you to attend as many meetings as possible. This is an important decision that will impact many families and neighborhoods that have traditionally been in Central's district. Here are the upcoming meeting dates, all times are 6 - 8 PM:

- April 22 - Burke High School Gym
- April 23 - South High School Gym
- April 29 - Central High School Cafeteria
- April 30 - Northwest High School Cafeteria
- May 6 - North High School Viking Center
- May 7 - Benson High School Cafeteria
- May 8 - Bryan High School Library

To view the boundary process presentation, [click here](#).

To view the three proposed high school boundary options, [click here](#).

We feel that Option #3 will be the best option for Central High School. This is a very important meeting for all Central families but especially for those planning to send kids to Central in the coming years. Please attend so your voices can be heard by OPS.

Eagle Journalists Excel in Competition



Last week, the UNO School of Communication hosted its annual High School Media Conference. More than 330 high school students attended, including several Central Journalism students.

Central Journalism came back with awards again this year! *The Register* won best newspaper for the second year in a row while CHS placed second overall in the cumulative standings.

Students also won seven individual awards:

Anne Gallagher - 1st place single-page newspaper layout

Molly Ashford - 2nd place double-page newspaper layout

Emma Whaley - 2nd place review writing

Lucy Mason - 2nd place news/feature photo

Mac O'Brien - 2nd place column writing

Ben Lane - 3rd place cartoon

Olivia Gilbreath - 3rd place feature writing

Congratulations to these Eagles on their outstanding work! Hillary Blayney is the Journalism, Newspaper, and O-Book Adviser at Central.

English Teacher Receives Top Teacher Award



Marcy (far right) pictured with one of her AP junior-level English classes

Earlier this month, Central High School English teacher Marcy Mahoney was surprised with the CHI Health Top Teacher award. Marcy, who has been teaching at CHS since 1997, received the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award in 2010 and was named the CHS Teacher of the Year in 2016. Congratulations, Ms. Mahoney! [Click here](#) to watch Marcy receiving the award.

Eagles Fly High at Science and Engineering Fair



Last Saturday, twelve Eagles received awards for their outstanding projects that they entered in the Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair. Made possible by a classroom grant from the Central High School Foundation, 28 Eagles were able to have the necessary materials they needed to compete in the fair.

Junior Abdulnaser Sheikh was one of just six students who qualified to advance to compete at the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences state fair on April 11. Coached by teacher Tracy Rumbaugh, Abdul presented on the topic of "General Intelligence: A Modern Approach."

Congratulations to Abdul and all of these Eagles for their outstanding accomplishments! The Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair is designed to promote interest in STEM, encourage students to investigate, analyze and communicate about a research project in the STEM field, and reward students for their efforts.

Mark Your Calendars

Your favorite events are back! Plans are well underway for our spring events, and you won't want to miss out on all the fun! These are great opportunities to reconnect with your high school classmates, have fun, and raise money for your alma mater. We hope to see you there!



[OmahaGives! 2019](#)

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Stay tuned for more information on Omaha Gives! 2019



[CHS Golf Fore Eagles](#)

Monday, June 3, 2019

Field Club of Omaha

Morning Flight: 7:30 am

Afternoon Flight: 12:30 pm



[Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony](#)

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Central High School

Social Hour: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Eagles Around The World - Send Us Your Photos!

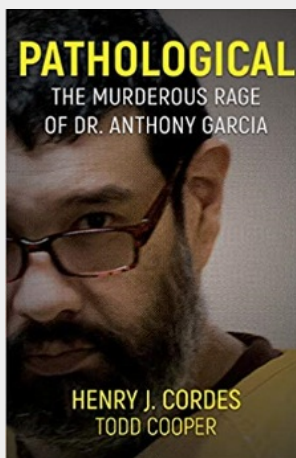
Zack Clark (1999)
The White Temple
Chiang Rai, Thailand



Alum Zack Clark ('99) recently visited The White Temple in Chiang Rai, Thailand

Going on vacation? Take a picture in your purple Central attire and you could be featured on our social media! We want to highlight the amazing things that our alumni are accomplishing. Send your pictures and stories to Josh Bucy at josh@chsfomaha.org.

