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*Artwork by Hannah Hough, Class of 2021*



**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION**

**EAGLE NEWS**

March 2020



**Dear Supporter:**

May this letter find you and your loved ones safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is an emotional time at the Nest. As you probably know, Omaha Central students are tentatively out of school until April 30, 2020 to minimize the community spread of the COVID-19 virus. In addition, the Central High School Foundation's annual fundraiser, Rock the Nest Trivia Night, has been cancelled. Central High School's spring sports and prom have also been cancelled for the same reason. The Omaha Public Schools has not made a decision in regards to the cancellation of Senior Recognition Night, the 2020 graduation ceremony, the Purple Feather ceremony, and a host of other Central spring and year-end activities.

During Central's 160 years – and counting -- our school has seen its share of tough and unprecedented events: The Great Depression, World War II, the nuclear arms race, the Vietnam War, the economic crash of 2008, and much more. These times have put great strain on our school and our community. But Omaha Central has withstood, and, rest assured, it will meet the recent trials and tribulations just as successfully. It is the Central Way!

As the Central High School Foundation and Central High School work our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we continue to have your support. [You can make an immediate impact by giving a gift to the Central High School Foundation's Emergency Fund.](#) This emergency fund supports Central students and staff by securing needed resources during this pandemic. In addition, the emergency fund is also used to support current students and staff who have immediate financial needs.

In addition to the current obstacles presented by the COVID-19 crisis, Central continues to be confronted with the same important educational challenges it has always faced, such as student achievement and opportunity gaps. In fact, due to this crisis, the opportunity inequality we have always fought to minimize will undoubtedly grow even larger. [This is why it is essential that we have your continued support.](#) Not only has our mission not changed, it is now more important than ever.

Finally, even though the Central High School Foundation staff is working remotely, we're here for you, same as always. I have listed below the direct contact information for each of our team members. Reach out whenever you need us. Because it's during times such as these when the support of our donors and alumni makes the most impact, when it is the most critical. We are so grateful for you, and your continued support of Central High School. We are all in this together.

### **Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.**

Your Central High School Foundation Team,

Michele Roberts | Executive Director | [michele@chsfomaha.org](mailto:michele@chsfomaha.org)

Josh Bucy | Creative Director and Database Administrator | [josh@chsfomaha.org](mailto:josh@chsfomaha.org)

Erika Buffington | Foundation Operations Manager | [foundation@chsfomaha.org](mailto:foundation@chsfomaha.org)

Joanne Givens | Finance Manager | [finance@chsfomaha.org](mailto:finance@chsfomaha.org)

Ali Hodge | Digital Engagement Manager | [connect@chsfomaha.org](mailto:connect@chsfomaha.org)

**#CHSEagleImpact during the COVID-19 Outbreak**



Robert Wesley, Class of 2005, is a firefighter for the Omaha Fire Department! During this pandemic, he said: "We are working to make sure that we don't become a part of the problem by protecting ourselves and others from the virus. Right now, it is business as usual: if you need us, call us, we will be there! We are also working to get firefighters tested for the virus to further ensure the public's safety."

**Announcement about Rock the Nest 2020**



# UPDATE:



## Rock the Nest 2020 Cancelled to Prevent Spread of COVID-19

### To Our Eagle Community,

The Central High School Foundation has been closely following the news surrounding COVID-19 and its related public health concerns. By now, you have likely heard news of school and business closings as well the canceling of social and community events to prevent further spread of the virus. The Central High School Foundation will be joining our community, state and national partners in working to limit and eradicate the COVID-19 pandemic by canceling this year's April 5th, 2020 Rock the Nest Trivia Night. There will be no rescheduling of this year's event.

If you are a sponsor, participant registered for the event and/or purchased raffle tickets for 2020 Rock the Nest Trivia Night here are your options:

- Honor your sponsorship, registration and/or raffle tickets for Rock the Nest Trivia Night 2021. It will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at the Omaha Design Center.
- Contact our office at 402-556-1996 or [events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) for a refund.
- Help Central High School Foundation persevere in this time of uncertainty by donating the fee for your sponsorship, registration and/or raffle tickets. A 501(c)3 Letter will be provided to you recognizing your full contribution.

