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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Eagle News *July 2026*



Thank you to Home Pride Contractors Inc for sponsoring Golf Fore Eagles this year!



Dear Supporter,

We hope that all of you have a happy Fourth of July weekend as we celebrate 250 years of our nation's independence!

Our 24th annual Golf Fore Eagles outing was another tremendous success this year. We had sunny skies, a full silent auction, and a great turnout. I want to thank the golf

committee for making this event something that our alumni and supporters look forward to every June.

Additionally, reunion committees are finalizing details for their class reunions happening this fall. If you have a reunion this year, please make sure to update your record on our website so that your physical invitation and event communications are mailed to the correct address. This pertains especially to recent graduates as we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Central High School Hall of Fame celebration on Thursday, October 8th. This special evening will honor our newest inductees. More details to come!

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate more than 167 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence.

Go Eagles!
Sincerely,
Michele Roberts
Michele Roberts, Executive Director

Golf Fore Eagles a Hole-in-One



Mike DiGiacomo '91, Jeff Wallerstedt '96, Dominic DiGiacomo '95, and Scott Moller

More than 170 golfers came together at The Players Club Omaha for the 2026 Golf Fore Eagles presented by Home Pride Contractors Inc., honoring Central's tradition while investing in the next generation of Eagles 🦅 Thank you to our alumni, parents, sponsors, and supporters for making this incredible day possible 💜 Please visit our Facebook to view our album of all the photos from the event!

Congratulations to all of this year's flight winners!

Flight 1

1st Place – Jamie Stogdill '96, Paul Swirzinski '96, Jed Ortmeyer '97, Justin Erspamer (56 strokes)

2nd Place – Brent Larson, Dave Ory, Damon Wagner, Jake Ahl (57 strokes)

Flight 2

1st Place – Jake Zukaitis, Connor Happer '10, Decature Banker '10, Kline Corey (59 strokes)

2nd Place – Marcus Polk '15, Jacob Franco '19, Joel Miller, Adam Turner (60 strokes)

Flight 3

1st Place – Doug Hegarty ’92, Robert McCormack ’92, Dave Brown ’89, Casey Knight ’90 (55 strokes- won in playoff)

2nd Place – Rob Likes ’91, Chris Harz ’90, Wiff Farrell ’91, Pat Driscoll ’93 (55 strokes)

Coed Flight

1st Place – Tony Driscoll ’03, Johnny Farrell ’93, Krista Malmos ’06, Steve Hogan ’04 (54 strokes)

2nd Place – Jerry Kohout ’59, Jerry Sweet, Tracie Sweet, Ryan Sweet (60 strokes)

A very special thank you to all of our hole sponsors this year!



Listed below are the flag pin prize winners:

Front #1 – Longest Drive in Fairway: Brian Walter ’95

Front #2 – Longest Putt Made: Angie Podoll

Front #3 – Closest to Pin: Jason Shearer ’89

Front #4 – Longest Putt Made: Tim Langan ’95

Front #5 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: Justin Erspamer

Front #6 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: Jeff Wiles

Front #7 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: Vicki Wiles

Front #8 – Closest to Pin: Chris Harz ’90

Front #9 – Longest Putt Made: Casey Knight ’90

Back #10 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: Jono Bradford ’95

Back #11 – Longest Putt Made: Marcus Polk ’15
Back #12 – Longest Putt Made: Pat Hill ’80
Back #13 – Closest to Pin: Jack Zukaitis ’10
Back #14 – Longest Putt Made: Johnny Farrell ’93
Back #15 – Longest Putt Made: Nick McKenzie
Back #16 – Closest to Pin: Ken Kroeger ’73
Back #17 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: Cecilia Taylor ’26
Back #18 – Longest Drive in Fairway: Mike Francl
Highland #1 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: Jim Lykke
Highland #2 – Longest Putt Made: Jacob Franco ’19
Highland #3 – Closest to Pin: Decature Banker ’10
Highland #4 – Longest Putt Made: Jabby Bakhit ’05
Highland #5 – Closest to Pin: Cale Dillenberg
Highland #6 – Closest to Pin 2nd Shot: John Ashland
Highland #7 – Longest Drive in Fairway: Will Denton ’05
Highland #8 – Closest to Pin: Jeff Darst ’94
Highland #9 – Longest Putt Made: John Maaske ’92

A special congratulations as well to this year’s honorees, Rob Likes ’91 and Steve Likes ’88! Thank you for helping ensure opportunities for Central students continue for generations to come.

