



## Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

October 7, 2019

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

We are one week away from the conclusion of our first quarter! As we continue to make progress towards our strategic goals, please note pertinent updates below:

### **Academics:**

Initial **MobyMax Assessments** for all scholars, Kindergarten - 8th grade, have concluded and the data has been shared in this month's Academic Accountability Report. Centennial's principal, Dr. Cynthia Hudson, has presented the instructional strategies that the team is now employing including daily Intervention/Enrichment Blocks for all scholars, weekly Tutorial Sessions, and monthly Saturday Academy Workshops.

Our Instructional Team visited Powder Springs Elementary School for a day-long demonstration of the **ArtsNow** arts-integration program. Centennial received a \$15,000 grant from the Connolly Foundation to implement a carefully structured arts-based pedagogy that promotes collaboration, creative and critical thinking, and will aid in our ability to apply principles across different disciplines. The Instructional Team is currently developing a professional development plan that will support not only our new Arts Integration Specialist, Ms. Summer Blackmon, but also a self-selected cohort of 20 teachers to learn arts-integration strategies for classroom implementation. Thank you to board member, Mr. Chris Burke, for making the introduction to ArtsNow!

### **Student Life & Leadership:**

Our **Scholar-Athletes** have been fully immersed in sports during Quarter One including flag football, cross country, and cheerleading. Our Athletic Director, Coach Paul Skowronski, is currently leading tryouts for girls and boys basketball. Through our partnership with the Arthur Blank YMCA, we are saving costs this year by holding practices in the YMCA gymnasium which cuts down on travel and rental expenses associated with the prior use of Central Park Gymnasium. Be on the lookout for the basketball schedule and we look forward to seeing you all in the stands cheering on our heroes!

**Scholar Clubs** will kick off upon return from Fall Break. This year, we are offering a variety of clubs aligned with our Strategic Goals including STEM Club hosted by Georgia Tech, Student Ambassadors, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girls Who Code, Girls on the Run, Beta Club, Academic Bowl, Safety Patrol, Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, and Junior Coaches.

This past Saturday, our Arts Integration Specialist, Ms. Blackmon held an open casting call for **The Wiz** Auditions. Over 65 scholars participated by performing 2 minute monologues, songs, or dances. Selected scholars will be announced this week! We will share a save-the-date announcement as we confirm details for this year's spring production.

### **School Culture & Community:**

Scholars and staff are equally excited about this week's **Homecoming** Festivities! Scholars will engage in various spirit activities throughout the week commencing with our Homecoming Flag Football against Westside Atlanta Charter on Friday night at Badgett Stadium. Please wear your Centennial spiritwear and come to support our heroes!

**Red Ribbon Week** is the oldest and largest drug prevention awareness campaign in the United States. Centennial will formally observe Red Ribbon Week from October 28 - November 1, 2019. During Red Ribbon Week, scholars will focus on drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention, mental and physical health, as well as bullying prevention. Ms. LeCrisha Webb, our Lead Counselor, is seeking volunteers to serve as speakers. Please consider sharing your time and talents with us!

Our second **Leadership Day** will be held on Wednesday, October 9th and we are celebrating scholars who have demonstrated Habit #2 - Begin with the End in Mind. Additionally, our Family Liaison, Ms. Toshia Meadows, will host a parent reception immediately following the Hero Breakfast. This program will be completely scholar led as we are focused on increasing scholar leadership opportunities and building their capacity.

Over 20 volunteers from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and the Kiwanis Club of Atlanta introduced the concept of philanthropy to our third and fourth grade scholars by reading the book, *The Adventures of Phil An Thropy*, and

engaging in art activities in each classroom in observance of National Philanthropy Day. As a special treat for our scholars, they were able to meet the author who actually served as a volunteer for the event! This was our third year hosting **Philanthropy in the Classroom** at Centennial Academy and several scholars had an opportunity to practice their public speaking skills while being interviewed for WSB-TV Channel 2 after the event.