Please follow the Central High School Foundation on social media for real-time updates. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We are all in this together!

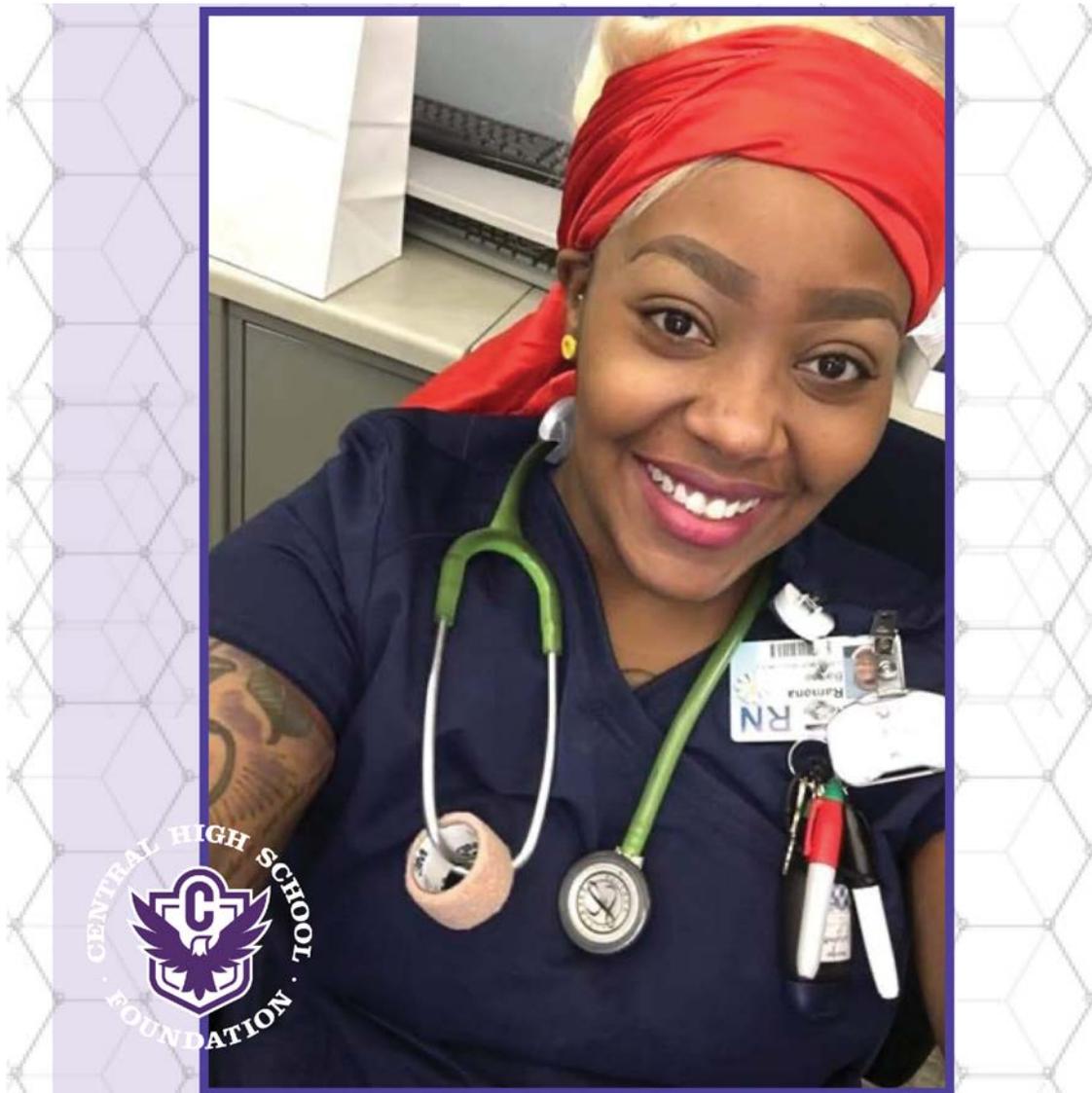
**Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle,**

Michele Roberts  
Executive Director



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
**FOUNDATION**

**#CHSEagleImpact during the COVID-19 Outbreak**



Ramona Bartee, a ER nurse from the Class of 2002, has been working 10-12 hour shifts, nearly 7 days a week at CHI Health Emergency Department in Omaha during this pandemic.

