



CENTENNIAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

CELEBRATING
50

YEARS OF
THE OBSERVER

First issue published
August 1974.

THE OBSERVER

YOUR DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS



Centennial Forward: A Vision for the Future

Centennial Schools has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence and commitment to student success. As a high-performing, student-centered district, we take pride in our strong partnerships with families, staff, and the broader community. Relationships have always been at the heart of our work.

Grounded in this tradition, our shared focus remains clear: **Connecting** or engaging with students in meaningful ways; **Achieving**, helping ensure student success through academic excellence in learning and teaching while supporting students in their growth and achievement; and **Preparing**, providing opportunities for academic excellence to prepare students for what's next and beyond.

Guided by our strategic plan, we make thoughtful decisions that reflect our core goals of providing exceptional educational experiences, supporting continuous improvement, and aligning efforts to meet the evolving needs of students, families, and staff.

We are intentional in how we organize and operate, striving to be both cost-effective and resourceful. By prioritizing investments that directly benefit students, we continue to honor and build upon the Centennial

legacy, one rooted in excellence, connections, and a deep commitment to the future of every learner.

Looking Ahead: Building the Future of Centennial Schools

Centennial Schools is actively shaping the future through thoughtful, long-range planning. Guided by our commitment to student success, we are working to develop a 10-year facilities and enrollment plan that supports the vision of Centennial Schools to ensure our buildings, programs, and capacity continue to meet the needs of current and future students.

This planning effort has been driven by both data and community input. Our Input Team, made up of approximately 60 stakeholders, including parents, community members, and staff, has completed a multi-year process of reviewing facility conditions, enrollment projections, educational programming, co-curricular needs, and deferred maintenance. Their role has been critical: reviewing data, providing feedback, and advising on facility concepts that will best serve our students and community for years to come.

Working in tandem with the Input Team, our Design Team, comprised of district leadership staff, has been refining and prioritizing facility improvement concepts. Together, these teams are

developing solutions that address aging infrastructure, the expansion of educational opportunities, and are in alignment with our long-term strategic plan and vision for Centennial Schools.

The Centennial School Board will review updated facility concepts this summer as part of the decision-making process around funding and implementation strategies.

What's Next: Community Input

This fall, a sample of our community will be surveyed to gather feedback on the long-range facility plan and potential educational program enhancements. We also plan to host additional stakeholder engagement presentations and sessions throughout the school year, inviting a broad range of community voices to be heard and considered.

Information and opportunities to provide input will be available at isd12.org in the new school year. Your participation will help shape the future of our schools and ensure our decisions reflect the priorities of the Centennial community.

As we look forward, we remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our families, staff, and community partners. Together, we will build on our legacy and create a future where every student is equipped to thrive.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CIRCLE PINES, MN
PERMIT NO. 8

DISTRICT OFFICE
4707 NORTH ROAD
CIRCLE PINES MN 55014

SUMMER ISSUE | 2025



Sept 2: First day of school for Grades 1-6, 9

Sept 3: First day of school for preschool, kindergarten, grades 7 & 8, 10-12, Journey

Pictured L to R: **Centennial High School Class of 2025** celebrated their "next steps"—college, work, trade school, travel, military, and more—on Senior Decision Day. We are excited to see all the great things our graduates will do next year and beyond!

Blue Heron Elementary students are saying "yes" to their dreams and "no" to drugs. Students created posters and submitted entries in a contest sponsored by the Circle-Lexington Lions Club in partnership with the Lino Lakes Police Department.



Pictured L to R: Take me out to the ballgame! Centerville Elementary celebrated the Twins Opener, turning classrooms into a stadium experience and incorporating learning experiences all tied to baseball. Renowned children's book author and illustrator, Nancy Carlson, visited Centennial Elementary and shared how she uses her own imagination and experiences to create her books. Centennial Middle School Student Council led a food and donation drive benefitting the Centennial Powerpack Program: 1,500 items and \$722 were donated.



From the superintendent

Often called the “hub” connecting Blaine, Circle Pines, Centerville, Lexington, and Lino Lakes, Centennial Schools thrives because of strong community engagement and support. Whether you're volunteering in a classroom, attending a concert, theater performance, cheering at a game, or supporting our students in countless ways, we thank you!

This issue features a few examples of our community partnerships: the Circle-Lexington Lions Club and Lino Lakes Police team up with Blue Heron Elementary for a student poster contest focused on saying “no” to drugs; emergency responders and local businesses partnered with the High School on a traffic safety message, encouraging students to think critically about distracted and impaired driving.

The cover story features the ongoing work with school district stakeholders and community members to shape a long-range educational plan helps ensure our programs and facilities continue to meet the needs of Centennial students.

Every year, Centennial proudly recognizes and inducts outstanding individuals into the Centennial Hall of Fame, a highlight of the year! We are honored to welcome the Class of 2025, **Dr. Charlene Behne** and **Mehmet Konar-Steenberg** ('87), celebrated for their dedication to education, their passion to education, their impact on the world.

Though the school year has ended, our buildings continue to hum with activity. From summer enrichment and targeted services to community events, our campuses remain vibrant and full of life.

Wishing you a wonderful Minnesota summer!

Dr. Jeff Holmberg
Superintendent of Schools



Even in a short time, Playworks made a big difference in promoting positive behavior and strengthening the Centerville Elementary community.

INSIDE

school news



MNDOT SUPPORTS THIRD GRADERS TO BE MINI-ENGINEERS!

MnDOT visited Blue Heron to lead third grade students in the Bridge-in-a-Bag activity—a fun, hands-on experience that challenged students to apply their problem-solving skills in a new way. The MnDOT team began with a talk about how bridges are designed and built, shared insights into careers in transportation, and encouraged students to explore STEM fields. The visit was a great opportunity for students to think creatively, work collaboratively, and see how classroom concepts connect to real-life engineering.



