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Welcome to the Eagle Principal's Club! Former Central Principals got together earlier this month to congratulate Dionne Kirksey on her new position as the Principal of Central High School! They enjoyed dinner and shared some wisdom from their time in "the chair."
(Pictured from left to right: Dr. Ed Bennett, Dr. Keith Bigsby, Ms. Dionne Kirksey, Mr. Jerry Bexten, and Dr. Gary Thompson)



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS

July 2021



Dear Supporter,

We hope you are enjoying your summer!

We would like to bring your attention to a venue change for the 22nd Annual Central High School Hall of Fame. The dinner and ceremony will be held at the Holland Performing Arts Center due to delayed restoration work in the Central High School auditorium. The date has not been affected, however, and the event will still take place on Thursday, October 14, 2021.

We are happy to welcome the DiGiacomo family as the Generation "C" Chairs for

2021-2022. Mike, Dominic, and Jaclyn represent local media professionals, small business owners, and healthcare professionals in our community. They recognize the importance of the exceptional education and life-defining experiences they received during their time at Central, and they want our future Eagles to have those same opportunities. Your Central High School Foundation Generation "C" membership is a simple and easy way for you to give back to the next generation of Eagles. To join Generation "C," [click here!](#)

We are excited to announce that our Passing Periods Luncheon Series will be back on Friday, October 15th at the Omaha Press Club. Our guest speaker for this event will be Ms. Dionne Kirksey. You can register for this event by clicking [here](#).

There are numerous announcements about [class reunions](#) planned for 2021. If you have a reunion this year, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your physical invitation and event communications will be mailed to the correct address. Especially for recent graduates, we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

Thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence!

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!

Michele Roberts



Executive Director

Passing Periods Luncheon Series is Back!



The bell has rung! Eagles all across Omaha are brushing shoulders for a quick hello during the Passing Periods: CHS Alumni Luncheon Series, and we hope to bump into you there! For \$20, you can enjoy a great meal, catch up with friends you haven't seen since first period, talk with teachers you haven't seen since homeroom, and listen to our exclusive lineup of guest speakers.

The next luncheon is:

**Guest Speaker: Dionne Kirksey, Central
High School Principal
Friday, October 15, 2021**

11:30 AM – 1 PM

Omaha Press Club

1620 Dodge Street, 22nd Floor
Omaha, NE 68102

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

Venue Change: Central High School Hall of Fame 2021



The 22nd Annual Central High School Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony will be held Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the Holland Performing Arts Center, due to restoration work in the Central High School auditorium. The Central High School Alumni Association is proud to induct 12 individuals whose paths from the halls of Central High School led them to the highest levels of achievement in business and community service.

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](#).

[Register Now to Attend the Hall of Fame](#)

Central Eagle Commits to Play Football for Mizzou!



Congratulations to Deshawn Woods, CHS 2022, who announced his commitment to play football at Mizzou! We cannot wait to see how high you fly, Deshawn! 🍷🏈 Photo courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands.

[Click Here to Donate to Student Scholarships!](#)

Announcing Our 2021-2022 Generation "C" Chairs!



The DiGiacomo family is honored to be this year's Central High School Foundation Generation "C" Chairs. As the 2021-2022 school year begins and our Eagles get ready to go back to the nest in person, we hope you and your family are looking forward to spending more time with friends, family, and colleagues face-to-face. As media professionals, small business owners, and healthcare professionals, we too are excited to interact more with our communities in person and reinvigorate our local economies. Like the wider community around us, our Eagles are also

transitioning back to in-person activities, and we need your help to make this transition a success!

We, as Generation “C” members, recognize the importance of the exceptional education and life-defining experiences we received during our time at Central. After a year of online and hybrid learning, we know that our Eagles are also eager to return to the classroom full time. **Therefore, we are asking you to help us provide them with the same life-defining educational activities, club experiences, and athletic opportunities that were afforded to us during our years at Central High School.** Your Central High School Foundation Generation “C” membership is a simple and easy way for you to give back to the next generation of Eagles.

Michael DiGiacomo, CHS 1991



A 1991 graduate of Central, Mike studied broadcasting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. Mike has spent his career working in television, starting at KOLN/KGIN in Lincoln before becoming the Capital Bureau reporter for KETV in 2001. In 2010, Mike moved to KMTV Omaha where he co-hosted “The Morning Blend” talk show for 8 years. Mike currently does freelance work for KMTV and hosts a local cooking show on KPAO in Omaha. A third-generation trumpet player and former member of the Cornhusker Marching Band, Mike is active in his 90’s-2000’s alternative horn band, GroovePuppet. In addition to his freelance work, Mike is busy with the two-family businesses: Social Holdings LLC and Best Card Payments. Mike is married to his wife Erin. They have three children and two dogs, Miley and Emmy Lou.

