

Cougar Parents,

The end of the Third Quarter grading period has arrived and the signs of Spring are all around us! We have had a great school year at Central Community High School and we hope for even better things during the closing months of the year. The spring will bring busier days with all of the activities and end-of-the-year events. We will be reminding students that continued progress in courses and their concentration on academic success needs to remain their priority.

Since there has been one school cancellation for inclement weather this year, the school year calendar has been only slightly altered. We have included the revisions for the last few weeks of the calendar in the announcements for your reference. There are also several other items that we would like to give you information about at this time.

College Plans

Many Seniors will be making final plans on college choices and post-secondary pursuits. These are difficult decisions and we can provide assistance. If you have any questions concerning the application process or searching for financial assistance, please contact the Junior/Senior Guidance Counselor, Ms. Trisha Lohman. Our daily announcements include the college visit schedule and scholarship information. Please refer to the Student Handbook to obtain information on taking a college visit day at any time during the school year. Please let us know if we can help you with the process.

One-to-One Chromebook Usage and GoGuardian Implementation

Overall, the One-to-One Chromebook program has been a great success in its initiation during the 2017-18 school year. Students are finding the use of Google Classroom and the ability to access the Internet for research and information to be a tool that enhances critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, multi-media research, information sharing, and interaction in a global environment. Central has altered its educational process as a result. Students and teachers have reported that the use of One-to-One Chromebook devices and Google Classroom methods have transformed teaching and learning. C.C.H.S. Staff members have also worked with their curricular area colleagues to develop meaningful integration of this technology.

However, there are also negative situations that come with instant access to information. Teachers have found that students can be distracted by this access and some students choose to utilize it to view information during class that is not conducive to the educational process. As we all know, tools such as chromebooks and instant communication can sometimes be used for negative purposes. As a result, the Technology Team and Administration at Central have been researching various methods to control these issues in a productive manner. Recently, you were informed of a pilot program with some of our teachers called GoGuardian. This program allows teachers to control access during class time, which helps students stay focused on classroom activities and goals. It also provides us with a method to supervise the usage of the chromebooks and filter inappropriate content. More information about this program will be coming in the near future.

We are grateful to the Board of Education, Administrators, Teachers, Support Staff, Parents and the Community for their commitment to our students and to the new initiative. With any growth opportunity comes risk, expense, and unknown factors. We knew that we would encounter some challenges. However, we have found great benefits in new methods of teaching and learning that will advance our students into exciting areas. We look forward to a continuation of the program and partnering with our students, parents, and staff to work through challenges in order to create optimal learning experiences.

Handbook Committee

The C.C.H.S. Handbook Committee has started its annual review of policies and procedures for next year. Each year a new representative group of parents, students, and staff members participate in this process. Some of the best perspectives and revisions that we have made over the years have come from these annual discussions. If you have questions regarding this process, or would like to discuss potential changes in the Student Handbook, please contact the Administration. We would be happy to discuss it with you.

Final Exams

When you review the changes to our current school year calendar, you will note that our plans for second semester exams over a three-day schedule will continue. We have found that this allows for better preparation and less student stress since no student will be required to take four exams in one day. Exams will be scheduled with review sessions in between exam periods to assist with more preparation by teachers.

Similar to first semester, all students will be required to take exams. The only exception for second semester applies to those deserving Seniors who have qualified for exemption due to the incentive program. Seniors may be exempt from finals if they achieved a certain level of excellence in attendance, behavior, and grades during first semester. Although these exempt Seniors will still be required to attend until May 16th, they may be exempt from exams if they qualified under the criteria and will not be required to attend during all or portions of the three-day exam scheduled dates of May 17, 18, 21. Students who are required to take exams, will all take exams on these three dates and those who qualify under the incentive criteria will receive their incentive rewards the first semester of next year. You can find the incentive program criteria in the Student Handbook.

Upcoming Events

The school calendar is full of other seasonal activities and events including the following:

March 14	.....	Spring Dinner Concert (7:00 P.M.)
March 15	.....	HOSA Blood Drive (8:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M.)
March 20	.....	Parent / Teacher Conferences (6:00-8:30)
March 21	.....	National Honor Society Induction (7:30 P.M.)
March 22	.....	FFA Banquet @ Albers Legion (7:00 P.M.)
March 28	.....	1:15 P.M. Early Dismissal
March 29-April 2	.....	Spring Break
April 13	.....	Fourth Quarter Mid-Term
April 13-15	.....	Spring Musical ("Annie")
April 16	.....	Scholar Bowl Reception and Awards Ceremony (7:00 P.M.)
April 25	.....	Clinton County Academic Excellence Banquet (Senior Honor Students)
May 4	.....	Classroom Recognition Awards (10:00 A.M.)
May 4	.....	11:30 Dismissal (School Improvement Meetings)
May 5	.....	Junior/Senior Prom
May 9	.....	Academic Achievement Awards (7:00 P.M.)
May 11	.....	Spring Concert (7:00 P.M.)
May 17, 18, 21	.....	Final Exams
May 20	.....	Athletic Banquet (6:00 P.M.)
May 22	.....	Senior Breakfast and Rehearsal (8:00 A.M.)
May 24	.....	Graduation Ceremony (7:00 P.M.)

These are just some of the events going on at Central before the end of the school year. Please make sure to follow the announcements on the website at www.centralcougars.org. We will also place a schedule of end-of-

year dates, exam schedule, and graduation activities in the announcements as well. As these events unfold, we hope students enjoy the final months of the school year.

FINISH STRONG!

C.C.H.S. students have achieved great things this year! We have also had tremendous achievements in extracurricular activities and groups, clubs and organizations. We would like to remind parents to encourage their students to maintain a direction and focus on the appropriate priorities and responsibilities. Students need to stay the course and finish the journey toward the final destination and end of the school year! A major portion of our second semester curriculum is yet to be covered and huge rewards still remain pending during the rest of the year. Please encourage your students to continue studying and working toward achievement.

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 us at cchs@centralcougars.org or call us at 526-4578.

It's Great to Be a Cougar!

Kevin Meyer