"In the last week I have cared for patients that have arrived so quickly I had no time to put on protective equipment before stabilizing them. I'm caring for patients who meet COVID testing criteria with a simple yellow mask and gloves... I've worn the same N95 mask with only wiping it down between uses due to the shortage of supplies in the U.S. I've isolated from my kids for almost a week trying to protect them; they are my most prized possessions. This is a time like no other in my life..."

**Join the 1859 Society Today**

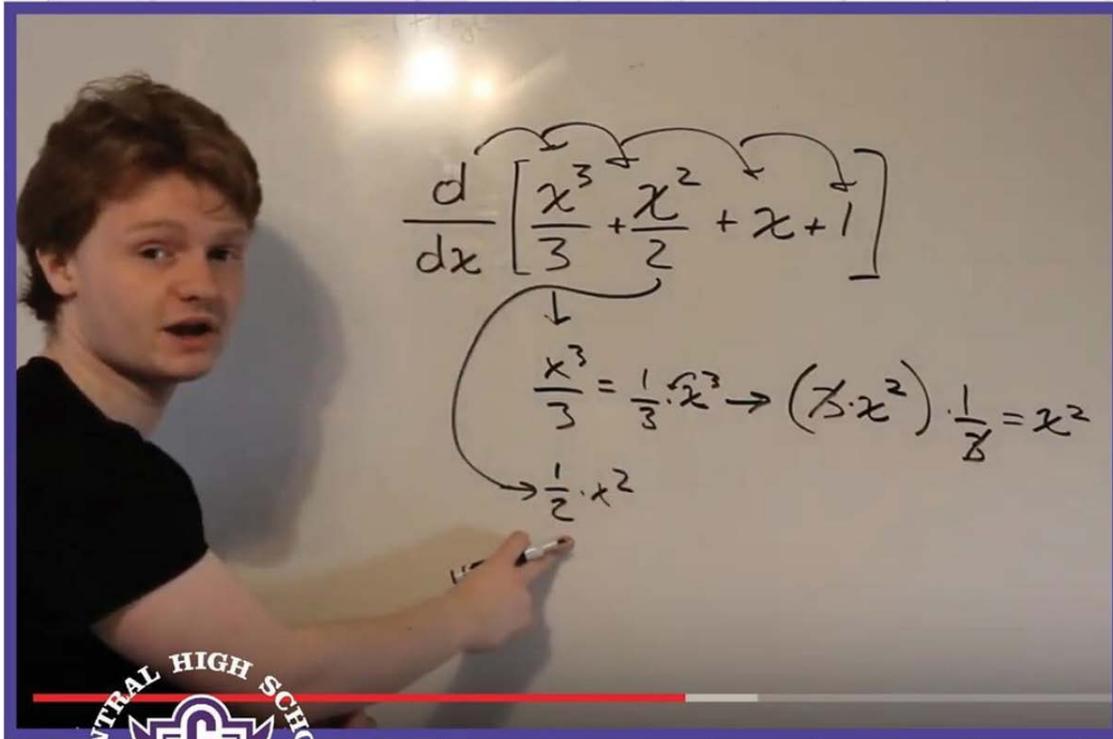


Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. 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).

[Click here to view the CHSF Planned Giving brochure.](#)

**#CHSEagleImpact during the COVID-19 Outbreak**





Central senior, Jacob White, is making an impact for his classmates who are in digital classes during the pandemic! He is using his time out of school to teach calculus on his YouTube page!

**CHSF Makes An Academic Impact for Students**



# IMPACT:

**Robotics Team Uses New VEX Robotics V5 Systems to make it to Nebraska State Robotics Championship for first time in years**

## PROJECT PROPOSAL:

The purchase of new VEX Robotics V5 systems, which aligns with rapidly changing industry technology standards, giving students real-world experience with technology used in a wide range of fields.