#### ***Human Resources:***

Effective immediately, Dr. Antonio Raymo is no longer serving as the **Chief Financial/Operations Officer** of Centennial Academy. We wish him all the best. Centennial is quite fortunate that Mr. Steven Pressas, who successfully worked with Centennial as our CFO for most of the Initial Charter term, has agreed to work with the School as our CFO as we take a step back and conduct a critical analysis of the current structure and needs at this time. This will provide Centennial Academy continuity with our financial and back office operations as we sharpen our analysis of those functions. It will also allow Centennial to remain laser-focused on driving excellence in our academic performance. Please welcome Mr. Pressas back to the Centennial family.

Centennial's **Director of Strategic Initiatives**, Ms. Stephanie Hodges, has been selected to participate in the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) Preschool - 3rd (P-3) Grade Leaders Fellowship. Through this fellowship, participants will build their capacity to address early education needs across the preschool to 3rd grade spectrum, while working with fellow leaders to ensure that children experience a seamless educational pathway and are prepared for future school success. She is joined by several leaders in APS including Monishae O'Neill from Drew Charter School, Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk, Principal at M. Agnes Jones Elementary, and Felicia Hurst, Director at Sheltering Arms Model Teaching Center.

#### ***Finance & Operations:***

A surprise **Atlanta Fire Rescue Department Inspection** was held today and we are happy to report that we received zero violations! A special thank you to Mr. Cory Gilmore, Facilities Manager, for his diligent efforts to ensure our fire panel was updated and functioning properly.

An **APS Facility Assessment** was conducted last week by Parsons/MGT. The facility assessment consisted of two components, condition and educational suitability. The MGT Consulting Group met with Ms. Hodges and reviewed the educational components of the school and conducted a building tour to determine future building sustainability. A report from Parsons/MGT will be prepared and shared with APS at a future date.

#### ***Partnerships:***

Ms. Hodges, Director of Strategic Initiatives, hosted our first, Friends and Partners Lunch-in-Learn session on Thursday, October 3rd. Two sessions were offered, 9 am and 12 pm, for friends, partners, strategic partners, and potential partners of Centennial Academy. Over 65 attendees were present to learn about the various ways they can engage with Centennial Academy, including an overview of Saturday Academy and Apprenticeships, and how they can align with our strategic goals. The presentation included a focus on our history and an intentional focus on our "why." The feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees included Matt Underwood from the APS Office of Innovation, Michelle Wirth from Georgia Charter Schools Association, Greta Sims from the Coca-Cola Company, Jayleen Talton and Tatyanna Ferguson from the Arthur Blank YMCA, Sirocus Barnes and Heidi Turcett from GA Tech, Mike Davis and Felicia Hurst from Sheltering Arms, Joseph Clanton and Kim Nguyen from T2S Enterprises, Celesta Watson and Bailey Dawson from the Georgia Aquarium, Jennifer McCrary, Dwayne Watkins, and Tywonika Orum from the East Lake Foundation, Jennifer Daberly from Franklin Covey, and a host of other friends and partners. A very special thank you to board members Rewa Berry, Walt Higgins, and Lakrista Jordan for your attendance!

**Enrollment:**

Grade	Projected Enrollment	August 2019	September 2019	Transitional Scholars
Kindergarten	59	78	78	11
1st Grade	92	102	101	13
2nd Grade	95	87	88	10
3rd Grade	104	108	105	10
4th Grade	98	91	92	6
5th Grade	106	104	104	7
6th Grade	87	90	91	8
7th Grade	80	75	75	5
8th Grade	79	71	68	4
TOTAL	800	806	802	74

*\*The current enrollment of transitional scholars is the highest among all APS schools. Please see the attached chart.*

**Board Member Kudos:**

Thank you to Mr. Maurice Baker for ensuring our scholars continue to experience the arts through a collaboration with Fox Theatre! Ms. Summer Blackmon is currently working with the Community Engagement Manager to schedule Fox in a Box visits with our scholars. Also, thank you to Ms. Rewa Berry for leading the charge to create an official Centennial Alumni Association. We had a great initial planning meeting and are looking forward to the official launch in the spring!

Thank you again for your continued support as we navigate a successful 19-20 school year!

Warmest regards,

*Tequila Lamar*

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Interim Head of School