Visit our Facebook

Your Impact: CHS Orchestra

FOUNDATION SUPPORT ELEVATES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN BAND AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

YOUR IMPACT

350 STUDENTS IMPACTED

AMOUNT FUNDED: $27,500



Project Proposal

Funds from the CHS Foundation helped the Fine and Performing Arts department pay for specialized sectional coaches and band technicians who, in conjunction with Central teachers, help students achieve higher levels of musical performance prior to auditions and competitions. In addition, the Foundation also subsidized hotel costs for out-of-town opportunities.

Translation to College and Career Readiness

Learning how to play an instrument is the best tool for students to learn patience, perseverance, and develop self-learning strategies. Being a part of an instrumental music ensemble such as band or orchestra teaches students to balance school, family, and social obligations with a demanding practice and rehearsal schedule.

"At honor band and orchestra events, students are required to play difficult music in a short amount of time with other musicians that they just met for the first time, under the baton of the conductor who they've never met before. It requires students to hyper focus, immediately respond on their instruments to others' feedback, manage the stress and pressure, and put on a public performance successfully."
Chiyo Trauernicht, CHS Band Teacher

Commitment to Closing the Opportunity Gap

Each year, the Central High band and orchestra participate in several competitions and performances. While many of these are local events, such as the All-City Music Festival, some take place outside the Metro area and require a substantial amount of money for transportation and hotel costs. The grant from the Central High School Foundation made it possible for all students to be able to apply for honors events like Wesleyan Honor Band Festival without worrying about the cost.

"I'd like to thank the Central High School Foundation for funding the Wesleyan Honor Band event. It was so much fun, and it was an amazing opportunity for myself and my classmates to learn and play more music!"
Fiona Carmichael, Class of 2027

Opportunities like this one are thanks to YOU, Eagle Nation! To continue making an impact, join Generation "C" today!

Join Generation "C"

Listen Now to a New Episode of Eagle Tales



Eagle Tales is a podcast where our creative director, Josh Bucy, sits down with a Central High School alum to talk about their time at Central and how it has impacted them. Listeners hear all about the amazing things that alumni are doing to change the world!



Jamar Dorsey, Ed.D., Omaha Central High School Class of 2002, joins host Josh Bucy for Episode 23 of Eagle Tales. Jamar is a former educator and an Omaha community advocate involved with groups including Imagine Omaha and Capture DCS.

Listen to Eagle Tales

150 Years of Central Graduations



Top Row—Esther Jacobs, Nelia Lehmer, Fannie Wilson, Margaret McCague, Bertha Isaacs, Blanche Deuel.
Bottom Row—Addie Gladstone, Stacia Crowley, Ida Goodman.

In the latest issue of The Quill and Feather, read our new piece celebrating the 150 year anniversary of the very first Central High School graduation, written by Scott Wilson.

Read the Quill and Feather

CHSF Scholarships: Maurice Sherrod



Introducing the 2026 recipient of our Paul Jepsen, CHS 1929, and Roger Sayers, CHS 1960, Scholarships, Maurice!

"I will be attending Grinnell College and majoring in Chemistry! Central has presented me time and time again with opportunities to learn, connect, and develop critical skills that have already cemented my future. Central has done more than I could have ever imagined. Being apart of the eagle nest truly means so much more than the title. It has been a constant point of access to the world around me and has guided me down a path of success!
I'd love to give a special thanks to the science department, but especially Mrs. Preston for being a constant source of inspiration to continue my education into STEM!"

Congratulations, Maurice, and best of luck!

Learn More About CHSF Scholarships

CHS Memories

"I WAS ALWAYS TOLD THAT CENTRAL HIGH WOULD PREPARE US FOR THE FUTURE. THAT HAS CERTAINLY TURNED OUT TO BE THE TRUTH. MRS. MCBRIDE (ENGLISH) PREPARED ME WITH THE WRITING SKILLS TO FILL OUT HUNDREDS OF INCIDENT REPORTS THAT MADE SENSE DURING MY CAREER. CAN'T LEAVE OUT MR. MARTIN'S GEOMETRY CLASS. LEARNED A LOT ABOUT CROSS COUNTRY AND BASKETBALL STRATEGY ALONG WITH ALL THAT OTHER GOOD STUFF ABOUT RIGHT ANGLES AND TRIANGLES."

