



Head of School Report to the Board of Directors

November 11, 2019

Greetings Centennial Academy Board of Directors,

Our community has truly come together over the past month as we have endured unexpected personnel changes, bitter cold mornings, traffic delays due to the President's Rally in our neighborhood, and a grueling softball match against our parents that left us achy and sore from old bones! However, so many of our heroes continue to charge ahead with optimism and pride displaying the perseverance and grit that make Centennial the "*Home of the Heroes!*"

Although we were off for a week due to Fall Break, there are several updates from the past month to share with the board. Please see below:

Academics:

Parent University - On October 10, 2019, our Family Liaison, Ms. Meadows hosted our second Parent University on Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 Plans. This session was led by Mr. Maddox, Assistant Principal for Student Support Services. Mr. Maddox reviewed the various aspects of an IEP and 504 plan including how often they should be updated, the implementation process, and how Centennial Academy supports scholars with accommodations from those plans. Currently, 6% of Centennial's population are identified as students with disabilities.

STEAM Certification Conference - From October 20-22, 2019, Ms. Hodges attended the Georgia STEM/STEAM Certification Forum in Athens, Georgia. As the state's premier annual STEM/STEAM event, the Forum brought together educators, leaders, and innovators from across the state who are united by a passion to advance excellence in STEM/STEAM education for all students. At this conference, Ms. Hodges gained valuable insight on how to propel Centennial's journey toward STEAM certification forward which has been shared with the school's STEAM certification team.

EL Education Instructional Walkthrough - On Friday, November 1, 2019, Paula Herrema, Regional Director for EL Education, toured our campus and conducted an instructional walkthrough of classes Kindergarten - 8th grade. The purpose of her visit was to explore how EL resources may help to support our strategic initiatives moving forward. Ms. Herrema shared the following positive feedback:

- We have established a warm, welcoming environment for our scholars; majority of scholars were engaged in the instructional activity
- Research-based instructional practices are evident in some classes including small group instruction, use of anchor charts, "*I can*" statements, and scholars were engaged in collaborative work sessions

The takeaway questions for us are:

- Who is Centennial Academy?
- What does it mean to be a Centennial Academy Educator?
- What are our consistent standards of practice?
- How is data driving our instructional practices and plans for improvement?
- How are we supporting scholars in becoming self-directed learners?
- How are we synthesizing research to reach our goals related to student achievement and culture?

As we continue to work towards becoming a school of choice and true leaders in the educational field, our commitment to this work must be greater than ever. We have to embody the Core Value of Excellence by recognizing our strengths, areas of growth, and creating a strategic and sustainable plan to reach our goals.

Student Life & Leadership:

Academic Bowl - Our Academic Bowl Team is headed to the Regional Academic Bowl competition! Please congratulate these scholars as they advance in this dynamic, yet rigorous, quiz bowl competition!

Football Season - Our scholar-athletes ended the season with a 26-24 victory over Hapeville Charter Middle School. It was a phenomenal effort by our squad. Coach Henderson was so proud of his scholars' display of grit, determination, and

endurance all the way to the very end. Although we didn't win the championship two years in a row, those young athletes are still champions in our book and brought a triumphant end to our fun-filled **Homecoming Week** celebrations.

Heroes at State Farm Arena - On Wednesday, November 6th, our Cheer Team, along with the Men's & Women's Basketball Teams hit the hardwood at State Farm Arena. The Women's Team fought hard and showed great perseverance, but were unable to come away with the victory. The Men's team battled all four quarters, and came away with the victory, 44 - 34. The Cheer Team stomped, danced, and cheered for not one, but both games! Thank you to Coach Watson, Coach Gentry, and Coach Willis, for leading our scholar athletes in our winter sports this season!

School Culture & Community:

The parents at Centennial Academy must be commended for their amazing work over the last month! We now have a full roster of dedicated **Room Parents** who volunteered throughout **Red Ribbon Week** to support the drug prevention programs led by our counseling team. On Friday, November 8, our back parking lot was buzzing with excitement as families enjoyed our annual **Fall Festival** sponsored by the PTA. This year's Fall Festival was complimented by a Centennial "**Trunk or Treating**" experience spearheaded by our Family Liaison, Ms. Toshia Meadows. This past weekend ended with a great show of sportsmanship as our Centennial parents beat out Centennial staff 8-4 in a friendly (but heated) game of **Softball** at the Carver YMCA!

