



**CENTENNIAL**

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

# THE OBSERVER

YOUR DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS



## CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: Shaping the Future of Centennial Schools

Centennial Schools continues to look forward with a clear focus on what matters most: supporting every learner through academic excellence, strong connections, and a shared commitment to the future. Building on decades of community pride and partnership, the district is moving **Centennial Forward** through a thoughtful long-range facilities and enrollment planning process that will ensure our schools remain vibrant, safe, and equipped for student success today and for years to come.



### A Vision Grounded in Community

Earlier this year, the **Centennial Forward** initiative invited families, staff, and community members to share what they value most in their schools. Through surveys, focus groups, and the work of Input and Design Teams, consistent themes emerged: safe and welcoming environments, flexible learning spaces that reflect how students learn today, comparable opportunities across all schools, and facilities that support both education and community life.

These priorities are guiding the development of a 10-year plan that addresses enrollment, maintenance, and updates across Centennial Schools. Together, we are shaping a plan that balances responsible stewardship with

innovation and upholds our community's enduring belief that strong schools make strong communities.

### From Listening to Planning

The Centennial School Board has been reviewing updated facility concepts based on months of analysis and stakeholder feedback. Over the past two years, long-range planning has been a regular topic of discussion at board meetings, reflecting the district's careful, ongoing approach to preparing for the future.

The concepts focus on four key areas identified through **Centennial Forward**:

- **Maintenance and Sustainability:** Addressing aging infrastructure to ensure safe, efficient, and sustainable operations for years to come.
- **Capacity and Learning Spaces:** Updating classrooms and learning commons to support small-group collaboration, interdisciplinary teaching, and career-connected learning experiences.
- **Safety and Security:** Strengthening school entrances, improving health offices, and modernizing systems that keep students safe.
- **Activities and Community Use:** Expanding and improving spaces that support student athletics, co-curricular activities, and community gatherings.

Together, these priorities advance Centennial's goal of providing

learning environments that support every student's growth while demonstrating responsible stewardship of district resources.

### Your Voice Matters

As planning continues, community feedback remains central to this work. Throughout the fall and early spring, the district is engaging with a variety of stakeholder groups, including PTO/PTAs, advisory committees, staff, coaches and boosters, to review draft plans and provide input for improvement. The Centennial community can also share their insights through an online form on the **Centennial Forward** webpage. A random-sample phone survey by The Morris Leatherman Company will be conducted in December to gather additional community input. All of this feedback will help the School Board refine priorities and determine next steps as it considers how best to fund future improvements.

Your engagement helps ensure that decisions reflect Centennial's shared values of tradition, relationships, and efficiency. Together, we are continuing a legacy of excellence rooted in care and community — a legacy that connects us, helps our students achieve, and prepares them for what's next.

To learn more and share your feedback on the key themes, visit [isd12.org/centennial-forward](https://isd12.org/centennial-forward) or scan the QR code at right.



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FALL ISSUE | 2025

### EMERGENCY AND WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS

An announcement of a school closing or a delayed start is usually posted by 6:00 a.m. The community is notified via:

- Twin Cities television stations.
- Information posted at [isd12.org](https://isd12.org).
- An alert notification sent to families by phone and/or text through the District's SchoolMessenger communication system. A message will be sent to a

student's home phone, cell phone, work phone, by text—based upon information provided by each family. Please note: If you are unable to answer the call, a message will go to your voice mail.

**Receive school closing info by text by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 67587.** Families must opt in ANNUALLY to receive messages. Terms and conditions: Message frequency varies; standard message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to cancel.



### LEARNING ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION

**Mrs. Verplaetse**, a firefighter with the Hugo Fire Department and physical education teacher at Centennial Elementary, was a guest reader in the school's kindergarten classrooms during National Fire Prevention Week.





Thank you, to the community, for your support in nominating and voting for Centennial Schools and our teachers for *The Quad Community Press* and *The Citizen Press* Readers' Choice Awards.

**2025 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS WINNERS**  
"Best School" winners **Centennial High School, Centennial Middle School, Blue Heron Elementary** and "Best Teacher" winner (grades 6-12), **Mr. Danzi**, Centennial Middle School—*The Quad Community Press*

**2025 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS FINALISTS**  
"Best School" finalist **Rice Lake Elementary**, "Best Teacher" finalists **Mr. Marshall** and **Mrs. Andrews**, Centennial Middle School (grades 6-12), **Mrs. Alonzi** and **Mr. Stein**, Centennial Elementary (gr. K-5) — *The Quad Community Press*. "Best Schools" finalist **Centerville Elementary**—*The Citizen Press*.