## AMOUNT FUNDED:

by the Central High School Foundation

**\$10,000**

**“Having the newest equipment made us stronger competitors. Going to competitions helped me to see my STEM education in a new light and my life is richer having had this experience.”**

**Nia Johnson**  
Class of 2020

## Students Impacted

More than 60 students initially, and more projected to be impacted as the program is grown through participation in competitions.

## Commitment to Closing the Opportunity Gap

61% of students impacted by the program qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, and the robotics team is marketing to attract both male and female participants.

## Translation to College and Career Readiness

The robotics team aims to engage students by building skills including hands-on activities with strict deadlines, working within a team, and problem solving to achieve specific outcomes. This in addition to the computer technology skills gained through instruction.

**“Robotics is about more than competing. Robotics is quickly becoming one of the largest career paths with a wide range of focus areas. Having knowledge of robotics can greatly increase opportunities for students beyond high school.”**

**Lisa Wheeler**  
Industrial Technology Teacher

**#CHSEagleImpact during the COVID-19 Outbreak**



Chris Pellman, Class of 1982, made an impact by donating blood! She wanted to remind other Eagles that donation centers are OPEN and THEY NEED YOU! "According to the Red Cross more than 2,700 blood drives have been canceled nationwide and they are down more than 100,000 donations due to COVID-19. The need is critical. I was there less than one-hour. One donation can save up to 3 lives. Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured. They only come from volunteers. If you are healthy and eligible, now is a great time to make a difference!"

## 2020 Class Reunion Schedule



**"The class reunion was an awesome event! It was such a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates in a more personal way than just liking their photos on social media. I suggest everyone go to their class reunion - they'll have the best time!"**

- A 2009 Graduate

We are gearing up for the 2020 class reunions and we are excited to see what new memories are made! Look below to see the date and person of contact for your class reunion. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Central High School Foundation.

**Class of 1950**

No reunion

**Class of 1955**

No reunion

**Class of 1960**

October 16-17, 2020

Steve and Judie Olson, JoAnn Kratky

402-333-4080 (JoAnn)

[solson@fraserstryker.com](mailto:solson@fraserstryker.com)

**Class of 1965**

August 28-29, 2020

Holly Jepsen Hoberman

[www.central65.org](http://www.central65.org)

402-681-2161, 402-397-6943

[hollyhoberman@gmail.com](mailto:hollyhoberman@gmail.com)

**Class of 1970**

October 16-17, 2020

Cheryl Marks Willis and Karen Smith Buckley

402-493-1373

[cgwillis@cox.net](mailto:cgwillis@cox.net)

[Join the 1970 Facebook Group](#)

**Class of 1975**

Date TBD

Suzanne Tarver Vincent

(414) 852-8862

[tarverharris@msn.com](mailto:tarverharris@msn.com)

**Class of 1980**

June 6, 2020

Grant Gier

(847) 772-0069

[ggier@comcast.net](mailto:ggier@comcast.net)

[Join the 1980 Facebook Group](#)

**Class of 1985**

June 19-20, 2020

[LaConda Scott McKinney](#)

402-517-7138

[Take the reunion survey.](#)

**Class of 1990**

September 4-5, 2020

[Ben Rouch](#)

402-598-2669

[Join the 1990 Facebook Group](#)

**Class of 1995**

No reunion

**Class of 2000**

October 2020

[Jonathan "Jono" Croskey](#)

