



## Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

---

May 10, 2021

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

Our Centennial Academy Community is committed to finishing the school year STRONG with less than three weeks remaining in the school year! It's hard to believe that as we distribute book scholarships to our Legends Class of 2017 this Saturday as they head off to college, that the following week, we will hold Commencement for our Legends Class of 2021 as they matriculate on to high school. The Centennial to College vision is being materialized right before our eyes!

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

**Academic Excellence:** We are presently in Week 4 of Centennial's Spring Innovation Academy (SIA)! This program is providing personalized intensive instruction to a small group of scholars based on their identified needs. Matt Underwood, Executive Director of the Atlanta Public Schools Office of Innovation, stopped by Centennial for a visit and saw our 150 scholars in action. Look for the special shout out he gave us on Twitter! As this program is also serving as the first phase of our reopening model, we are also pleased to report that scholars and staff are adhering to all COVID-19 safety protocols. Temperature and health screenings are conducted each morning, everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, and classrooms are arranged to allow for 6 feet of social distancing. Additionally, 80% of staff and 50% of scholars are tested weekly for COVID-19 as a part of the district's surveillance testing program. There have been zero positive cases thus far.

This also marks the last week of Georgia Milestones State Assessments Testing. So far, we have had zero irregularities/invalidations to report to the district thanks to our Testing Coordinator, Mr. Eresco Maddox, and his team! We should start to receive initial results at the end of May. However, we do not have a final date for achievement scores as it relates to school, district, and state comparison scores.

**School Culture:** Now that we have both "Roomies" in the building for the Spring Innovation Academy and "Zoomies" fully engaged in remote learning via Cyber Academy, our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Department is supporting all of our scholars as we continue our intentional focus on character development and community building. Scholars still begin each day engaged in our EL Education CREW sessions with increased opportunities for scholars to interact and continue their connections with their homeroom classes even though they may be in two different locations. Additionally, there is counseling and social work support both in the building and online, as well as tele-mental health counseling provided by Pathways and wraparound support provided by Communities in Schools. In order to maintain consistency among expectations, all scholars continue to earn LiveSchool incentive points for perfect attendance, class participation, meeting behavior expectations, and being in uniform each day. We will close out the year with incentive celebrations for scholars including Movie Days, Drawing Days, and a Kick Back & Chit Chat!

### **Professional Capacity:**

We are presently conducting our year-end performance reviews which will include manager and self assessments as well as 360 evaluations for members of our Senior Leadership Team. Over the summer, we will continue our focus on professional development and building staff capacity by working strategically with our Human Resources Department and outside consultants.

As a staffing update, we only have the following vacancies for the 21-22 school year: School Nurse, Kindergarten Associate Teacher, K-5 Performing Arts Teacher, Special Education Teacher, and Lower Academy Academic Coach. As we proactively prepare for returning to campus in the fall and the challenges that will ensue both academically and culturally, we have also added an Attendance Specialist and Director of Data and Accountability position to our organizational structure. Two of our new hires for the 21-22 school year included Georgia State University CREATE Teacher Residents that served as Student Teachers for the 20-21 school year. Now that these educators have graduated and are fully certified, they will now serve as lead teachers and will continue to receive mentorship and professional development as a part of the GSU CREATE Program. This was the vision of our partnership with the CREATE Program and we are excited to see this educator pipeline truly coming to fruition! Further, this is in addition to the relationship that we have cultivated with the School of Education as we have recently been notified that three new student teachers will be assigned to Centennial in the fall!

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

- We are grateful to the **Usher New Look Foundation** for partnering with Centennial this year for a reimagined 8th-grade apprenticeships experience. Our Emerging Legends will participate in a series of workshops including financial literacy, professionalism, career planning, and contributing to the community. All sessions will take place virtually and scholars will also have a mock interview experience conducted by members of our CA community.
- Our Artist Residency with the **Children's Museum of Atlanta** is coming to an end this month. The culminating event will take place on Sunday, May 23rd and Centennial scholars will have an opportunity to meet cellist, Okorie Johnson, in person at the museum. As a special treat, the museum will have our scholars' art work framed and on display and the session will include time for scholars to celebrate, play, and explore the museum as well! This speaks to the "A" in our STEAM programmatic focus even in the virtual environment!

We currently have a need from our community to support our SIA Program in the area of food insecurity. Last week, we were informed by APS that the district would no longer be able to provide weekend meals, Friday-Sunday, for our families. As we know, SIA scholars were selected from among our most vulnerable populations, including Centennial Place Apartments residents and transient scholars. Ideally, we would like to continue the offering of meals and groceries to support families during the time that SIA is not in session. I have reached out to a few board members and community partners for support. If you would like to support or have information about a community resource that may be able to assist, then please let me know!

**Current Enrollment:**

Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity	Grade Level	Total/Capacity
Kindergarten	65/100	3rd Grade	79/90	6th Grade	76/85
1st Grade	75/90	4th Grade	104/90	7th Grade	72/85
2nd Grade	97/90	5th Grade	91/85	8th Grade	66/85
				All Grades	725/800 (+2)

**Transitional Enrollment: 50**

**Reopening Update:**

As we prepare for Phase II of our reopening plan, Centennial's Summer Innovation Academy, we are excited to expand our reach and invite 300 scholars to join us on campus during the month of June. In partnership with The Ascent Project, scholars will receive personalized instruction in reading and math, connections courses, and innovative afternoon sessions focused on STEAM activities, 21st Century Skills, and age appropriate activities such as Storytelling, Coding, Robotics, Chemistry, and Animal Skills. We are also exploring opportunities to partner with the YMCA and Art of Problem Solving during the summer program as well. Phase III of reopening will be a full return to campus in the fall with five days of in-person instruction. For families interested in the continuation of virtual learning, Centennial will partner with the Atlanta Virtual Academy for all grade levels, K-8. Through AVA, scholars will receive synchronous instruction from a designated AVA instructor while still remaining enrolled as a Centennial Academy scholar. To date, only 6% of families have expressed an interest in a virtual option for the fall.

As always, thank you for your support!

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar, Head of School