

Cougar Parents,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season and the beginning of a new year. One of the most difficult things about returning to school after the holidays and the beginning of second semester is to refocus students on the second half of the school year. Please make every effort to encourage your son/daughter to start the second semester with effort and a positive direction. The first few weeks are very important to their academic success for the next semester.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night**

For incoming students, Central Community High School will hold its 8th Grade Information Night on Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30 P.M. The evening is designed to assist new students in their transition to high school. Staff members will be here to explain the necessary steps in selecting course options and fulfilling other requirements to attend C.C.H.S. next year. In addition, we will have information available on the extracurricular athletics, groups, clubs, and organizations that will be available to students. We strongly encourage all interested students and their parents to attend and take advantage of the opportunity to tour the building, obtain information, and learn about the opportunities at Central Community High School. If you have a child entering high school next year, the 8th Grade Information Night is an important first step in making the transition. Please let others know about the event as well. If you require more information please email us at [cchs@centralcougars.org](mailto:cchs@centralcougars.org) or call us at 526-4578.

### **Registration for Classes**

Over the next few months we will begin registering students for the 2019-20 school year. The C.C.H.S. Guidance Counselors will be speaking in several classes to returning students and setting up a completion of this process at Central. Students should refer back to the “Four-year Plan” documents received as a freshmen or speak with your counselor about this information. The curriculum guide listing all course offerings and descriptions can be found on the school website under “Academics“. Parents and students should review these materials and contact the Guidance Counselors if you have any questions about graduation requirements or recommendations for course selections.

### **5Essentials Survey**

In the coming weeks, all CCHS students will be asked to participate in the 5Essentials Survey. This survey is part of an evidence-based system designed to drive improvement in our school. 5Essentials will provide individualized, actionable reports that will be used by our School Improvement Team.

The 5Essentials system is based on more than 20 years of research by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research and it was designed to measure the five components found below:

- Effective Leaders: The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.
- Collaborative Teachers: Teachers collaborate to promote professional growth.
- Involved Families: The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.
- Supportive Environment: The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students and support students to realize their goals. Classmates also support one another.

- Ambitious Instruction: Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.

Each of the areas (mentioned above) have been determined to be critical for school success and we very much appreciate your child's participation in the 5Essentials survey. You will be receiving more information on how to participate in the coming weeks.

### **Curriculum Revisions**

We are hopeful that the final changes implemented this year in the Career and Technical curricular areas have been positive for our students. Many of you may have noticed the changes along with the new instructional materials we now utilize. As part of these curricular revisions, we will be making revisions and purchasing new materials in the Language Arts Department for next year. In addition, the faculty members in the Mathematics area will begin working on a study of their courses and reviewing new teaching materials for adoption in the future. The teachers at Central are enthusiastic about these new adoptions for our students and the opportunity to make revisions in a curriculum study cycle. Please do not hesitate to contact one of our counselors to discuss these changes during the registration process.

### **The “Q”**

The Qmlativ Family Access portal allows all parents access to grade and attendance information at the touch of your fingertips. You can also review your child's food service account information. We hope that the automated notifications are providing information for you throughout the grading periods and school calendar as well. If you are not accessing the Qmlativ Family Access portal at this time, we strongly encourage you to do so. You can email us at [cchs@centralcougars.org](mailto:cchs@centralcougars.org) and we will provide you with a username and password that gives you access as well as any assistance you require with the system. We want to make The “Q” a system through which Central can work with parents to enhance every student's success. The “Q” is for you!

### **Cougar Incentive Program**

Central has an Incentive Program for good student performance and effort in three areas including attendance, grades, and behavior. Students must have an attendance rate of almost ninety-seven percent (less than two and one-half absences) over a semester, have a semester Grade Point Average of 2.67 (B- average), and receive no more than one detention (for a minor infraction) during the school year in order to qualify. Students who fulfill the criteria then receive a “ME DAY” during the following semester. This day can be utilized with a parent contact to the school and is considered a “field trip” day meaning they can prearrange the absence and make up assignments for grades. Since Seniors in their second semester have no way of receiving the reward of the Incentive Program, they can qualify for exemption from final examinations with an “A” average and less than one absence.

An announcement will be forthcoming concerning the recipients of a “ME DAY” for student performance and effort during the first semester of the 2018-19 school year. Students who qualify for the “ME DAY” will have an opportunity to utilize a day for a good purpose. We encourage students to utilize their “ME DAY” for productive educational or family related activities. We request that parents work with the school in discussing that utilization and reinforce the purpose of the Incentive Program. Central feels that this program offers benefits to students for good participation and performance throughout each semester.

## **The One-to-One Chromebook Experience**

After experiencing over one year of a One-to-One Chromebook environment for all students, Central Community High School feels it has been a tremendous success! Each student enrolled at Central has received a Chromebook for school and continued home use. Students have found this to be a great extension of their learning possibilities and it has provided a growth in their skills. The use of technology does not diminish the vital role of teachers or the school as an institution, but has transformed teachers and the school environment from directors of learning to facilitators in the process. Students now have greater opportunities to direct their own learning, access more information, and engage a larger community in intellectual discourse. Learning and studying are no longer restricted by the pages in a book, or the walls of a classroom, or the hours in a school day. A One-to-One Chromebook environment has transformed our classrooms into centers for learning that will extend to all parts of student life.

Many of your students are experiencing new methods of instruction by our teachers. As even more exciting transitions unfold, you will see your student gain an appreciation for the platform the One-to-One Chromebook program provides. It seems that each day there are new methods of instruction growing from the program and more success stories for our students. We hope you feel the same and continue to share in our excitement. It has been a great investment for the future. We are certain that the program will continue to grow in its impact upon the education of our students.

### **All Cougars Can Succeed!**

Central Community High School continues to be a great institution of learning for young people in our community. The core academic areas and college preparatory curriculum has expanded and offers students courses that prepare them for post-secondary institutions. In addition, students have the opportunity to take courses in business and technology, agriculture, industrial occupations, family and consumer science, health occupations, and the fine arts. Our music, dance, drama, sports teams, along with other groups, clubs, and organizations provide students the chance to work with others and demonstrate leadership. All of our students can also participate in exceptional extracurricular experiences. The music, dance, drama, athletic teams, along with other groups, clubs, and organizations provide students the chance to lead and work toward a common goal with others. The One-to-One platform ensures that every student will have the opportunity to learn in an engaging environment reflective of the ever-changing world around them. C.C.H.S. offers students the chance at a well-rounded and diverse learning environment as a beginning to a lifetime of learning and success.

We look forward to the challenges of the second semester and the upcoming year. If you would like to discuss any of the information above, or any other matter related to Central Community High School, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address located on the website or call me at 526-4510.

It's Great to be a Cougar!

*Kevin Meyer*