



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

May 11, 2020

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

As I prepare this Head of School Report for the month of May, it is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end in two short weeks. All digital learning instruction via Cyber Academy will conclude this Friday, May 15th and next week our scholars will be engaged in end of year activities. This is certainly not how any of us may have envisioned the school year concluding but in true Centennial Academy fashion, we remain united as one community.

For your review, I have included pertinent updates below:

Academics: Scholars will have an opportunity to be recognized during virtual end of year celebrations for their academic and athletic accomplishments. All scholars who participated in winter and spring sports will have a virtual sports banquet Wednesday, May 13th - Friday, May 15th for basketball, baseball, track, cheerleading and eSports. Additionally, Awards Day and Field Day activities for Kindergarten - 7th grade scholars have all been planned by our Centennial staff members during next week's end of year celebrations. Lastly, we are excited to announce a Drive-Thru & Wave Celebration in special recognition of our Emerging Legends Class of 2020 8th-grade scholars. On Friday, May 22nd, our 8th grade educators, leadership team, and staff will line the parking lot of Centennial Academy to celebrate our scholars as they drive through the Centennial Academy front parking lot to receive their commencement tokens from Centennial including a personalized yard sign, class t-shirt, and graduating diploma. The 2020 commencement video will be looped on our website, social media pages, and Google Classroom on the 22nd. We will ensure the link is shared to all board members as well.

As the current school year continues to wind down, the leadership team and various committees have been actively planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Under the direction of our incoming principal, Mr. Heckstall, the administration team is working to devise a school-wide plan that will provide additional instructional time (extended school day/year, virtual learning, Saturday programming, etc.) to compensate for the missed face-to-face instructional time during the COVID-19 school closure. The school wide plan will ensure additional time for teachers to review concepts and skills that are necessary to achieve proficiency of the new grade level standards. This coincides with our considerations of all possible scenarios for next school year, either face to face instruction, continuation of distance learning, hybrid approach, or a delayed start to the school year. Although APS plans to share guidance with charter school leaders upon our return from the Memorial Day Holiday, Centennial wants to ensure that we have gathered internal and external thought leaders to proactively plan for our safe return.

Personnel: Last week, Centennial Academy Educators all received an Amazon gift card as a small token of gratitude from the Senior Leadership Team as a part of Teacher Appreciation Week. The fun continues for staff May 25 - 29 as the Educator Advisory Council has planned fun activities throughout the week including guided meditation, fitness classes, virtual games, staff superlatives, team awards, and a cooking class with our very own Senora Corrales.

Professional Development continues to be a focus for building teacher capacity. Centennial Academy will send six teachers to Georgia Tech beginning this summer to receive 70 hours of STEAM professional development focused on research and design experiences. Teachers will then implement a STEAM project during the regular academic year, participate in collaborative discussion forums and assist with program data collection efforts. Ten teachers will also receive Computer Science Fundamentals training with Code.org as a part of our Georgia Tech CEISMC partnership. Additionally, twelve staff members, including teachers, academic coaches, and the administration team, will virtually attend the Project Based Learning (PBL) 2020 World Conference next month.

The Centennial Academy Talent Committee is still actively recruiting and hiring for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to our full virtual interview schedule, we are on track to be 100% fully staffed by Friday, May 29th. We will share the final staff roster during the summer board retreat.

Our new principal, Mr. Shaun Heckstall, has enjoyed several experiences as a part of his listening tour and planning sessions with various stakeholders. EL Education continues to provide consulting services as a part of our school improvement efforts. Last week, EL Education led the team in a day-long data analysis deep dive and is providing strategic support in crafting a work plan specific to Centennial's student achievement goals. Mr. Heckstall will have his second focus

group with staff members in the coming weeks and continues to meet with individuals and departments to plan for various aspects of the upcoming academic year.

Facilities & Operations: Kudos are in order for our Facilities Manager, Mr. Cory Gilmore, for successfully orchestrating our end of year building closeout. All 110 staff members adhered to a very precise and thoughtful plan to clear out classrooms and offices while adhering to safety and social distancing guidelines over a four-day period. As a result, APS Operations has been granted full access to Centennial's building in order to begin work on the summer HVAC project.

Enrollment:

Grade Level	Total	Grade Level	Total	Grade Level	Total
Kindergarten	80	3rd Grade	112	6th Grade	97
1st Grade	103	4th Grade	94	7th Grade	73
2nd Grade	90	5th Grade	97	8th Grade	73
				All Grades	819 (+4 since April)

In conclusion, please enjoy this video that serves as a reminder that we are [#CentennialSTRONG!](#)

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar

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Head of School