



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

December 14, 2020

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

We have made it to the end of a truly remarkable year! For good or for bad, the entire world has shifted during 2020. In years to come, our scholars will be able to share “*survival stories*” on how they navigated a global pandemic. As we look to better days ahead once the Coronavirus vaccine becomes widely distributed, I am thankful that our community has remained intact and stronger than ever. We will hold on to the valuable lessons of innovation and creativity, as well as the ability to pivot, as we embark upon the new beginnings of 2021!

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

Academic Excellence: Please plan to join us this Wednesday, December 16th on Leadership Day as we launch our annual K-8 Project-based Learning (PBL) virtual showcase, **STEAM City!** Centennial's scholars have worked incredibly hard throughout the first semester on their interdisciplinary projects and will have an opportunity to present their projects to the community. During the Leadership Day Program, we will feature scholar presentations and showcase a trailer of scholar projects via Zoom. The [Kindergarten - 4th Grade Presentation](#) will be held at 8:30 am and the [5th - 8th Grade Presentation](#) will be held at 9:30 am. If you are unable to attend the morning sessions, please visit our [Centennial Academy website](#) where you can peruse the Virtual PBL showcase at your convenience.

We are also looking forward to welcoming author Kelly Milner Halls tomorrow afternoon for a virtual author visit! Kelly Milner Halls is a full-time children's writer, specializing in quirky topics for reluctant readers. She and our phenomenal Media Specialist, Ms. Jennifer Burke, will be inviting 3rd - 8th grade scholars into the **Wonders of Weird** to explore cryptids, legendary monsters or mystery creatures. This is a great way to end our **Reading Revolution Challenge** where we asked K-8 scholars to keep track of everything they read over the last month. So far, 61 scholars have read 2,115 books in 609 hours which averages to about 3 books an hour. Kudos to Ms. Burke for leading this challenge for our scholars!

School Culture: Scholars and staff have enjoyed a fun-filled **Delightful “Digital” December to Remember 2020!** We started the month with a Winter STEM Challenge where scholars used marshmallows to create a winter inspired STEM project. Their creativity was impressive and a lucky winner from each Academy won a free pizza! Among a slew of other activities, my personal favorite was our **Family Movie Matinee** last Friday when scholars and staff came together to view Jingle Jangle but I'm sure scholars are particularly excited about this week's Pajama Party! Staff were also included in the fun with a chocolate chip cooking class led by our Computer Science Teacher, Ms. Monica Taylor, and a Sip and Paint class led by our 2nd grade teacher, Ms. Kelli McDowell. We'll be wrapping up the festivities this Friday with a **Drive-Thru Winter Celebration** as we head into our two week winter break. A special thank you to our Dean of Culture, Ms. Angel Hendricks, and our Educator Advisory Council President, Ms. Kelli McDowell, for planning and organizing our engagement activities.

Professional Capacity: As a part of our strategic initiative to develop a **Performance Management Process** for 100% of staff, we are well on our way to meeting our mid-year target. In addition to a full TKES/LKES roll out for instructional staff, our operational team is also gearing up for mid-year reviews beginning in January. Thank you to our HR Team, Ms. Freeman and Ms. Ware, for their thoughtful execution of this heavy lift during the 20-21 school year!

Additionally, I am pleased to report that our **Intent to Return Surveys** were released to staff last Tuesday and to date, we have already received responses from 58% of the staff with a “Yes” to return for the 21-22 school year. The form is not due until January 8th, 2021 and I will provide a final update during next month's board meeting.

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**, for providing arts education opportunities for our Centennial Academy scholars through a continued partnership with the Alliance Theatre! The **Georgia Natural Gas Sponsorship** will provide 200 scholars an opportunity to view the virtual production of **Sit-In** written by Atlanta's bestselling

author, playwright, and Civil Rights Activist, Pearl Cleage. The scholars will also receive a study guide to inspire conscientious social activism as a part of our STEAM curriculum!

We are also thankful to all board members, staff, parents, and community partners who have contributed to our **Centennial to College Scholarship Fund**! These funds will provide book scholarships to our first-ever graduating class of Centennial Academy 8th-grade alumni (Legends) who are now graduating high school seniors. We are asking for a gift of at least \$20.17 to commemorate their graduating year of 2017 and we have raised over \$1500 so far! Please [click here](#) to make a donation!!!

Current Enrollment:

Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity
Kindergarten	63/100	3rd Grade	81/90	6th Grade	76/85
1st Grade	76/90	4th Grade	105/90	7th Grade	77/85
2nd Grade	96/90	5th Grade	89/85	8th Grade	63/85
				All Grades	726/800 (-2)

Transitional Enrollment: 51

Reopening Update:

Centennial has crafted a reopening plan to safely allow scholars and staff to return to the building beginning on Monday, February 1, 2021, while also maintaining a remote learning option for families. It remains imperative that we continue to place the safety and wellbeing of our scholars, community, and staff as our top priority.

Following guidance from Atlanta Public Schools, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Public Health, Centennial will continue to track the following [COVID-19 Core Indicators](#):

- 14-Day Case Rate Category
- Trend Data in the number of new cases

If the 14-Day Case Rate Category is HIGH (*over 100 cases per 100K reported*) and INCREASING (*greater than 5% change in the number of new cases*) in Fulton County, Georgia on January 18, 2021 per the COVID-19 Status Report on the [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) website, then Centennial will continue with 100% remote learning for an additional two weeks and monitor every two weeks thereafter. Communication will be shared with all stakeholders (*district, parents, staff, and community*) and posted to all communication channels (*website, social media, email, etc.*) every two weeks. For reference, the current COVID-19 status report as of today is both HIGH and INCREASING with 471 cases reported per 100K over the last two weeks. Our Executive Leadership Team has worked together to revise Centennial's reopening plan based on additional guidance provided by APS. Our final plan is due by January 15, 2021 and we are positioned to submit it early on January 5th for final approval. We will continue to keep the board abreast of additional developments as they become available.

I will leave you with a [final video](#) as a testament to the great work of our Centennial Academy scholars and also a trailer for what is to come this Wednesday during our STEAM City PBL Presentations! Happy Holidays Board Members and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!!!

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar

Tequila Lamar, Head of School