Update from the Alumni Association



The Central High Alumni Association is sponsoring a Book Talk with 1981, Central graduate, Henry Cordes. Please join us in Central's new Phillip G. Schrager Black Box Theater for Henry's presentation covering his book *Pathological*.

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

6:30 PM

Central High School

Phillip G. Schrager Black Box Theater
(Enter Through the West Doors)

Henry has worked for more than three decades as a reporter for the Omaha World-Herald. *Pathological* comes out of work he did covering the 2008 Dundee-area murders and the arrest five years later of Dr. Anthony Garcia. *Pathological* is his third book. He had previously written two books on Nebraska football history, *Unbeatable: Tom Osborne and the Greatest Era of Nebraska Football*, and *Devaney: Birth of a Dynasty*. Henry is also married to a

Central high grad and the proud father of two 2017 graduates.

Copies of *Pathological* will be available for sale at the event and Henry will be available to sign your copy. If you would like to submit a question to Henry, please e-mail your question to: Central_Alumni@Yahoo.com. We will attempt to incorporate questions into the program.

Upcoming Events:
Alumni Association Meeting
Monday, May 6 at 6:30 PM
Central High School
Room 131

All are welcome to attend. Come learn about the Alumni Association and the many opportunities for you to get involved.

Cordes Cuts Down Nets in March Madness Challenge



Last Monday, the University of Virginia defeated Texas Tech University in the NCAA D-I Men's Basketball National Championship game. In the fourth year of our Bracket Challenge, alum Henry Cordes ('81) was crowned as the champion by correctly guessing 44 of the 63 games as well as selecting the Cavaliers as the national champs with the highest score of 139 points.

Rounding out the top five were:
2) Erica Corwin ('93) 129 points

- 3) Michelle Jochim 120 points
- 4) Grant Gier ('80) 115 points
- 5) James Zipursky ('78) 103 points

Congratulations to Henry and thank you to all of those who played!

Alumna Celebrates 100th Birthday

Alumna Juanita Moore recently celebrated her 100 year birthday on April 8th. Juanita, graduating in the class of 1937, continued her education at Omaha University earning her degree in elementary education. She taught at Long and Lothrop Elementary Schools for many years. She became principal at Howard Kennedy Elementary before retiring after a satisfying career caring and nurturing many young students.



She had always been active in her community and volunteered with different churches and organizations throughout Omaha. She was an inspiration to others helping them to pursue a career in education.

Happy Birthday Juanita!

2019 Class Reunion Schedule

Class of 1959

September 20-21, 2019

Contact: Terry Foster or David Krecek

etf@cox.net

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1964

September 6-7, 2019

Contact: Jeannene Rice Mason

masonjeannene@aol.com

Class of 1969

August 2-3, 2019

Contact: Rosemarie Lahs Matza

central69reunion@gmail.com

Class of 1979

July 13, 2019

Contact: Anne Scott-Miller Roberts

central79@gmail.com

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1984

Date: TBD

Contact: Pat Salerno

psalerno@dundeebanking.com

Class of 1989

September 6-7, 2019

Contact: Kurt and Julee Goeser

goeser5@gmail.com

Class of 1994

October 4-5, 2019

Jeff Darst

Jeffrey.darst@childrenscolorado.org

Class of 1999

September 27-28, 2019

Contact: Jane Luethge

Jmluethge1@cox.net

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 2009

October 18-20, 2019

Contact: Doug Knickrehm, Ali Hodges, Chloe McPherson, and Bailey Rutten

Doug.mainebased@gmail.com

2020 Reunions

Class of 1960

October 17, 2020

Contact: Steve and Judie Olson

judieolson@yahoo.com

If you haven't set the date for your reunion yet, contact Sydney Davidson at events@chsfomaha.org for help getting started.