Working in teams, third grade students at Blue Heron Elementary built small model bridges using simple materials and step-by-step instructions, getting a feel for what it's like to be real-world engineers.



EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

Centennial Elementary students, preschool through fifth grade, had the opportunity to explore the cosmos inside the traveling planetarium, a program offered through the University of Minnesota Duluth. Guided by a solar system expert, students journeyed through constellations, moon phases, and planets, all projected across the dome for a breathtaking, educational experience.



For Centennial Elementary students, the universe was truly at their fingertips! Students experienced the wonders of space up close through the University of Minnesota Duluth's traveling planetarium.



BUILDING TEAMWORK

Centerville Elementary partnered with Playworks to bring structured, inclusive play to recess and throughout the school day. The program helped students build teamwork, leadership, and conflict-resolution skills through fun, engaging activities.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Golden Lake Elementary Student Council meets twice a month to plan community service activities. Their primary community partnership is the Centennial Food Shelf. Food is collected by the school community and delivered monthly. Thank you for donating during the school year and making a difference in the community.



Golden Lake Elementary Student Council led monthly food drives throughout the school year and toured the Centennial Food Shelf to learn how their donations benefit the community.



CONNECTING THROUGH MUSIC

Rice Lake Elementary's fourth grade students wowed the audience with a memorable performance, showcasing everything they've learned in music class. The concert, *Celebration of Songs*, was a huge hit and saw fantastic attendance from families and friends. The show featured a lively variety of singing and instrument playing — from recorders to garbage cans to five-gallon pails!



Friends and families of Rice Lake Elementary students joined in on the singing, adding to the fun and community spirit of the fourth-grade concert.



EXPLORING AT THE CAREER AND JOB FAIR

The Pines School annual Career and Job Fair held in the spring gives students the opportunity to explore real-world career paths and connect directly with professionals from a wide range of industries. From hands-on demonstrations to inspiring conversations with employers, the event sparked interest, built confidence, and opened doors for future employment and education opportunities.



MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The Centennial Middle School students reached their H2O for Life fundraising goal. This year, students raised \$2,685.77, and the total since 2007 is an amazing \$73,887. Thank you to the Centennial community for your support in helping make a difference. Centennial Middle School is one of the original H2O for Life Schools.



DRIVING HOME A TRAFFIC SAFETY MESSAGE

Centennial High School hosted the two-day “Arrive Alive” program which used a mock crash scene to teach students about the consequences of impaired and distracted driving. Juniors and seniors viewed the simulated crash and heard from speakers including Anoka County Assistant Attorney **Heather Pilon**, Blaine Police Chief **Brian Podany**, Principal **Tom Breuning**, and impact speaker **Jason Rothmeyer**. Thank you to our community partners who collaborated on the simulation, using it as both an educational tool and training exercise for real-life emergency responses.



Scan me to watch the Arrive Alive Video



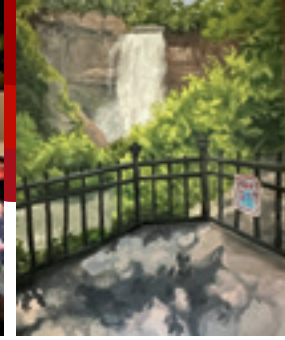
Centennial works with partners to ensure a healthy community. From left, Blaine Police Chief **Brian Podany**, Student Resource Officer **Jackie Wagner**, Arrive Alive student actors **Mandy Gooder**, **Tatum Knox**, **Anjali Patel**, **Kathryn Woelfel**, **Sullivan “Sully” Moore**, **Jacob Hosfield**, and **Dani Bevins**, Centennial High School student assistance coordinator.



CELEBRATING SENIORS

Centennial Area Learning Center (CALC) celebrated one of its largest recent graduating classes with 34 students completing their diplomas. Students celebrated with a Talent Show organized by senior **Michael Luger**, featuring contributions from all CALC students and staff.





Pictured L to R: The Centennial High School Choir and 85 fourth grade students from all five elementary schools performed for family and friends. Sophia Panelli (11) won the Minnesota Congressional Art Competition for her painting of Minnehaha Falls, "Summer Memories." She will visit the Capitol for lunch with Congressional representatives, view her painting in a national art show, and tour the White House. Centennial Students for Change hosted its annual Culture Fair, celebrating the diverse cultures in our community. The free event featured educational booths, local vendors and food trucks, and cultural performances.

CENTENNIAL

student news

SPRING BREAK PERFORMANCE TOURS



The Centennial High School wind orchestra traveled to Paris and performed at the Madeleine. Scan code to see band performances in Paris.



One stop on the Centennial High School choir's tour of Italy was at the Oratorio di San Filippo Neri in Florence. Scan code to see a choir performance.

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM COMPETES

Centennial Middle School Debate City Championships, Partnership winners: **Riley Sisk** (8), **Leah Young** (8), **Varshini Udhaya Kumar** (7), **Rohit Thinakaran** (8), **Makiya Bullo** (8), **Honyifa Hassan** (8), 40th place; **Nate Thorstad** (8), **Oliver Wunderlich** (8). Rookie Division: **Gage Kuha** (6), debating solo and speakers awards.



JONATHAN KOHAN
TEACHER COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD,
MN URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

CHOIR CONTEST RESULTS

Out of the 53 Centennial entries in the 5AA Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest, 40 entries received a

Superior rating, the highest rating possible, by their contest judge.

Three Best in Site Awards: **Chloe Hatfield** (11), **Aidan Schulze** (11), and **Sophia Smith** (11).