402-598-4498

**Class of 2005**

No reunion

## Class of 2010

September 11-12, 2020

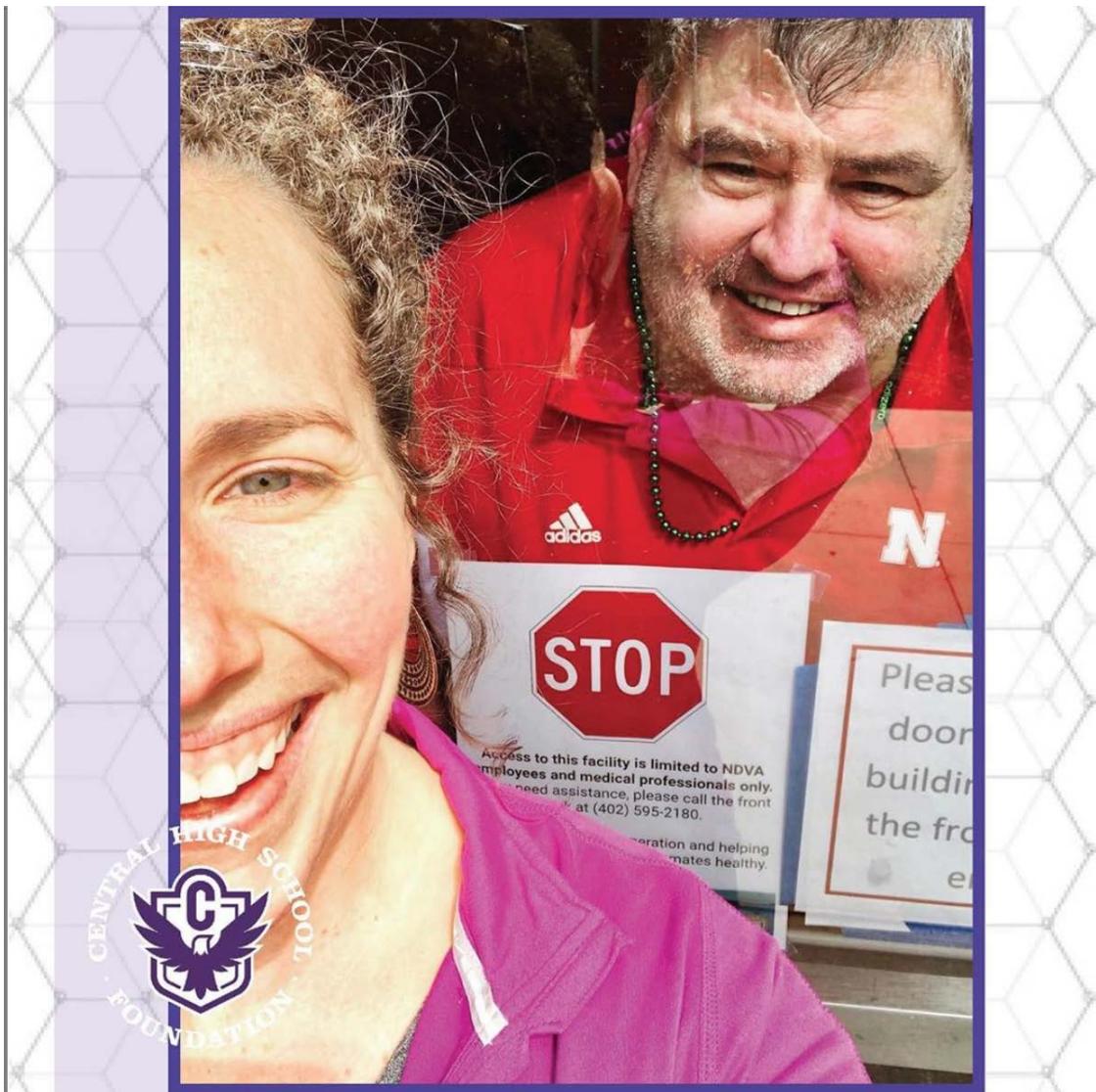
[Sierra Hogan](#)

402-740-0379

[2010centralhigh@gmail.com](mailto:2010centralhigh@gmail.com)

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your 2020 reunion, please [contact the Central High School Foundation](#) to get started.

### #CHSEagleImpact during the COVID-19 Outbreak



Christina Chesters, Class of 2009, is making an impact with her family during the COVID-19 crisis: "Because my dad has no memory, he has no idea that I can't come into the VA Home. He just thinks I'm not showing up and that makes my heart and stomach hurt. So

today I stood outside of the glass and talked to him on the phone to remind him that I'm not going anywhere. I love you, Dad."

