



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

September 9, 2019

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

This week marks our first full month of school! On Day 1, our scholars were treated to a warm and lively reception by the Georgia State University cheerleaders, Georgia Tech Buzz mascot, PTA parents, Centennial Academy staff, and an onsite DJ! Dr. Cynthia Hudson also received a surprise visit and gift from APS Deputy Superintendent, David Jernigan, and Office of Innovation Executive Director, Matt Underwood!

Despite several major summer facilities projects including Upper Academy Lofts/Bathroom Removal, Electrical rewiring, Fire Alarm Panel replacement, and HVAC repair, we were 100% ready to receive scholars on Day 1 without any relocations to offsite locations - a huge WIN for our team!

Academics: The embargo of the Milestones scores has been lifted and communication regarding Centennial's results has been shared with our community. A copy of the letter that was sent home was shared during last month's Accountability Committee presentation and I delivered a data presentation during the first PTA meeting of the year on August 28th.

MobyMax Assessments for all scholars, Kindergarten - 8th grade, concluded last week and this week the instructional team will take a deep dive into the data and meet with grade level teams to discuss next steps.

Student Life & Leadership: The highlight of this year's iNspire Educators Banquet were the speeches delivered by our Centennial Academy scholars. We were intentional in making this year's event more scholar-driven to provide even more scholar leadership opportunities and our scholars were exceptional in their public speaking and delivery. A special thank you is extended to The Coca-Cola Company for sponsoring this event for the fourth year in a row and to our board members, Virginia Sheppard, Rewa Berry, Walt Higgins, LaKrista Jordan, and Demetrius Patterson for attending as well!

Centennial's 8th-grade scholars were formally recognized as the 2020 Class of Emerging Legends at this year's Convocation Ceremony held at Georgia Tech's First Center. Scholars received their official Centennial Academy "Blue Coat" and were charged with serving as leaders of the school among their peers. Thank you Demetrius Patterson and Virginia Sheppard for supporting our scholars at this event and to Board Chair, Mr. Egbert Perry, for giving remarks. Moving forward, we would like for all board members to have an opportunity to speak at these special school occasions on a rotating basis. If you are interested in giving remarks at Commencement on May 22nd, then please let me know!

The flag football season kicked off last Friday night against the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School! Although we didn't walk away with a victory, Emerging Legend Donovan McCoy led the Heroes with three touchdowns and Emerging Legend Jonathan Brinson led the team with 11 solo tackles! Please join us this Friday as we cheer on Coach Allen Henderson (6th Grade Social Studies Teacher) and our scholar-athletes as they face off against Chattahoochee Hills Charter School at 6:00 pm.

School Culture & Community: On Saturday, August 3rd, Centennial scholars, parents, staff, friends of Centennial, and City Councilwoman Clea Winslow all pitched in for our inaugural Back to School Beautification Bash. Over 70 volunteers came together and worked on several campus projects including painting our parking lot, redecorating restrooms, creating an outdoor classroom, and beautifying our front atrium. Both WSB-TV Channel 2 and CBS46 featured the hard work of our community on the evening news.

Centennial participated in the Atlanta Public Schools Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 10th. Parent, Educator, and Scholar Ambassadors volunteered their time to disseminate information about our school to the 10,000 families that were in attendance. APS families, including many from Centennial, were able to receive free book bags filled with supplies and goodies from the plethora of vendors that were in attendance including Georgia Natural Gas and the Atlanta Housing Authority.

Last week, Centennial scholars were recognized at our first Hero Breakfast/Leadership Day of the school year and their parents were treated to a reception immediately following the program. This year, scholars will serve as the keynote speakers for the Hero Breakfast as we intentionally work with our scholars on public speaking, strong presentation skills, and building their confidence. Parents and staff have been invited to provide feedback on the Portrait of a Legend as we work

together to craft expectations for Centennial's focus on "Whole Child Development" with key metrics for scholar expectations, staff alignment, and parent participation.

As Atlanta Public Schools continues to host community cluster conversations, Centennial leadership was present during last week's Grady Cluster meeting held at Grady High School. This provided us with an opportunity to continue to build relationships within the Grady cluster with other principals, district staff, and school board representatives who were all present for this packed event.