Participants: **Annamae Anderson** (12), **Jackson Bentrup** (11), **Jaiden Berres** (11), **Alexis Berkland** (12), **Natalie Carlson** (10), **Lydia Carroll** (10), **Bella Crosby** (12), **Lexie Dresen** (11), **Riley Eckman** (12), **Hallie Eicher** (11), **Becca Evans** (12), **Quinn Foreman** (12), **Jacoby Griffith** (11), **Olivia Hartmann** (12), **Chloe Hatfield** (11), **Elizabeth Herman** (10), **Mason Houfek** (12), **Hannah Hudzinski** (11), **Natalie Jefferson** (11), **Svea King** (11), **Sarah Kufner** (11), **Paige Lahm** (12), **Delilah LeClair** (10), **Lilia LeTendre** (10), **Cameron Linner** (10), **Charlie Lovett** (11), **Eva Maier** (12), **Liam Marquard** (10), **Kianna McNeil** (11), **Makena Miers** (10), **Piper Mortenson** (10), **Cassie Nuutinen** (12), **Olivia Panelli** (11), **Crow Pinonnault** (11), **Carly Faith Ratgen** (11), **Natalie Rueter** (10), **Destyni Rosas** (10), **Mackenzie Schmitt** (12), **Aidan Schulze** (11), **Kai Shaffer** (10), **Avery Shawaluk** (10), **Remi Sisk** (11), **Sophia Smith** (11), **Chase Sonderman** (12), **McKenna Stone** (10), **Emily Tran** (12), **Cybelbe Tubalado** (11), **Charlye Weymann** (10), **Chloe Wick** (10), **Suki Xiong** (10), **Lilly Yang** (11).

9/10 AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATIONS MINNESOTA HONOR CHOIRS
Brayden Boesch (10), **Sawyer Celotta** (10), **Lydia Carroll** (10),

Congratulations to grade 6 and 7 Centennial Middle School Band students who participated in the Northeast Minnesota Band Director's Association Honor Band. Sixth grade students: **Audrey Landsverk**, **Sebastian Miller**, **Greta Blackford**, **Lucy Leischner**, **Nolan Rogrud**, **Mason Wright**, **Levi Wallace**, **Miraslava Michnivic**, **Jayne Black**, **Aidan Mohs**. Seventh grade students: **Ethan Lunde**, **Christian Alcantara**, **Sophia Scanlon**, **Varshini Udhaya Kumar**, **Preston Fuhry**, **Hunter Johnson**, **Ava Rodriguez**, **Carter Zaczkowski**, **Reed Somner**, **Ashlyn O'Steen**.



Elizabeth Herman (10), **Logan Johnson** (9), **Farris Kassem** (9), **Liam Marquard** (10), **Piper Mortenson** (10), **Jacob Ratgen** (9), **Laly Yang** (10) were selected to sing in the 9/10 ACDA Minnesota Honor Choir and performed at The Minneapolis Convention Center.



Riley Eckman (12), **Chloe Hatfield** (11), **Charlie Lovett** (11), **Crow Pinonnault** (11), **Emily Tran** (12) were selected to sing in the Minnesota Music Educators Associations All-State Choirs and performed at Orchestra Hall.

SPEECH TOURNAMENT COMPETITORS

Congratulations to Centennial High School speech competitors **Rohini Chatwani** (12) 1st Place, Sections, **Riley Eckman** (12) 1st Place, Sections, **Tatum Knox** (11), **Kell Lewen** (11), **Hannah Hudinski** (11), **Alexander Knutson** (12).

DECA STUDENTS COMPETE AT STATE TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to Centennial High School students who competed at the DECA State Tournament: **Katie Bergdahl** (11), **Elizabeth Berge** (10), **Hayden Broich** (12), **Fayine Bullo** (12), **Rachael Bushnell** (11), **Monica Chan** (11), **Lucas Chong** (12)—2nd place, **Antonio Cordova** (10), **Kiera Cottle** (11), **Amelia Delmedico** (11), **Lauryn Dufour** (10), **Bashi Elemo** (11), **Natalie Foreman** (12), **Wada Gameda** (11),

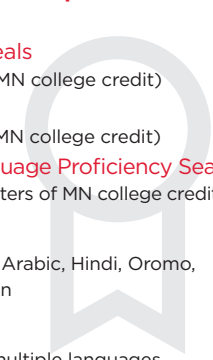
Maya Grode (12), **Brooke Hayes** (10), **Logan Hazzard** (11), **Yadani Itana** (11), **Natalie Jefferson** (11), **Ander Julson** (12), **Audrey Julson** (10), **Kashif Haseeb** (12), **Phahbleen Khosa** (11), **Tatum Knox** (11), **Delaney Linser** (11), **Casey Miller** (10), **Anja Norman** (12), **Cole O'Hearn** (12), **Jenevieve Orcutt** (11), **Macy Osborn** (11), **Robert Panait** (10), **Anjali Patel** (11), **Liliana Peltier** (10), **Melanie Ramos Garcia** (10), **Jacob Ratgen** (9), **Mario Rivera Quinones** (12), **Anand Seemakurthy** (12), **Annabelle Steinhoff** (9), **Garrett Stoks** (10), **McKenna Stone** (10), **Faayee Tufaa** (11), **Lindsey Vail** (12), **Christine Vanzyl** (12), **Kenny Zheng** (12).

BILINGUAL DISTINCTION

Centennial High School students received Minnesota Bilingual Seals and World Language Proficiency Certificates, demonstrating competency in speaking, writing, listening, and reading in languages other than English.