Dominic DiGiacomo, CHS 1995



Dominic is a 1995 graduate of Central. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in International Business from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dominic is a managing partner for Best Card Payments, a credit card processing company serving small businesses and medical clinics across the United States. Dominic is also a co-founder of Social Holdings LLC with Mike and Jaclyn. Engaged with the Omaha community, Dominic serves as a member of the Santa Lucia Festival Committee and also enjoys helping fundraise for Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and CRCC, both Omaha based organizations that specialize in kids with medical and special needs. Dominic is married to his wife Megan and has three wonderful daughters.

Jaclyn DiGiacomo Oltmans, CHS 1998

Jaclyn graduated from Central in 1998 and from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. Jaclyn studied Physical Therapy at Creighton University and graduated in 2005. After graduation, she moved to Chicago and especially enjoyed Lake Michigan and the Chicago Cubs. Now back in Omaha, Jaclyn has spent the last 11 years working for Accelerated Care Plus, specializing in long-term care with an emphasis in Dementia. She is also the co-founder of the family business, Social Holdings LLC. Jaclyn and her husband Chris spend their free time traveling, playing pickle ball, and playing and golf. But their favorite pastime is watching the activities of their three daughters: Olivia, Arianna, and Lola.



[Click Here to Join Generation "C"!](#)

Gale Sayers Statue Delayed - to Be Erected in 2022



The unveiling of the planned bronze statue of [Gale Sayers](#) outside Seeman Stadium at Central High School has been delayed to Fall 2022 because of supply chain delays of raw materials as a result of COVID-19.

However, we still need your help to make this memorial statue a reality! Make a memorial donation in Gale's name to assist in the erection of this monument. Thanks to three generous alumni, and the Class of 1961, your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$85,000! Make a memorial donation by [clicking here](#). When you make a memorial gift, a personalized card and acknowledgment is

sent to his family. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your gift and the gift amount will appear on your donor acknowledgement for your records. All donations will be recognized in the CHSF annual report.

Gale Sayers (Class of 1961), a great Eagle athlete, friend of the Central High School Foundation, and former Chicago Bears star passed away September 22, 2020. Gale is considered one of the greatest running backs in the history of the National Football League. He is the youngest person to ever be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at age 34. "I Am Third," his autobiography which inspired the film "Brian's Song," was critically acclaimed. It told the story of his family, of the crippling knee injury that almost destroyed his career, and, most of all, it recalled the story of Gale's short but unforgettable friendship with Brian Piccolo. He was a member of the Central High School Hall of Fame, and was a proud supporter of Central High School and the Central High School Foundation until the end of his life.

Littleton Alston, Eagle parent and owner of Alston Art Studio, has been selected as the sculptor to design and construct this bronze statue. The Victory Eagle will be forever soaring over one of Central's greatest athletes!

[Click Here to Support Sayers Memorial](#)

A View of the Nest



Beautiful aerial photos of Central show the surrounding neighborhood in Downtown Omaha. Photos are courtesy of Preston Hogan.



Eagles In the News

[Click here to Read the Summer Issue](#)



The Summer volume of Nebraska's own Fine Lines Literary journal is available now! This journal is edited by David Martin, who taught English at Central from 1984-2004. Fine Lines is a quarterly journal dedicated to supporting a variety of original authors, who include prose articles, essays on widely varied topics that reflect life experiences, poetry in all forms, mixed media, and more. The journal began as an endeavor in Martin's high school classroom. From there it has blossomed into a non-profit that serves the community with four issues a year. Click the button below to read the issue and learn more!

[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.

[Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

Share Your Memories From Your Time at Central!



Did you know that the Central High School Foundation collects the memories of our alumni to paint a full, bright picture of life at Central for future generations? In fact, you can read all of the memories others have submitted on our [website!](#)

We would love to hear from you!

Submit your memory to the Central High School Foundation!
You can also share photos of your time at Central, which will be entered into our archives!

[Click Here to Submit Your Memory](#)

2021 Class Reunion Schedule



Throwback Class of 1976's 40th Reunion!

Many of our reunions have been rescheduled. Please look below for an update and a person of contact for your reunion. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Central High School Foundation.