## 2019-20 Generation "C" Chairs - The Friedman Family



The Friedman Family has been involved at Central High School for over a century, and we're honored to have them as the chairs for the 2019-20 Generation "C" campaign. Amy and Sandy Friedman ('64) are the proud parents of two Eagles: Andrea ('97), and Dusty ('00). Although they are retired now, Amy and Sandy continue to stay involved and embody the spirit of commitment, caring and generosity to help improve the greater Omaha community as well as Central High School. Andrea and Dusty also have accepted the responsibility of involvement in their respective communities and remain committed to their alma mater.

**Sandy** graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1968, earning a degree in Economics. His business career spanned nearly five decades of founding and operating several businesses across a diverse range of fields. In 2001 he sold his last business, Customer Service Profiles. He continued to help other Omaha businesses address specific challenges before retiring to try to perfect his golf game. During his career, he also served his community on numerous boards including Girls Club of Omaha, Omaha Symphony and Jewish Federation of Omaha. In addition, he served as the president of the Anti-Defamation League, Beth El Synagogue and National Conference of Christians and Jews. He has received several awards over the years, but he is most proud of his induction into the Central High School Hall of Fame in 2017.

**Amy's** legacy to Central dates back to her mother Molline Rubin Cassman ('48) and grandparents Arthur Rubin ('12) and Sarah Tuchman Rubin ('11). Amy earned an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in communications and a master's degree in broadcast journalism from Boston University. She had a 40 year career in public relations, spending the majority of time as a communications director in the public school system. During this time she also served on the boards of Ballet Omaha, Henry Doorly Zoo Women's Board, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Jewish Family Service and the Assistance League Advisory Board. Amy was also elected to a four year term on the Learning Community Coordinating Council. She also served on the PTA board of Central and co-chaired the scholarship auction during the time her children attended Central. She was named a Woman of Vision by YWCA in 2000 and received the Professional of the Year award by the Nebraska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America in 2011.

**Andrea** graduated magna cum laude from the University of Missouri in 2002 with a degree in Journalism. She played tennis for the Tigers on a full scholarship and earned Academic All-American honors. She went on to earn an MBA from the International University in Geneva/Pace University. Currently, Andrea lives in New York City where she started and runs her own business.

**Dusty** earned an Industrial Engineering degree from Northwestern University in 2004 and an MBA degree in finance from Emory University. He worked on Wall Street for several years before returning to Omaha to work for Tenaska. Currently, Dusty works in Corporate Business Development for Aon Risk Solutions. He serves on the board of the Jewish Community Center and was appointed by Mayor Stothert to the Omaha City Zoning Board of Appeals. Dusty and his wife Candice have a 2-year-old daughter: Frankie Nicole Friedman.

[Join Generation "C"](#)

[Support CHSF While You Shop!](#)

## Support Central High School Foundation.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazon  
smile

If you're buying Back to School supplies or books on Amazon, make sure you click on the link below first! We have partnered with AmazonSmile so that you can support the Central High School Foundation while you shop.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Central High School Foundation! Click below to get started shopping.



Hy-Vee, is now on TAGG! More specifically, all 17 stores in Omaha, Council Bluffs, Fremont and Plattsmouth will happily donate 1% of your purchases to the Central High School Foundation when you scan a picture of your whole receipt on the free Together A Greater Good mobile app. Exclusions include gift cards, postage, pharmacy, money orders, prepaid debit cards, lottery and money transfers

The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation. The app, available on [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, is free to download and easy to set up.

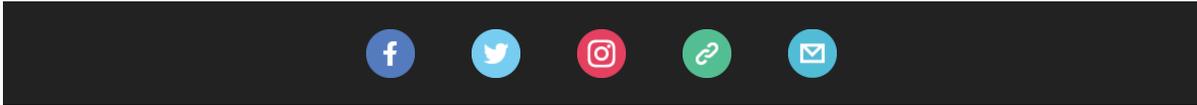
**Follow and Like Us on Social Media!**



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) and [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 Partners





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