109 students participated and earned:

- 13 Platinum Seals**
(4 semesters of MN college credit)
- 22 Gold Seals**
(3 semesters of MN college credit)
- 73 World Language Proficiency Seals**
(earning 2 semesters of MN college credit)
- 7 Languages**
Spanish, French, Arabic, Hindi, Oromo, Russian, Ukrainian
- 2 Students**
took exams for multiple languages



district news



Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2025: **Dr. Charlene Behne**, retired educator and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and **Mehmet Konar-Steenberg** a 1987 graduate of Centennial High School and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. It was a day of making great connections: Charlene was Mehmet's teacher at Golden Lake Elementary.



Hall of Fame Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 was inducted into the Centennial Hall of Fame on May 1. The event was held at Infinite Campus and hosted by **Charlie Kratsch** ('85), CEO and member of the Hall of Fame Class of 2013.

Dr. Charlene Behne, Distinguished Service Award (1960-1993): Hired three years after the creation of Centennial and a teacher in our

district for 37 years. Charlene helped shape the school district, establishing a longstanding tradition of excellence that prepares students for a successful future.

Mehmet Konar-Steenberg, Distinguished Alumni Award ('87): Professor and Taft Stettinius & Hollister/Xcel Energy Chair in Energy and Environmental Law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Bergen in Norway.



CENTENNIAL RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING
The Centennial School District received the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE), recognizing districts that uphold the highest standards of financial reporting and transparency. The District earned this honor for its

We are hiring! See employment opportunities at isd12.org/join-our-team.



exemplary Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.



MOVING OVER THE SUMMER?

Are you moving and still residing in the Centennial School District, or are you moving out of the District and not returning to Centennial Schools in the fall? Please call the District Office at 763.792.6000 with address changes.



DISCOVER CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS

Registration for resident and non-resident (open enrollment) for the 2025-2026 school year is available at isd12.org.

Do you have children not yet enrolled in Centennial Schools? Tell us you are here so the District can plan for the future. Call the District Office at 763.792.6000.

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Minnesota Statute 121A.15 requires children enrolled in childcare, early childhood education, or school to be immunized against certain

diseases, unless the child is medically or non-medically exempt.

If proper documentation is not provided, students will be unable to attend school after October 31, 2025. See isd12.org/departments/health-services/immunizations for information on what you need to do.

Check the Campus Parent Portal for the immunization status of your K-12 student.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 27, 2025
On-Site Immunization Clinic

SUMMER EBT/SUN BUCKS

This summer, families approved for educational benefits for the 2024-2025 school year may receive \$120 for each eligible school-aged child, ages 7-17, to buy groceries when school is out through SUN Bucks, a program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. See isd12.org/departments/nutrition-services/summer-ebt to learn if you qualify.



Scan me for SUN Bucks info



WRESTLING GOLD ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD; TEAM CUMULATIVE GPA 3.78

NORA AKPAN (11) AC, GIRLS WRESTLING, 1ST PLACE, SECTION FINISH; STATE QUALIFIER, STATE CHAMPION, 130 LBS.
JACK RUEGSEGGER (10) 2ND PLACE SECTION FINISH; STATE QUALIFIER
JACK GRYGELKO (7) AC, 2ND PLACE SECTION FINISH; STATE QUALIFIER

PEYTON CORBIN (12) AC
ANDREW PERSON (11) AC, 11-0 CONFERENCE CHAMPION
ALAINA FRANCO (12) AC
EMMA LITTLE (12) AC
TYLER COOK (11) AC

EVAN BOESCH (7) AC
AIDAN FORD (12) AC
LOGAN FU (11) HM
BENJAMIN JOHNSON (10) HM
CARTER STUCKEY (10) HM
PARKER LEITER (9) HM



Nora Akpan, pictured above, is the Girls Wrestling State Champion, 130 lbs.



DANCE TEAM JAZZ, 2ND PLACE SECTION FINALS—STATE QUALIFIER; HIGH KICK, 3RD PLACE SECTION FINALS—STATE QUALIFIER; SILVER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD; TEAM CUMULATIVE GPA 3.5-3.74

CECILIA AUSTIN (11) AC, AAA MADT ALL STATE-JAZZ
IVY SULLIVAN (12) AC

GRACE FERGUSON (11) AC, AAA MADT ALL STATE-KICK
AMELIA PATTERSON (11) AC

sports & activities

LOOK for the Spring 2025 Sports Recap in the fall issue of THE OBSERVER!



BOYS SWIM & DIVE SILVER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD; TEAM CUMULATIVE GPA 3.53

BENNO SCHUHBAUER (10) AC, SECTION CHAMPION; NEW SCHOOL RECORDS AND 200 FREESTYLE AND 100 BACK-STROKE STATE QUALIFIER
CALEB CREGAN (12) AC, 100 BACKSTROKE QUALIFIER
JACOB DIGRE (12) HM

SAWYER CELOTTA (10) AC, 200 FREESTYLE RELAY STATE QUALIFIER
JOSEPH MURRAY (12) AC, 200 FREESTYLE RELAY STATE QUALIFIER
ISAAC NGUYEN (11) AC
JADEN MANTHEY (12) HM

GRANT PAGE (10) AC, 200 FREESTYLE RELAY STATE QUALIFIER
ELIOT SHEPARD (11) HM, 200 FREESTYLE RELAY STATE QUALIFIER
ETHAN STEGORA (9) HM
BLAKE THORSON (9) HM

BRENDAN CHRETIEN (10) HM
MATTHEW KUFNER (12) HM
ALEXANDER PEACOCK (10) HM
ELIJAH MANTHEI (9) HM

PETE CRAWFORD BOYS SWIM & DIVE SECTION 7AA COACH OF THE YEAR



NORDIC SKI

KYLIE NELSON (12) AC, STATE QUALIFIER AND ATHENA AWARD RECIPIENT, HONORED FOR HER OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS.



