



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

March 8, 2021

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

Happy Women's History Month! As a part of our month long virtual celebration, we are excited to partner with the Atlanta BRE Book Rich Environment and the National Book Foundation to host an author's visit with Ms. Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate U Give*. Ms. Thomas will speak about how reading has inspired her to become a writer, discuss her published books, and provide tips for future writers. As a part of the visit, scholars will receive copies of *Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone and *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramee!

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

Academic Excellence: March is also the month for March Madness!!! Our Assistant Principals, Ms. Hodges, Mr. Maddox, and Mr. Siah, have planned a robust intervention plan to help drive growth and student achievement. One component of this plan is a return to small group in-person learning for **Super Saturday**. For every Saturday in the month of March, scholars will receive remediation in the areas of reading and mathematics on identified skills from the iReady diagnostic as well as the Reading Decoding Survey. Kindergarten - 3rd grade teachers will be supported by The Rollins Center for Language and Literacy. The first session was held this past Saturday on March 6th and we had 70 scholars to attend! Our second initiative, **Beyond the Bell**, begins tomorrow morning at 7:15 am before the school day officially begins. During this time on Tuesdays - Fridays, identified scholars will work on an individualized pacing guide and progress monitoring will be conducted weekly. Based on the gains achieved from this initiative in the fall semester, we are optimistic that our scholars will continue to show improvement. The last initiative that will be launching this week will be **Thursday Hero Hour**! During the afternoon W.I.N (What I Need) Block, each member of the Expanded Instructional Leadership Team will host an enrichment group in the areas of English Language Arts, Math or STEAM. The scholars will be offered a menu of enrichment small groups including *Fun with Phonics*, *Vocabulary*, *Math Fluency*, and *PSAT Prep*.

School Culture: Kudos to our Dean of Culture, Ms. Hendricks, and the entire Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Team for the tremendous strides they are making in building a positive culture at Centennial Academy. We have been selected by **EL Education** as an exemplary school for our morning Crew Sessions. Dr. Tarika Sullivan, PD Specialist for EL, will film our dynamic teachers and scholars in action to provide examples to the greater EL Community of what each crew indicator looks like in action. For reference, I have highlighted a few of the indicators that we have focused on developing at Centennial this school year:

- *Crew leaders ensure respectful, inclusive interactions among Crew members.*
- *Crew leaders use team building, group problem solving or other collaborative activities to foster a strong sense of community.*
- *Scholars have an opportunity to practice empathy, integrity, respect, and compassion as part of Crew activities.*

Professional Capacity:

As a follow up to my report last month, I am pleased to announce that of the 74 contracts that were issued to all eligible 10-month employees which includes teachers and instructional leadership team members, **100% were accepted**. This is a testament to our strategic priority of building a strong and cohesive culture at Centennial Academy and is directly aligned with our strategic goal of achieving 80% retention among staff this academic year. Our Human Resources Team was previously informed by three of our esteemed educators that they would not be seeking a contract for the 21-22 school year and we wish these #ForeverHeroes well in their future endeavors. One educator will be returning to his home state of North Carolina and the other will be teaching abroad in India! Lastly, 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.

- Centennial has a new partnership with **Grady Cares**, a neighborhood organization that serves students in the Grady High School cluster who are experiencing homelessness and poverty with emergency access to food, clothing, and supplies. Within 48 hours of our first meeting last week, the director Linda Brenner, personally delivered air purifiers, headphones, and face masks to Centennial as a free donation.
- Centennial has also received a \$5,000 Innovation Fund Grant from **redefinED Atlanta**, a local education nonprofit, to support our Beyond the Bell intervention program. Our program was selected for its focus on mitigating learning loss and advancing equity through a 21st Century Learning Lens.

Current Enrollment:

Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity
Kindergarten	65/100	3rd Grade	80/90	6th Grade	77/85
1st Grade	75/90	4th Grade	105/90	7th Grade	73/85
2nd Grade	96/90	5th Grade	90/85	8th Grade	67/85
				All Grades	728/800 (-5)

Transitional Enrollment: 51 (+2)

Reopening Update:

Centennial is continuing to monitor the trend data in Fulton County as we plan for a potential return to in-person learning. Over the past seven weeks, we have seen a steady decrease in the number of positive coronavirus cases. As of today, there are only 215 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Fulton County. This is a drop of 653 cases since we began conducting health data checks on January 18th. In anticipation of the numbers falling below 100 and no longer in the substantial spread category, our Senior Leadership Team has been preparing both academically and operationally for a return to campus.

January 18th	February 1st	February 15th	March 1st	TODAY (March 8th)
868	566	331	230	215 (↓653 since 1/18))

We released an Intent to Return Survey to our Centennial Academy families and 29% of scholars indicated a preference for in-person learning, that is a total of 213 scholars. Additionally, we are pleased to report that educators are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Many of our teachers have appointments this week and APS is hosting a mass vaccine event during the last week of March at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. It is important to note that 16 educators have filed an accommodation request with our HR Team for a continued 100% remote work environment due to either medical or childcare concerns. If we elect to move forward with reopening plans, staff would return on Monday, March 29th and scholars would return on Monday, April 12th immediately following Spring Break. This would grant an opportunity for in-person learning for those selected scholars during the 4th Quarter of the school year.

Following this report, we would like to share the slide deck detailing Phase II of our Reopening Plans and welcome any constructive feedback of the board. As always, thank you for your ongoing support!

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar

Tequila Lamar, Head of School