



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

March 9, 2020

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

We are officially in March Madness as we prepare our scholars for the upcoming Georgia Milestones that begin next month on April 27th! Please note our community updates for your review below:

Academics:

Centennial Scholars in 3rd - 8th grade participated in **GoSTEAM Innovation Day** at Georgia Tech on March 7, 2020. Scholars had an opportunity to experience groundbreaking art and technology projects in a hands-on, interactive, science fair format and meet practitioners from Atlanta, Georgia Tech, and around the world. After the fair, scholars and their parents were invited to attend the Guthman Competition Concert at the Ferst Center for the Arts!

The United Way of Greater Atlanta has awarded Centennial a **Transition Mini Grant** in the amount of \$2,250. These funds will allow our School Readiness Coordinator, Ms. Jennitra Zachery, to conduct transition activities with our rising kindergarteners, particularly from our Early Learning Partner Schools, Arthur M. Blank YMCA and Sheltering Arms Early Learning Center.

Student Life & Leadership:

Young men from Centennial's 5th grade class participated in BEST Academy's First-ever **STEM Invitational** on February 27th. During this day-long event, 50 young men from Centennial, Cleveland Elementary, M. Agnes Jones, and TAG Academy participated in various coding and robotics competitions. This event was designed to serve as a pipeline opportunity for STEM education at BEST Academy, while also exposing scholars to mechanical engineering and computer programming. Siddarth Gupta from Centennial took home first place and received a drone as the top prize!

Georgia Tech will be awarding six spots for scholars to participate in the **K-12 InVenture Camp** this summer! It will be sponsored by the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC) held on Georgia Tech's campus the week of June 22-26. This is the first time that scholars will be able to participate in this opportunity!

Centennial's 8th-grade Emerging Legends completed their first day of **Apprenticeships** on Friday, February 28th. This year, we were able to place scholars at The Coca-Cola Company, Georgia State Capitol, Delta, The Integral Group, and Arby's Inspire Brands among many others. A special thank you to all of our board members for their continued support to make this college and career opportunity happen for our scholars!

Spring Sports have officially begun and our scholar athletes are participating in Track and Field and Baseball this season. In our first meet on Saturday, March 7th, Centennial placed several Top 8 Finishers including a First Place win in the 400 Meters Race! Please come out and cheer on our Heroes as well as give a High-Five to our scholar-athletes who finished out a strong basketball season including a Top 4 Placement for the boys team!

Human Resources:

A special thanks to Board Members Ms. Chaundra Gipson and Mrs. Lakrista Jordan for their participation in the second round of principal interviews! Our third round of **Principal Interviews** will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, March 10th, with the Top 3 Candidates: Dr. Quentina Pruitt of Mobile, Alabama, Shaun Heckstall of Maynard Jackson High School, and Jennifer Cappelli of Sutton Middle School. Please plan to attend the Community Forum tomorrow evening from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm where candidates will present their 90 Day Plan, share a personal STEAM Leadership Snapshot, and engage in Q&A before having an opportunity to mingle with stakeholders.

Employee Appreciation Day was held on Friday, March 6th and all staff members were treated to a healthy lunch from Get Fruity Cafe in the Teachers Lounge. The meal (*and delicious smoothies and fruit cups*) was so well received that we may begin offering food for purchase to staff members on select Fridays for the remainder of the year!

Community:

Centennial Academy scholars will appear on **Atlanta & Co.** on Wednesday, March 11th to promote the upcoming Atlanta Science Festival. Please tune in to this live television broadcast at 11:00 am on 11 Alive, your NBC Station, to view our scholars perform an interactive science experiment. Thank you to Mr. Maurice Baker and **Georgia Natural Gas** for providing this opportunity!

Amechi Thomas, Centennial Academy and PTA member, has spearheaded a **Centennial Academy Softball League**. This will be a weekly gathering of parents and staff to fellowship and potentially play other charter schools as well. We are rumored to have a game against Kindezi Charter School this spring! Thank you Mr. Higgins for your participation in this fun and healthy opportunity!

Facilities & Operations:

On February 25th, I attended the Grady Cluster Conversation regarding the future use of the Inman Middle School Building. At this time, there are several ideas that have been generated by the community including:

A: Open a K-5 Elementary Campus

B: Open a 4-5 Campus

C: Open a 5-6 Campus

D: Address Capacity (Build additions/make other capital improvements, Use modular classes, etc.)

E: Address Enrollment (Adjusting/Rezoning school and/or cluster boundaries)

The APS Facilities Master Planning Committee will present final recommendations at the APS Board of Education Retreat on April 30, 2020 in advance of a final vote.

We experienced a burglary on the evening of March 5, 2020 at approximately 3:00 am on our main campus. There was forced entry at the back door entrance next to the Media Center. At this time, our APS Security Resource Officer and members of the Senior Leadership Team are working with the Director of Security Operations for APS to complete an investigation. No items were stolen and there was no damage to the building as a result of this incident.

Enrollment:

The spring **FTE Count** was on the first Thursday of the month, March 5, 2020. At this time, our enrollment is 822 scholars, 22 scholars over the 800 enrollment cap. This includes our current homeless enrollment caseload of 104 scholars.

Lastly, we are closely monitoring the Coronavirus cases impacting the metro Atlanta area. Centennial Academy will follow guidance from Atlanta Public Schools and public health officials to determine the impact to our school community. We have ordered additional cleaning supplies and have equipped all staff members with additional Clorox Wipes, Lysol Spray, and Hand Sanitizer. In the event that school must close the physical campus, we will utilize our online platform to continue the instructional programming via Cyber Academy.

Thank you again for your continued support and partnership!

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar

Tequila Lamar
Head of School