2018-19 Generation C Chairs - The Crossman Family



[Photo by Michele Zephier Photography](#)

Eagle Spirit runs deep for the Chairs of this year's Generation "C" campaign. As a family of multi-generations of Omaha Central High graduates that includes Margaret Crossman Wonn, ('43), and Mary Crossman, ('69), the Crossman Family understands the importance of the exceptional education that they received from Central High School. Rusty Crossman ('66) and his two daughters, Elizabeth Crossman Cook ('95) and Allyson Crossman Slobotski ('98), continue to be important members of the Central community. Even with their busy lives, they all boast impressive lists of community service and remain passionate about giving back to their alma mater, Central High School.

Rusty ('66) is an Omaha ophthalmologist whose incredible vision for Central High School led to the creation of the Central High School Foundation in 1996. Rusty earned his undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College before completing his doctorate degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. His energy and enthusiasm for his alma mater are boundless, and the positive results will impact Central and the Omaha community forever. The most important thing in Rusty's life is his family. Rusty is married to Stephanie Meyers and has three daughters, one son, and five grandchildren.

Elizabeth ('95) graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in finance and a minor in accounting and French. She has been employed with First National Bank for the past twenty-two years, currently serving as the Sr. Director of Talent Acquisition and HR Business Partnering. Liz currently serves on the CHS Hall of Fame Selection Committee as well as the Executive and Human Resources Committees for Heartland Workforce Solutions. Some of her interests include following Husker football and volleyball, playing golf, enjoying country music, and spending time with her husband, Shawn, and her three boys: Evan (9), Nathan (7) and Ryan (5).

Allyson ('98) also graduated from Texas Christian University majoring in accounting and finance. She then earned a Master of Accounting from TCU

and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The first five years of her career she worked for Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O. focusing on estate planning and tax disputes. She has spent the past seven years as an in-house state tax attorney for Union Pacific Railroad. Within the Omaha community, Ally served as the first Guild President for the WCA Omaha as well as Treasurer for the Midlands Mentoring Partnership. She currently is the Scholarship Advisor for Chi Omega Sorority at UNO. Ally and her husband Mark have twin boys: Leo and Parker.

To learn more about Generation "C" and to join today, [click here!](#)

Download the TAGG App and Support While You Shop



You can now TAGG your purchase by taking a picture of the receipt rather than taking a picture of a QR code! That way if you forget to TAGG your purchase before leaving the restaurant, you can take a picture of your receipt after getting home!

Omaha Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good), an Omaha start-up, to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation. TAGG offers a smartphone app that, when used at 120 participating local businesses, the business will donate 5% of your purchase, any day any time! The app, available on iPhone and Android devices, is free to download and easy to set up. Here's how to get started:

- 1) Go to the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and download the free app 'Together a Greater Good' to your iPhone or Android device.
- 2) When it's time to pay at a participating business, click the orange 'TAGG My Purchase' button on the app and tell the cashier that you want to 'TAGG' your purchase.
- 3) On your phone, enter in the total pre-tax amount of your purchase and click 'Next.'
- 4) When you go to TAGG a purchase, you will now have the option to take a picture of your receipt (instead of asking a cashier for a QR code to scan). We ask that you do this within 7 days of purchase.
- 5) On your phone, select Central High School Foundation from the list of organizations.

To learn more about TAGG, check out their [website](#). Happy shopping!

Like Us On Facebook



Are you on Facebook? [Like our Facebook page](#) to be connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news.

We are continuing to grow our social network! When we reach our 3,500 fan

milestone, we will award a great prize from the Central High School Alumni Store. Winners will be pulled from our Facebook Fans!

Corporate Sponsors



The Central High School Foundation

P.O. Box 31610

Omaha, NE 68031-0610

Phone: 402-556-1996

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