

Cougar Parents,

The start of school is upon us and enthusiasm for the school year is growing! I would like to emphasize some points that can assist you and your child in their success during the upcoming 2017-18 school year. This is especially important for incoming freshmen who will be spending their first few days at Central.

If students are going to be successful at Central it takes a cooperative effort among stakeholders. All members of the "COUGAR TEAM" must be involved and working for the same goal of student learning and success. This is also true for all components of learning curriculum content as well as student growth, maturity, and independence. After all, students should leave Central with the ability to learn in different environments and have skills necessary to cope in an ever changing world. Having knowledge and understanding of content is necessary, but possessing the ability to analyze, integrate, and apply that knowledge as a lifelong learner is a more crucial goal.

In order to accomplish these things, we must work as a TEAM. The members of that team include the people at Central. All people who work at Central (Administrators, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and Support Staff) want your child to succeed. We care and are committed to supporting your role as a parent and your child's efforts. We will be concerned facilitators in the classroom and in all student programs. But, we are also here to hold students accountable for their work and their behavior. High school students are young adults and we will treat them appropriately. We have an excellent staff and have the best interest of all students at heart.

As parents, you are also an integral part of the team. As educators we request your support in our efforts to provide educational services and direction for your child. In this manner, we can provide consistency and reinforcement for our instruction, guidance, and sometimes even correction when necessary. We have the Qmlativ Student Management System with a Family Access Portal that enables parents and students to access grades, attendance, food service account status, and other information.

Nothing will ever replace direct communication between the parent and the school. Therefore, we encourage parents to make personal contact in the form of emails, phone calls, and routine correspondence with your child's teachers. We will guarantee you that inquiries by you will receive a response within two days. We will also provide you with avenues to obtain information that is up-to-date including the website at www.centralcougars.org and the Skylert automated phone and email message system. For those that support our athletic programs, we have implemented the Athletes 8-to-18 System that can be found on the website under Cougar Athletics. It provides immediate information on games, scores, rosters, schedules, and cancellations. Any Cougar fan can register on the system and get updates at any time.

In order to assist parents with interaction with the school, we will have our Technology Staff and the Athletics Department here during registration dates to assist in accessing these programs, and other programs that parents might find useful. Registration dates will be held on Tuesday, August 1st through Friday, August 4th from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. each day and from 4:00 P.M. through 7:00 P.M. on August 2nd. Parents will have a chance to register on these systems and be provided usernames and passwords at that time. We are hopeful that parents will take advantage of the opportunities and work with us in making the best usage of technology and direct methods of discussion.

We also would love to see all of our parents be involved with students and the school! Whether that is personal involvement with your child by assisting them with homework, checking their work, reading with them, attending school functions, or joining organizations such as the Parents and Alumni Working for Students (PAWS), the Committee to Support Central (CSC), or the School Community Council (SCC). There are many opportunities that parents can take advantage of to develop involvement and be a part of student success and school activities.

Finally, we know that students themselves must be a big part of the equation in their own success. From the first day of school, we will be discussing the things that they need to do to get the most out of their time at Central. The most important traits that students can possess are reliability, responsibility, respect, leadership, a positive attitude, and EFFORT. One will never reach success without having a positive approach and attempts to achieve. All students will obtain the appropriate level of success, consistent to their capability IF they make effort each day and demonstrate the characteristics listed above.

This year, all members of the school community are going to be involved in a transition to a One-to-One Chromebook environment that we have decided to implement for the 2017-18 school year. Many teachers have started implementing things like Google Classroom, instructional methods that utilize electronic communication skills, and interactive technology on a daily basis. Central has done training and developed policies and procedures in a system in which all students can utilize technology as a tool. We have specific plans for a deployment of equipment and implementation of procedures for use and maintenance. Our entire school community is ready for teaching and learning methods that are possible in the advanced technological age in which we live. It is an exciting time to be a Cougar!

Again, the TEAM approach is the only way we will be successful in truly educating our young people. The members of this TEAM include the Administration, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and Support Staff at the school. Parents make up an important part of the TEAM. And finally, students are also accountable for their own achievements and accomplishments while at Central. Only by working together in a collaborative manner can C.C.H.S. achieve its ultimate goal. We hope that each student has a great year and a four-year career at Central that is full of vast experiences while gaining the skills and abilities necessary to be their best.

I would like to thank each of you in advance for your assistance in making the upcoming year successful. We look forward to working with parents and students in making it a great experience. If you have any questions on any matter concerning Central Community High School, do not hesitate to contact me at kmeyer@centralscougars.org or at 526-4510 anytime.

It's Great to Be A Cougar!

Kevin Meyer