



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

October 19, 2020

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

We have concluded Quarter I of the 20-21 school year! The week prior to Fall Break, our scholars and staff enjoyed our first ever virtual Homecoming Week. It was such a treat to see that the distance between us has not slowed down the school spirit of our Centennial Academy Heroes. Please [click here](#) to view a snippet of our Homecoming Week fun that commenced with a drive-thru Homecoming Parade!

For your review, I have included a few of this month's updates below:

Academic Excellence: Scholars have completed STAR and iReady assessments as shared in the Accountability Committee Report. Although we recognize the work ahead of us in reaching our goal of 60% proficiency in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, I am optimistic that we will achieve this milestone. In comparison to historical assessment data, our proficiency percentages are higher for the 20-21 school year as compared to the first STAR Math assessment during the 19-20 school year in all grades except 6th and 7th. Further, our proficiency percentages are higher for the 20-21 school year as compared to the first STAR ELA assessment during the 19-20 school year in all grades except kindergarten and 8th. During next month's reopening plan presentation, the instructional team will share additional information pertaining to Centennial's intensive intervention plan.

School Culture: Over 60 8th-graders were recognized as Centennial Academy's 20-21 Class of Emerging Legends and officially received their Blue Coats of Distinction. Thank you to our 8th-grade parent and Board Member, Mr. Walt Higgins, who delivered remarks at the virtual event. If you were not able to attend, then please take a look at the [video](#) at your convenience (*please do not share publicly*). We are so proud of our scholar leaders!

Additionally, our scholars are continuing to display the HERO character traits by being **Helpful, Engaged, Responsible, and Open-Minded** throughout Cyber Academy. To continue to reward their great behavior, our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Team has planned creative incentives each week to keep the scholars motivated and engaged. Check out this week's highlight reel to even catch a glimpse of our Centennial staff members getting creamed in the face (*myself included*) as a special treat for our heroes!

Community Partnerships: Centennial Academy will continue to cultivate family and community partnerships to ensure success for every scholar. This month, we are particularly thankful to our Centennial Academy board members:

- Thank you **Mr. Maurice Baker**, and Georgia Natural Gas, for providing Centennial with \$5,000 to directly support technology initiatives! Additionally, Mr. Baker and Georgia Natural are providing the Fuqua Boys and Girls Club with \$10,000 to ensure that Centennial scholars continue to have access to their micro-learning site.
- Thank you **Dr. Howard Grant**, for the Atlanta Housing Authority's scholarship support at the YMCA to ensure Centennial Place Apartments scholars continue to have access to the micro-learning site at Arthur Blank.
- Thank you **Ms. Rewa Berry** for connecting Centennial with Peachtree Road United Methodist Church for this year's Christmas Kindness program. Centennial families will receive two toys for each child and a household item for each family. A coat, hat and gloves for each child will also be provided.

We have also been working with our EL school partner **Amana Academy** as they journey along STEAM renewal certification so that we can learn best practices and prepare for our own STEAM certification process.

Fundraising: This month, we partnered with Coxe, Curry & Associates to submit a grant request to the **United Way of Greater Atlanta and Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta** in the amount of \$100,00 for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. Additionally, we have submitted a request to **Atlanta Public Schools** for Title II Professional Development funds in the amount of \$28,850. This will directly support our work with EL Education to provide continuous professional development and support to our Centennial Academy staff members. I am also pleased to report that Centennial has been rewarded a \$39,000 facilities grant from the **Georgia Department of Education** for the 20-21 school year. Lastly, a special thank you is extended to the Toco Hills **Office Depot** for selecting Centennial Academy as their Round it Up Program school recipient. We received a gift card in the amount of \$2,761.00 to spend on supplies for our staff!

Current Enrollment:

Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity
Kindergarten	65/100 (+3)	3rd Grade	80 /90 (+4)	6th Grade	76 /85 (+6)
1st Grade	77 /90 (+4)	4th Grade	103 /90 (+10)	7th Grade	78/85 (+4)
2nd Grade	98 /90 (+9)	5th Grade	88 /85 (+6)	8th Grade	64 /85 (+1)
				All Grades	729 /800 (+47)

Transitional Enrollment: 50 (-2)

At this time, the Atlanta Public Schools District has decided to delay a return to face-to-face instruction until January 2021. This decision comes after monitoring public health data that is currently trending unfavorably.

Although Centennial's target return date has always been January 2021, we have now modified the date to January 19th in order to align with the district.

For additional reference, please note that Centennial survey data indicated that 67.8% of families and 59.1% of staff are either "*Extremely Uncomfortable*" or "*Somewhat Uncomfortable*" returning to the building for in-person instruction. Additionally, 53.1% of families prefer to continue "*Remote Learning*" in January and 29.9% prefer a "*Hybrid Model*" in January. For staff, 39.4% prefer to continue "*Remote Learning*" in January and 48.5% prefer a "*Hybrid Model*" at that time. It was especially encouraging that 80.8% of our families indicated that Cyber Academy is providing "*high-quality and engaging instruction*" for their scholar(s)!

We will issue an official Intent to Return Form for all scholars and staff tomorrow after our all staff Academy meeting. We will utilize this information to finalize our reopening plans. Please note that we will present our draft reopening plan during next month's board meeting on November 9, 2020.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our scholars and staff as we continue to strive to meet our high standards of **Excellence!**

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar
Tequila Lamar, Head of School