GIRLS HOCKEY SECTION 5AA CHAMPIONS; STATE QUALIFIER

GRACE LAAGER* (10) AC
TEAGAN KULENKAMP (12) AC
ANNABELLE BUCCICONE (9) AC
AMELIA SUTCH (9) AC

KATHRYN BALL (11) AC
KAIA WEILAND* (10) AC
ALEXIS LARSEN (12) AC
ELLA PERREAULT (11) HM

MADDIE WOLTER* (10) HM
BROOKE UELAND (10) HM
ERICA MAIDA* (10) HM



BOYS HOCKEY

EASTON CODY (12) AC
GAVIN CUNNINGHAM (11) AC
COOPER HEHIR (11) AC

NICHOLAS CARLS (11) HM
JOSEPH HEMR (11) HM

KADEN JOHNSON (10) HM
MATTHEW SIEGLER (11) HM



GYMNASTICS

MICHAELA OSLAND (9) AC, STATE QUALIFIER, ALL-AROUND COMPETITION

LILY KISSICK (10) HM
KATELYN ROSS (12) HM



BOYS BASKETBALL 2ND PLACE, 7AAAA SECTIONS

JACKSON DRIESSEN (12) AC
TRISTAN HANSON (11) AC
KELLEN BINDER (12) HM

MAXWELL JOHNSON (12) HM
JACOB HOSFIELD (12) HM
MARSHAWN CARLVIN (12) HM



GIRLS BASKETBALL 2ND PLACE, 7AAAA SECTIONS

AUTUMN MCCALL (12) AC
SYDNEY SCHMITZ (11) AC
AMELIA DELMEDICO (11) HM

CLARE PULLMAN (12) HM
KATHERINE LEE (11) HM



ALPINE SKI CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS —GIRLS ALPINE SKI TEAM

HAILEY PETERSON (9) AC
GWEN HALVERSON (11) AC
HADLEY GOOCHEY* (9) AC
SOFIA ANDERSON (12) AC
ELEANOR NELSON (9) AC
ANNA CRANDALL* (12) AC

DEVON CUNNINGHAM (12) AC
CALEB NELSON (11) AC, STATE QUALIFIER
SIMAYA JOHNSON (10) HM
GRIFFEN LOFGREN (10) HM
LUKE PETERSON (11) HM

RYDER QUINN* (8) HM
EMILY STOKKELAND (12) HM
LEVI STRUVE (12) HM
VIVIAN STRUVE (9) HM
MORGAN THARP (12) HM



ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY

ABBY PASS (12) AC
TATE MORRIS (12) AC
T.J. LICHTENBERG (12) AC
NEVAEH HARMER-SHAW* (11) HM
CHRISTIAN WUSSLER (11) HM

* SPRING LAKE PARK COOPERATIVE STUDENT

Check out the Community Education Activity Guide for activities and athletic opportunities for elementary and middle school students.



donor news

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CENTENNIAL STUDENTS

Congratulations!

Over 100 scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2025, totaling \$112,000 in support for our students' future endeavors. Thank you to the community for your contributions!

916 Education Foundation, Alema Duro, Mahkaela Francis, Cassandra Nuutinen; **American Legion Post #566**, Quinn Foreman, Katherine Kerr, Brady Patrick; **A.P. Bergee Scholarship**, Katelyn Ross, Avery Sauber; **Bill and Cathy Streit Scholarship**, Kylie Nelson; **Blaine Police Federation**, Peyton Wry; **Blue Heron Elementary PTO**, Teagan Leibke, Levi Struve; **Bluedorn Jumpstart**, Charlie Beck, Ellie Mundale; **Boys Lacrosse Booster Club**, Reed Helgerson; **Centennial Area Education Foundation**, Lucas Chong, Margaret Crowder, Devon Cunningham, Clara Herman, Amelia Jorgenson, Ander Julson, Alexander Knutson, Clare Pullman, Audrey Thill, Emma Thompson, Reese Van Loon, Gabrielle Verke; **Centennial Basketball Association**, Charlie Beck, Jack D'Agostino, Jacob Hosfield, Katelyn Peterson; **Centennial Basketball Most Outstanding Teammate Scholarship**, Jackson Driessen; **Centennial Boys Hockey Blue Line Club**, Easton Cody; **Centennial Choir Boosters Club**, Riley Eckman, Olivia Hartmann, Paige Lahm, Mackenzie Schmitt; **Centennial Education Association**, Mikayla Brown, Jack D'Agostino; **Centennial Girls Hockey Blue Line Club**, Teagan Kulenkamp, Alexis Larsen; **Centennial Girls Soccer Booster**, Gabriella Cunningham, Addison Wittenberg; **Centennial Municipal Utilities Scholarship**, Lucas Chong, Alex Persing; **Centennial Wrestling Peterson**

Memorial, Evan Just; **Centennial Youth Hockey Association**, Easton Cody, Teagan Kulenkamp, Alexis Larsen, Cole O'Hearn; **Chain of Lakes Rotary-Strive**, Gracie Erickson, Connor Hadrits, Ebissa Hirpa, Shawn Vang, Ben Wespiser, Mason Willenbring; **Class of 2004 Alumni Scholarship**, Lindsay Baker; **Coach RU Scholarship**, Rohini Chatwani, Henrik Hilter, Kai Johnson, Eva Maier, Kelsi Swenson, Ava Valerius; **Connexus Energy Foundation**, Natalie Foreman, Kenny Zheng; **Cougar Big Paw-CHS Football**, Charles Augustin, Monica Mix, Chase Sonderman; **Dave Dobovsky Student Council Scholarship**, Carter Day; **Don and Josie Bradli Scholarship**, Mason Houfek; **Dr. Judith A. Bergauer Scholarship**, Summer Anderson; **Dwight Benoy Engineering Scholarship**, Tiffany Le; **Erin Hennes Memorial**, Garrett Burns; **Gene Haas Foundation**, Matt Kufner; **Hugo Lions Club**, Ben Wespiser; **James F. Jech Memorial**, Rebecca Dougherty; **Jan Kreminski Scholarship**, Mary Ryan; **Jerry Pounds Memorial**, Cooper Hamm; **Jim Feneis Family Trust Centennial High School Baseball + Golden Lake Elementary Mentor Scholarship**, Ben Clauson, Jack D'Agostino, Jacob Hosfield; **Julie Fjeld Memorial**, Nora Helvig, Melanie Nelson; **Kopp Family Foundation**, Ashley Carlson, Brody McNamara, Logan Sonnek; **Kwapick Family Scholarship**, Solomon Marshall; **Lino Lakes American Legion Auxillary**, Quinn Forman; **Mark Francis Quinlan Fine Arts Legacy Scholarship**, Carter Day, Rebecca Dougherty, Olivia Hartmann; **Memorial Blood Drive Scholarship**, Tabitha Johnson, Tiffany Le, Mariam Mansour, Georgia Willett; **MSEA School Employee Association**, Abigail