Human Resources:

Today, we welcomed four **New Heroes** to join our Centennial Academy Family! Please welcome:

- Ms. Angela Wooten - 6th Grade ELA
- Ms. Asia Burke - 5th Grade All Subjects
- Ms. Cara Reese - 5th Grade SS/ELA
- Mr. Louie Blalock - Algebra I/8th Grade Math

Thank you to **Ms. Zachery** and **Ms. Blackshear** for accepting the challenge to serve as our New Teacher Coordinators! They will lead the Hero Huddle for our New Heroes this week, and they will guide a yearlong induction process for all educators new to Centennial. We look forward to their stellar support for our in-coming New Heroes!

Finance & Operations:

In order to address our concerns regarding safety and security, Chris Dorn, Senior Analyst with Safe Havens International, conducted an onsite campus **Safety Assessment** to help us improve campus safety and improve crisis preparedness. Staff members were interviewed regarding their safety concerns throughout the visit. This information will be used to craft our new Safety Plan and guide any decisions regarding additional security personnel.

Partnerships:

Atlanta Speech School - Ms. Lamar and Ms. Hodges attended the Atlanta Speech School's first Design Lab series. This series is in collaboration with Learn 4 Life partners to create a space for the continuation of the Cox Campus teacher professional development modules. During this first Design Lab, participants engaged in hands-on interaction with the suite of Cox Campus tools and co-crafted theories of adoption by exploring three user profiles. This work continues to be a catalyst for change within the P-3 Literacy continuum and we are honored to have a seat at the table.

Rollins Center - The Instructional Leadership Team and EIP Team met with Ms. Hodges and the facilitators from the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy on October 25, 2019. During this meeting, Rollins provided an in-depth training on Cox Campus and how Centennial can use this platform to bridge the gap. Rollins no longer provides on-site, live support for schools. Ms. Hodges is also currently working with the Rollins team to plan Parent University sessions at My Sister's House. Due to the closing of the Atlanta Day Session and a schedule conflict at My Sisters House, the sessions may have to be postponed until January.

Saturday Academy Partners - Several new and returning partners/friends of Centennial are participating in our second Saturday Academy session. This included students from Clark Atlanta University from Dr. Wendel Dandridge's class (The Worship Center), GSU Honors College Presidential Scholars and Student Athletics, YMCA offered competitive chess, Little Explorers LLC which provided computer programming courses, NEXT Steps Youth Entrepreneur Program, and Fashino LLC which offered graphic and fashion design for scholars. Little Explorers and Fashino are both parents of Centennial Academy!

ArtsNow Professional Development - All Centennial Academy staff members engaged in an introductory professional development session with ArtsNow on Tuesday, November 4th. During this session, facilitators invited Centennial Academy educators to explore arts-integrated instructional strategies aligned to Common Core and Fine Arts Standards. The strategies introduced promote 21st century skills, critical and creative thinking, student achievement, and academic growth. This introductory session set the foundation for our intentional focus on art integrated learning.

Enrollment:

Grade	Projected Enrollment	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019	Transitional Scholars
Kindergarten	59	78	78	81	12
1st Grade	92	102	101	102	14
2nd Grade	95	87	88	89	11
3rd Grade	104	108	105	107	12
4th Grade	98	91	92	90	5
5th Grade	106	104	104	102	6
6th Grade	87	90	91	91	7
7th Grade	80	75	75	75	5
8th Grade	79	71	68	70	5
TOTAL	800	806	802	807	77 (+3)

**The current enrollment of transitional scholars is the highest among all APS schools.*

Board Member Kudos:

Thank you to **Ms. Berry** for awarding **FREE** Hawks tickets as an incentive to our scholars and teachers last month! This was a special treat to recognize perfect attendance. Our heroes truly appreciated the opportunity and recognition!!! Also, thank you **Mr. Higgins** for participating in our Parents vs. Staff Softball Game! Great fun was had by all!!!

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