Human Resources: Centennial began the 19-20 academic year with a fully staffed team at 100%! This year, we have 108 heroes at 84 instructional team members (78%), 14 support team members (13%), and 10 senior leadership team members (9%). Of those 108 staff members, 24 were new heroes that were first welcomed at a new staff dinner held at Ormsby's planned by our Wellness & Athletic Director, Coach Paul Skowronski (thank you Mr. Patterson, Mr. Handy, and Mrs. Jordan for attending) and then officially onboarded by receiving the history of Centennial Place by Board Chair, Mr. Perry, and members of The Integral Group's senior leadership team.

APS' Board has approved the \$3,000 raise for certified teachers as promised by Governor Brian Kemp. The Office of Innovation has indicated that information is forthcoming regarding additional allocations beginning in December for charter schools to support the increase. For now, we are estimating an additional increase of approximately \$100,000. Our HR Team has indicated that in order to support this initiative, an additional \$97,500 would be needed to fund raises for certified teachers, associate teachers, counselors, and media personnel in order to meet an overall increase of \$3,000 over 18-19's salary. Without additional revenue from APS, support staff and administrative staff would not be included in this increase. Once final allocation numbers are received, then a formal proposal will be presented to the board via the Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee.

Finance & Operations: Centennial's 19-20 Annual Fund kicked off with a \$2,000 Beautification Project Goal! With special thanks to Maurice Baker and Georgia Natural Gas, as well as board members Chris Burke, Howard Grant, Panya Yarber-King, Rewa Berry, and Renee Glover, we raised \$3,550!!! For the month of September, we have set a goal for \$20,000 to support one to one technology in Kindergarten - 2nd grade. The \$60,000 technology cost has been offset with \$40,000 in funds from the The Kellogg Grant.

The Connolly Foundation is continuing their support of Centennial Academy through a \$15,000 grant for the 19-20 year to support arts integration programming. These funds will support professional development as a part of our pathway to STEAM Certification.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded Centennial Academy a \$7,000 Innovation Summit Pilot Grant to continue mental health counseling, parent education, and wraparound services for our scholars in transition. Kudos to our Director of Strategic Initiatives, Ms. Stephanie Hodges, for writing this successful proposal!

Our new Chief Finance/Operations Officer, Dr. Antonio Raymo, has been working diligently with APS on our \$40,000 Facilities Grant, \$30,000 Security Grant, and ensuring that we received over \$50,000 in Title I carryover from the 18-19 school year.

Partnerships: A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to continue our partnership with Everybody Wins! Power Lunch Reading Program. This will afford Kindergarten - 4th grade scholars, with an identified need in reading proficiency, an assigned year-long mentor to provide one-on-one reading support during lunch every week. We also have a 19-20 Memorandum of Understanding with Pathways Transition Programs to provide mental health counseling for K-8 scholars during the school day. Former Centennial Academy Lead Counselor, Lisa Miller, will serve as the Clinical Counselor assigned to our site. T2S is also continuing the partnership with Centennial to provide trauma-informed professional development, mental health counseling for Upper Academy scholars and their families, as well as offsite counseling support for Centennial staff.

The Georgia Aquarium hosted an onsite orientation for senior leaders and members of the curriculum team to kick off our continued partnership to offer STEAM professional development for all staff, shared classroom space for weekly gifted instruction for both Lower and Upper Academy, and extended community programming to include parent education.

This week, Horizons at Georgia Tech begins after-school programming with Kindergarten - 8th grade scholars providing two hours of STEAM enrichment activities after completing one hour of weekly homework help.

Georgia State University Honors College has provided Presidential Scholars to serve as volunteers in the areas of scholar-leadership, athletics, communication and development, and mentor programs.

On Sunday, August 11th, The Worship Center donated 1,000 notebooks to close the gap for our most vulnerable scholars during their worship service where our very own Centennial Place families were in attendance.

Enrollment

Grade	Projected Enrollment	Actual Enrollment
Kindergarten	59	78
1st Grade	92	102
2nd Grade	95	87
3rd Grade	104	108
4th Grade	98	91
5th Grade	106	104
6th Grade	87	90
7th Grade	80	75
8th Grade	79	71
TOTAL	800	806

We're looking forward to a PHENOMENAL year!

Warmest regards,

Tequila Lamar

Tequila Lamar
Interim Head of School