Picture L to R: **Tiffany Le** is the recipient of the **Dwight Benoy Engineering Scholarship**. **Melanie Nelson** and **Nora Helvig** are the recipients of the **Julie Fjeld Memorial Scholarship**. **Jackson Driessen** is the recipient of the **Centennial Basketball Most Outstanding Teammate Scholarship**. Bottom, **Clare Pullman**, **Clara Herman**, **Will Ehrich** and **Gabe Roth** are the recipients of the **Terri Klebe Golden Lake Elementary Mentoring Scholarship**.



Rome, Lindsay Vail, Gabrielle Verke; **Nate Dunn "Next Generation of Leaders" Scholarship**, Anand Seemakurthy; **New Creations Senior Scholarship**, Lillian Wolfbauer; **Rice Lake Elementary Scholarship**, Annika McCarthy, Aubrey Wanna; **Robert McMorran Memorial Band Scholarship**, Kara Kimball; **Terri Klebe Golden Lake Elementary Mentoring Scholarship**, Will Ehrich, Clara Herman, Clare Pullman, Gabe Roth; **The William Matthe Scholarship**, Marley Schermerhorn, Ella Weist; **Zach Nordine/McNally Smith College of Music New Chapter Scholarship**, Abigail Schull, Emily Tran.

for everyone. We are so glad you were able to join us.

A big thank you to our all of our sponsors, guests, and **Dr. Jeff Holmberg**, superintendent and presenter, **Josh Smith**, auctioneer, **DJSkoolz**, and **Leslie Larson**, photographer. YOU all helped make the CAEF Gala a huge success! THANK YOU!

It's not too late to donate to Fund the Need Preschool - grade 12 Arts in the Schools. Visit caefoundation.org or scan the QR Code below to donate.

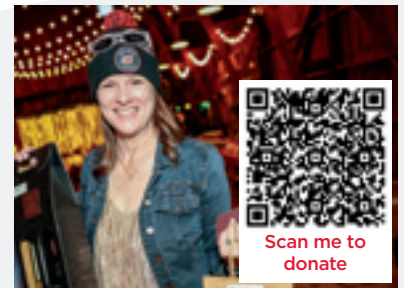
We look forward to seeing you at the GALA next year when CAEF celebrates its 25th anniversary. We appreciate your continued support. Together we can make a difference.



CENTENNIAL AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION GALA UPDATE

A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, Funded the Need for preschool - grade 12 music and arts education in Centennial Schools, and bid on silent auction items at the annual CAEF Gala in May. Thanks to you, we raised nearly \$63,000 for education to continue our support of grants, student scholarships and community opportunities.

With a Denim and Diamonds theme and entertainment by DJSkoolz, the night had something



JOIN US AT CAEF!

The CAEF Board is a group of dedicated individuals looking to help make an impact on the opportunities for the students and staff of the Centennial School District. If you are interested in helping CAEF, please contact us at thecaef@gmail.com.

DISTRICT DONOR NEWS



PACK A BACKPACK

The Centennial Community Backpack Program ensures students have back-to-school supplies for fall. The need is greater than ever. Adopt a backpack by purchasing and packing supplies for an elementary student, or make a tax exempt donation for middle/high school backpacks and extra school supplies. Donate online at centennialbackpack.org or centennialbackpack@gmail.com.



POWERPACK

Student participation in Powerpack increased this year, and the volunteer-run program needs your help. Cost: \$2.00-\$2.50 per pack or \$39,500 for the school year. Help support hungry students in the Centennial School District. Donate online at www.givemn.org/organization/Powerpack or email powerpackdistrict12@gmail.com.

alumni news

We want to hear from you! Send your alumni news to info@isd12.org.

CLASS OF 1975 50TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

Saturday, July 26, 2025

LOCATION Hugo American Legion
5383 140th Street North, Hugo, MN
TIME 6:30 p.m.
COST \$40/person
RSVP by 7/1/25
TICKETS Contact **Judy (Byrne) Montain**, jmontain@yahoo.com; **Carla (Holzinger) Rudisill**, carlarudisill@yahoo.com, or send an email to centennialclassof75@aol.com

CLASS OF 2010 15TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

Saturday, September 20, 2025

LOCATION Manitou Wedding Venue + Event Center
White Bear Lake
TIME 6:00 p.m. (tentative start)
TICKETS Sales begin July 4. Check out the **Centennial Class of 2010 Facebook** page for details or email, classof2010planningcommittee@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1985 40TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

Saturday, August 16, 2025

LOCATION Chomonix Golf Course
Blue Heron Event Room
TIME 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
COST \$35/person
TICKETS Contact **Colleen McMorran Salay** at colleensalay2@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2006 20TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

July 2026

UPDATES Check isd12.org/get-involved or the **Centennial Class of 2006 Facebook** page for event updates.