DOUG MANN, CHS 1971

Submit a Memory

New Episodes of Chatting at the C

Chatting at the C is a CHSF-sponsored podcast series by CHS teachers Scott Wilson and Ben Boeckman, which focuses on highlighting the history of Central High School. In each episode, they interview past and present CHS staff to preserve their contribution to Omaha Central High School.



Charles Hinkle



Greg Emmel



Jenn Emanuel

Listen to Chatting at the C

2025-2026 Generation "C" Chairs



The Past: A Tradition Begins

Jennifer Johnson Taylor, Class of 1991, was the first in her family to attend Central, and in doing so, she began a proud family tradition. Growing up in Omaha's Dundee neighborhood, Jen followed the classic midtown path: Dundee Elementary, Lewis & Clark Middle, and finally, Central High School. The historic architecture of Central first drew her in, but it was the vibrant community and transformative experiences that made her a lifelong Eagle. After graduating, Jen pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Hamilton College in New York, then returned to Omaha to earn her Juris Doctor from Creighton University School of Law. Her career has taken her

from private practice to public service, and today she serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Omaha - working in an office with a view of downtown that reminds her of her days at Central. Jen's sisters, Kathryn Johnson Krueger, Class of 2004, and Molly Johnson, Class of 2014 also joined the Central family further cementing the Johnson legacy at Central.

The Present: Soaring Higher

When she and her husband, Darin, started their family, Jen passed on her love for Central to the next generation. Her daughter, **Cecilia** Taylor, Class of 2026, is a four-year varsity swimmer and state qualifier, a varsity golfer, and an active member of HOSA and National Honor Society (serving as Activities Coordinator). She is also involved in several advanced academic programs outside of Central, including the Haddix STEM Corridor and the UNMC High School Alliance. Cecilia credits Central with connecting her to these incredible opportunities and inspiring her passion for science. She plans to major in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry and is exploring undergraduate research programs at the University of Washington and the University of Pittsburgh.

The Future: The Legacy Continues

The Eagle spirit lives on in Charles **"Chuck"** Taylor, Class of 2032. Currently a student at Dundee Elementary School, Chuck is already preparing to follow in the footsteps of his mother, aunts, and sister. An avid golfer in the Nebraska Jr. PGA League, Chuck also enjoys basketball, football, swimming, baseball, and chess. His teachers note his love of history and enthusiasm for fun facts. With his boundless curiosity and love for learning, Chuck is ready to carry the family legacy forward at Central High School.

Join Generation "C"

Join the 1859 Society Today



Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents, and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or michele@chsfomaha.org.

Join the 1859 Society

Upcoming Reunion Schedule



The class of 1965 at their reunion in 2025!

Class of 1961

August 21-23, 2026

Dick Zacharia - dickzacharia@gmail.com

Class of 1966

September 4-5, 2026

Cindy Hadsell – clhadsell@aol.com

Class Website

Class of 1976

September 11-13, 2026

Rosalyn Cotton - rosalyncotton56@gmail.com

Class Website

Class of 1981

Dates TBD

Scott Barker - sbarker@episcopal-ne.org

Bob Atherton - athertonrobert8@gmail.com

Class of 1986

October 2-3, 2026

Becky Reynolds Crowell – rebeccajane67@gmail.com

Bart Lovgren – bartlovgren@gmail.com

Class of 1996

October 9-10, 2026

Kelly Titus - kellytitus@me.com

Sally Reiser Christensen - sallyachristensen@gmail.com

Class of 2001

October 2-3, 2026

Jenny Storm – Jennifer.storm@ops.org

Abby Waller – Abigail.waller01@gmail.com

Class of 2006

October 2-3, 2026

Hannah Andahl-Newman - hannahandahl@gmail.com

Jim Hubbard - James.d.hubbard@gmail.com

Alvin Samuels - alvin.samuels1@gmail.com

Class of 2016

September 11-12, 2026

Charita Dailey - daileycharita@gmail.com

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your class reunion or would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org or call 402-556-1996.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

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