[Class of 1960](#)

RESCHEDULED – October 22-23, 2021

JoAnn Kratky

joann.kratky@gmail.com

[Class of 1961](#)

October 15-16, 2021

Chairs: Dick Zacharia, Suzi Seglin Mogil, Joyce Anderson Tomich
joycehtomich@gmail.com

Class of 1966

POSTPONED UNTIL 2022

Cindy Hadsell
402-312-4929

Class of 1970

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

Class of 1971

October 8-9, 2021

Linda Niebauer, Danny Slosburg, Denny Brown
303-909-8227 (Linda)

linda.niebauer@cuanschultz.edu

[Join the 1971 Facebook Group](#)

Check out Omaha Central Class of '71 [website](#)

Class of 1980 & 1981 Combined Reunion

August 27-28, 2021

Grant Gier (1980) ggier@comcast.net (847) 772-0069

J. Scott Barker (1981) sbarker@episcopal-ne.org (402) 830-5240

[Join the 1980 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1985

September 17-18, 2021

[LaConda Scott McKinney](#)

402-517-7138

[Take the reunion survey](#)

Class of 1986

September 17-19, 2021

[Email the Organizer](#)

Class of 1990

POSTPONED – Fall 2022

[Ben Rouch](#)

402-598-2669

[Join the 1990 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1991

October 8-9, 2021

Contact: [Sara Torrens](#), Michelle Moerke, and Seraphim Carlson

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 2001

September 24-25, 2021

[Ally Freeman](#) and [Quinn Metal Corbin](#)

[Class of 2006](#)

October 8-9, 2021

Jim Hubbard

james.d.hubbard@gmail.com

[Class of 2010](#)

September 10-11, 2021

[Sierra Hogan](#)

402-740-0379

2010centralhigh@gmail.com

[Class of 2011](#)

October 8-9, 2021

Completed: 1976

No Reunion: 1950, 1955, 2015

Cancelled: 1965, 1995, 2000, 2005

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your 2021 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.

Support CHSF While You Shop!

Support Central High School Foundation.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

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

[amazonsmile](https://smile.amazon.com)

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



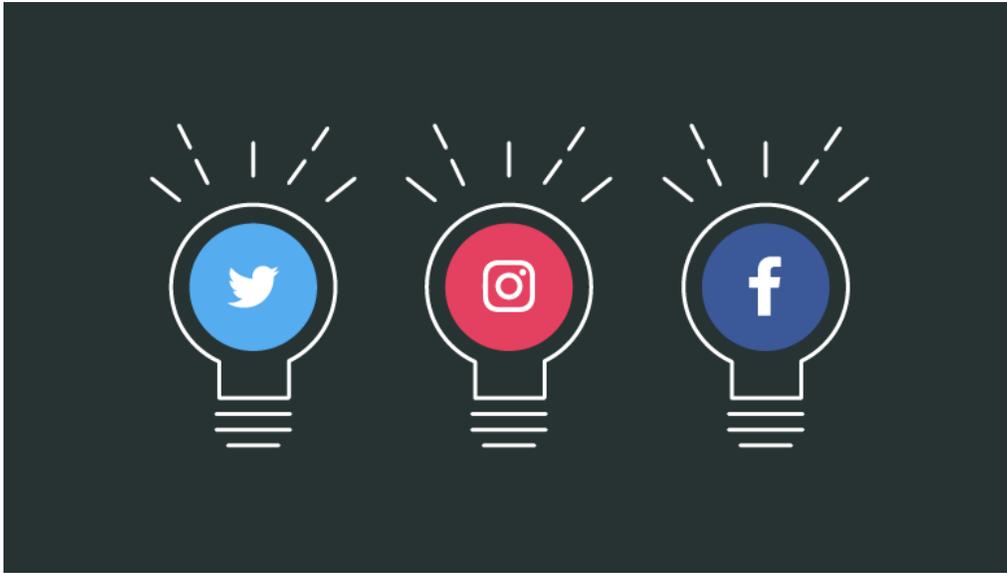
The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation. The app, available on [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, is free to download and easy to set up.

Using the app, you can snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School

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.

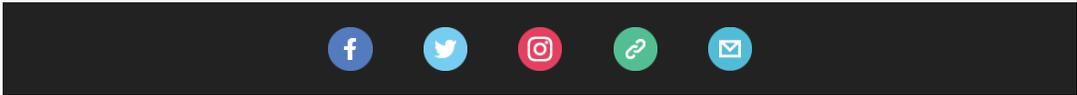
Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

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 Partner



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