Stay Connected with Alumni

Graduate of CHS? Stay in touch with Centennial by connecting with alumni on:

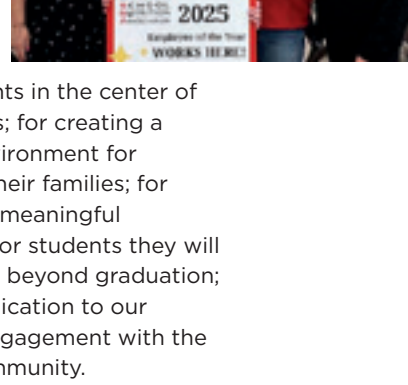
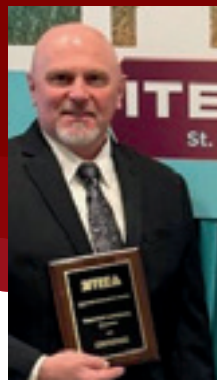
Centennial Alumni Association (Official)

chsALUMNIsd12

isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association

Planning a reunion? Let us know and we'll post your information on Facebook and the District's website. Contact the Centennial Alumni Association at centennialalumniassociation@gmail.com.

Pictured L to R: **Tim Lovdahl**, Centennial Middle School teacher, was recognized by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association as an outstanding technology and engineering teacher. **Jody Josephson**, executive assistant to the superintendent, received the 2025 Minnesota Superintendents' Office Personnel Association Administrative Assistant of the Year Award for her extraordinary support and service to Centennial. Congratulations to **Donna Walter** (top), cook manager at Centerville Elementary, named Minnesota Manager of the Year, and **Barbi King** (bottom), food service assistant at Centennial Middle School, named Minnesota and Midwest Region Employee of the Year by the School Nutrition Association.



staff news

Thank you for your commitment to Centennial Schools. Congratulations to our retirees!

Brenda Anderson, Nate Balzer, Mary Beach, Nadine Cory, Cheri Cyzewski, Patrick Dallas, Bob Danzl, Pat Frawley, Laurie Gentilini, Mary Gothier, Wanda Hajicek, Karen Hildebrandt, Heidi Johnson, Lori Krohnfeldt, Rachel Kruger, Kelly Kuzel, Brenda Kwapick, Geraldine Lowe, Judy Montain, Christine Olson, Jodi Phillips, Diane Quizon, Cindy Sandberg, Linda Schendel, Mark Sears, Lynn Seery, Kevin Setterholm, Pam Sievert, Christina Stromberg, Eric Wahl, Mary Walker, Becky Weiland, Rich Williams, Bruce Woznak

STAFF APPRECIATION

The School Board honored Centennial staff for their years of service at the annual employee recognition event:

5 Years // Rita Aigner, Suzy Benford, Kayla Burger, Brandi Caldeen, Pearl Cheng, Amy DiAgostino, Elise Digre, Molly Dopkins, Alysha Feeny, Lori Fredrickson, Michael Gangl, Jeff Ganske, Gisela Gomez de Murrillo, Noura Hamouda, Dana Hanson, Abe Hartsell, Kristina Hertzberg, Emily Hohenshell, Dan Johnson, Shari Jolly, Brian Kapaun, Pete Knoebel, Anna Loe, Gina Mullozzi, Nicole Nagel, Miranda Salisbury, Michele Sigrist, John Smith, Molly Vancil, Nicole Yobbie, Megan Young

10 Years // Angelina Anderson, Nicole Barno, Colin Bartz, Debbie Carlson, Jaime Carman, Jose Ramos Compean, Angela Coon, Stacie Ebnet Dietz, Joyce Falldin, Shelly Johnston, Laura Kahlstorf, Allison Kallevig, Amy Korsgren, Robert Ledo, Ann Lilly, Chris Litecky, Cori Sendle, Amy Sosinski, Dan Stadt, Lisa Steinberg, Heather Stoks, Chris Swenson, Spencer Waldvogel

15 Years // Karen Coffman, Tami Melde, Laurie Mench-Powers, Tim Waldvogel, Jane Wolfe, Kathy Zwonitzer

20 Years // Jeff Bollmeier, Michelle Bratager, Mitch Carlson, Shaun Cooper, Donny Flaten, Sue Fried, Sara Ison, Chris Kopp, Kerry Larson, Joe Law, Lori Miller, Dan Melde, Kristine Miller, Casey Molitor, Betty O'Neil, Sharon Peltier, Deb Weir, Dawn Westanmo, Cynthia Wilke

25 Years // Carolyn Blucker, Kary Burggraff, Kristen Fleming, Pat Frawley, Laura Gordon, Amy Halbur, Robyn Hendrickson, Kelli Huffman, Cheryl Koty, Jon Lindquist, Kelly Litecky, John Peterson, Julie Regenscheid, Cora Santo, Tom Schlattman, Cindy Schneider, Sharon Sculley,

Stacy Smith, Wendy Stidfole, Matt Watson, Andrea Witzel

30 Years // Todd Baker, Craig Baland, Patricia Geehan, Sarah Kienholz, Deb Kline, Deedee Lawrence, Mary Millerhagen, Kristen Nath, Jerry Peterson, Jennifer Rands, Stephanie Waldvogel

35 Years // Colleen Cardinal, Bob Danzl, Jacqueline Cork Elert, Heidi Johnson, Dean Kienholz, Thomas Mathern, Bruce Woznak

CENTENNIAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Sandy Nelson, second grade teacher at Rice Lake Elementary, for her dedication to students and their families; for the relationships she has built with the Rice Lake community to help ensure students receive a solid education foundation; for being a role model to educators just beginning their teaching career; and for her positivity and care she gives to those around her.



