



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

February 8, 2021

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

It's iHeart Centennial Month! This is the time of year when our community comes together to celebrate all of the reasons why we **Love** Centennial Academy. A special thank you is extended to the chair of the Educator Advisory Council (EAC), 2nd Grade Teacher, Ms. Kelli McDowell, and all of the committee members for ensuring that our staff feels loved and appreciated with special activities planned throughout the month. Board members, please feel free to join us for our iHeart Centennial Drive-Thru Celebration on Friday, February 19th from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The leadership team will host this event to provide our staff with #CentennialSTRONG sweatshirts, lunch, and a special iHeart Centennial trinket. Thank you to our co-chairs, Ms. Stephanie Hodges and Mr. Julien Siah, for their leadership in planning this fun-filled day!

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

Academic Excellence: Congratulations are in order for Ms. Erika Hall, Centennial's Department of Special Education Lead Teacher, as she has been selected as a member of the **National Charter Collaborative Special Education Community of Practice** for the 2021 calendar year! Ms. Hall, along with our Lower Academy Assistant Principal Mr. Ereco Maddox, will have an opportunity to partner with New York University's Metro Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation for Schools. Centennial will also receive a monetary grant award of \$25,000.

Kudos to Centennial's STEAM Specialist, Ms. Summer Blackmon, for receiving an **Alliance Theatre Institute Scholarship!** This partnership will allow Centennial scholars to receive a free Slam Poetry virtual workshop this spring. We are excited to welcome our Alliance Theatre Teaching Assistant to Centennial as we continue to serve as champions for Arts Education!

School Culture: This month, scholars will be exposed to learning about ancestors of various genres and make comparisons to the world in the present day as a part of Centennial's Black History Month Celebration. Scholars will also have an opportunity to learn ways to persevere during the face of adversity and feel empowered to make positive contributions to the world as an embodiment to our theme, "*I Am My Ancestors' Wildest Dreams!*" Please take a look at our Black History Month [kick-off video](#) where you may recognize a couple of special friends of Centennial including Yglesias Hollins from The Coca-Cola Company and Dr. Raheem Beyah, the new Dean of Georgia Tech's College of Engineering!

Professional Capacity:

Last Monday, we released our 21-22 employment contracts to all eligible 10-month employees. After only one week, we have already received a return of 85% acceptances. The deadline for submission is this Friday and I will provide an additional update next month. We will extend contracts to all eligible 12-month employees on April 1st.

Community Partnerships: Centennial Academy will continue to cultivate family and community partnerships to ensure success for every scholar.

- Today, Centennial Academy hosted our own Immunization Mobile Clinic Event. We are thankful to our partners at the **Children's Hospital of Atlanta (CHOA)** and **The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Team** for working with our school nurse, Ms. Karesia Davis, to make this event possible!
- This semester, our 4th grade scholars will be engaging in a Glider Project with the **Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Tech**. In this project, our scholars will learn more about the engineering design process and practice applying problem solving and critical thinking skills through the design, build, and test of a small glider aircraft.
- Centennial's 8-week artist residency with the **Children's Museum of Atlanta** and cellist Okorie Johnson is now underway! Scholars will work with Okorie Johnson to expose them to music creation and composition, culminating in a performance of the music created during the residency.

Current Enrollment:

Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity
Kindergarten	66/100	3rd Grade	81/90	6th Grade	79/85
1st Grade	75/90	4th Grade	104/90	7th Grade	75/85
2nd Grade	97/90	5th Grade	89/85	8th Grade	67/85
				All Grades	733/800 (+7)

Transitional Enrollment: 49 (-2)**Reopening Update:**

As we plan for a safe return to campus for in-person learning, Centennial is continuing to monitor the trend data in the number of new COVID-19 cases in Fulton County. The first two health data checks conducted on January 18th and February 1st indicated that the levels were still in the substantial spread category (*over 100 cases per 100K reported*), 868 and 566 respectively. As of today, the reported cases per 100,000 in Fulton County is 443 per the Georgia Department of Public Health. This represents a steady decline over the past few weeks. We are hopeful that the data will allow for an eventual safe return to in-person learning for staff and the 31% of scholars who have elected to return to the building. However, we remain extremely cautious and will continue to prioritize the health, safety, and wellbeing of our entire community.

At the end of my last Head of School Report, I included a teaser video for our STEAM City PBL Presentations. Our educators have now launched the projects for the second semester. If you're looking for a few chuckles at the expense of my poor acting skills and dance moves, then take a look at the [PBL Launch video](#) for 5th grade. It's always a treat to bring a smile to the faces of our Centennial scholars!

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar

Tequila Lamar, Head of School