Carvel Kuehn, instrumental teacher at Centennial High School, for giving back to our youth and

keeping students in the center of all that he does; for creating a welcoming environment for students and their families; for helping create meaningful opportunities for students they will take with them beyond graduation; and for his dedication to our schools and engagement with the Centennial community.

Lori Miller, speech pathologist at Centennial High School, for fostering collaboration and professional growth among team members; for her grace, efficiency, and unwavering dedication; for her passion and commitment to fellow colleagues, Centennial students and their families, and to education; and for the care she gives, setting a standard that inspires everyone.



community ed

Activities are blooming all summer long!

View all offerings in the online registration, isd12.ce.eleyo.com.

FOR YOUTH:

- Jun. 23** Swifties Dance Party (ages 5-12)
- Jun. 23** Robotics Scout 'Bots (entering gr. 1-5)
- Jun. 23** Intro to Dungeons & Dragons (entering gr. 6-8)
- Jun. 23** MN Fair Foods (entering gr. 6-12)
- Jul. 8** More Than Pink (entering gr. 4-7)
- Jul. 14** Group Tennis Lessons (ages 5-16)
- Aug. 2** 33rd Annual Golden Lake Gallop (all ages)
- Aug. 4** Intro-Centennial Marching Band (entering gr. 8-10)
- Aug. 11** Centennial Bowling Club (entering gr. 5-12)

FOR ADULTS:

- Jun. 23** DIY Home Sign or Lantern
- Jul. 2** Boot Camp/Core Fitness
- Jul. 9** Four Strategies: Protect House, Farm, Cabin & More
- Jul. 15** 55+ Driver Discount Program
- Jul. 22** Pound Rockout Workout
- Jul. 22** Social Security Claiming Facts
- Jul. 22** Pickleball Plus Clinic
- Aug. 2** Foot Care Clinic

MUSIC ON THE LAKE-IT'S GOLDEN!

- Join us for free music this summer at Golden Lake Park! Visit isd12.ce.eleyo.com for more info.
- Jun. 12** 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Centennial Community band
 - Jun. 26** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Roxxy Hall Band
 - Jul. 10** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Revolution 5
 - Jul. 17** 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., The Floras
 - Jul. 24** 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Family DJ Dance Party
 - Aug. 7** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Brady Perl
 - Aug. 21** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Salsa del Soul Sextet



communityed.isd12.org See communityed.isd12.org or click on Community Ed under the list of schools on the isd12.org website to find the online registration system. You may also call 763.792.6100 to register over the phone. Financial assistance may be available.



Scan me to register



ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION (ACE)

English language classes are offered for free right here at Centennial to support adults who may be immigrants or refugees. Classes are offered in-person and online year-round. Contact **Pearl Cheng**, 763.792.5054 for more information.



AQUATICS

Open Swim is held June 15-August 3, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Centennial Pool, \$2/person, pay at the door. Open Swim includes the inflatable obstacle course! If you have questions about swimming lessons or pool rentals, please call the pool office, 763.792.5240.



KIDS CLUB

According to a recent survey of Kids Club participants, Kids Club has been a positive experience for 99.3% of Centennial families (scoring a 4 or higher on a 5-point scale). Kids Club is hiring workers for the 2025-26 school year. Pay begins at \$17.16/hr. Workers must be at least 16 years of age. Apply at isd12.org/join-our-team.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Food Truck & Fun Festival!

Join us for an evening of delicious food, a car show, various vendors and more at the Food Truck & Fun Festival Thursday, Aug. 14, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Centennial Middle School.



The Centennial Obstacle/Mud Run (age 4-12)

Come challenge yourself on Sat., Aug. 9 at Centennial High School. Navigate multiple obstacles, including a mud pit! Register by July 28 to be guaranteed a T-shirt.



The Fall Activity Guide opens for registration beginning August 4 at 8:00 a.m.

- Look for many fall programs for youth including:
- Youth Fall Volleyball League
 - Middle School Cross Country
 - Middle School Tennis
 - Middle School Debate and more!



EARLY CHILDHOOD (ECFE) & CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL

Spots are still available in Centennial Preschool for the 2025-26 school year, including the new Outdoor Explorers Preschool, visit earlychildhood.isd12.org for details. If your child needs Early Childhood Screening, please contact the District Office at 763.792.6000.



Gearing Up for Kindergarten: For those entering kindergarten, join us Aug. 11-14 at the Early Childhood Center for a class that prepares parents and their children for success in school. Registration is required, isd12.ce.eleyo.com.

THE OBSERVER

YOUR DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS

The Observer is published for residents and business owners of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington, Lino Lakes and the families enrolled in the Centennial School District. Residents and business owners receive this publication because of their support for the District through tax payments.

DISTRICT OFFICE 4707 North Road | Circle Pines | MN 55014 | 763.792.6000
www.isd12.org

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office Board Room unless otherwise indicated. See isd12.org to view agendas, watch live-stream from your own device, or view meetings from the archive.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Knisely, *Chair*
tknisely@isd12.org

Sue Linser, *Vice-Chair*
slinser@isd12.org

Craig Johnson, *Clerk*
cmjohnson@isd12.org

Jessica Schwinn, *Treasurer*
jschwinn@isd12.org

Heidi Hansen, *Director*
hhansen@isd12.org

Gloria Murphy, *Director*
gmurphy@isd12.org

Dr. Jeff Holmberg, *Superintendent/Ex Officio*
jholmberg@isd12.org

CREDITS

DESIGN
Mason Jar Marketing
PRINTING
Modern Press
EDITOR
Krista Bergert

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Centennial School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation or disability in its programs and activities.



Check out the Community Education Activity Guide for activities and athletic opportunities for elementary and middle school students.