*U.S. News & World Report* recognizes **Centennial High School** as one of the "Best High Schools." The school is ranked #31 in the metro, #35 in the state, and is in the top 40% in the nation. Rankings include public, private, and charter schools and are based on graduation rate, test performance, and college preparation.



Centennial Area Learning Center students visited the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts for the production of *The Addams Family*. The field trip was an opportunity for a real-world experience while enhancing classroom learning and also promotes social development by engaging with the broader community.



From the superintendent

The school year is well underway, and our classrooms are alive with learning, creativity, and connection. Students are excelling both in and beyond the classroom, and families are engaging through conferences, performances, athletic events, and Centennial Community Education programming. It's wonderful to see our schools and community thriving together!

This edition's cover story highlights the long-range planning work that is guiding Centennial Schools into the future. Our commitment remains the same: to build on our strong tradition of excellence and continue serving generations of learners. We want to preserve what our community values most: high-quality education, safe and welcoming schools, and a strong sense of belonging.

This fall and early spring, we're engaging with stakeholders across the district to review and gather feedback on a long-range facilities and enrollment plan. This plan has been in development for several years, created by a 60-member community Input Team working alongside a District Design Team of Centennial staff. Together, they have identified key needs and opportunities to strengthen our schools for years to come.

We are planning for the future by protecting taxpayer investments through proactive maintenance, ensuring safe and efficient learning environments, and creating spaces that support effective teaching, collaboration, and community connection.

I encourage you to visit [isd12.org/centennial-forward](http://isd12.org/centennial-forward) to learn more about the focus areas identified by our teams. Please take a few minutes to complete the online feedback form, as your input helps shape the future of Centennial Schools.

Together, we are planning for tomorrow while continuing to deliver on our vision of Connecting, Achieving, and Preparing.

**Dr. Jeff Holmberg**  
*Superintendent of Schools*



**SHOWING SCHOOL SPIRIT**  
Blue Heron's Student Council teamed up with the school's amazing PTO to throw an unforgettable Fall Dance! The free event brought the school community together for a night of fun, music, and connection. Parents enjoyed meeting and mingling while students filled the dance floor with energy and excitement, thanks to DJ Skoolz—one of our own community members—who kept the party going.



The Blue Heron Elementary Student Council members helped run concessions at their Fall Dance and showed what true school spirit looks like all night long!



**EXPLORING AT GOLDEN LAKE**  
As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, Golden Lake students in kindergarten and first grade enrolled in Community Education's Golden Lake Nature Club are learning how plants and animals get ready for winter. Students are discovering the magic happening in the woods right outside their classrooms. The after-school class is taught by Golden Lake parent **Meagan Bachmayer**.



Through hands-on exploration, nature walks, games, and observation, Golden Lake Elementary students are learning about the amazing things our plant and animal neighbors do as the seasons change.



Centennial Middle School's lunchroom is a busy and bustling place where students and adults work together in a safe, welcoming environment. Students can enjoy a healthy meal provided by our nutrition services, as well as meals brought from home according to family choice. It's remarkable to consider that our middle school serves more meals in a single day than the total population of many small towns in Minnesota.



Collaboration among custodial staff, paraprofessionals, food service staff, and students makes lunches at Centennial Middle School smooth and positive.



**NEW PLAYGROUND FUN**  
Centennial Elementary students are enjoying the additional features of the school's expanded playground. A shout out to **Michelle Howard**, CEPO President **Ann Beaupre**, **Tonayo Crow** - Anoka County Public Health, and the families and community partners who donated. Thank you for supporting Centennial Elementary students and enriching their school experience in this way.

Centennial Elementary's expanded playground is the result of a community accomplishment, and we can't express enough how much our students are enjoying these new additions!



**CELEBRATING WITH A BUBBLE RUN**  
Rice Lake students and staff celebrated the end of the school's fall fundraiser with a bubble run. Each class made signs and ran around the soccer fields to music and through bubbles. A special thank you to the community for supporting our schools!



Students and staff at Rice Lake Elementary celebrated their fundraising work with a school-wide bubble run.



**CHS ON THE ROAD**  
Centennial High School is hosting a three-part series of community events, sponsored by the Centennial Area Educational Foundation, during the 2025-26 school year. Sessions are held at Landings of Lexington, Centennial Square, and Centerville Elementary and include information sharing, technology instruction, and conversation.



Centennial High School is connecting with the community through its CHS on the Road informational sessions. The fall session focused on health, wellness, and attendance.

**Winter Topic: Academic Resources**

**December 8** | 6:00 p.m.  
Centerville Elementary, 1721 Westview St.  
**December 10** | 10:00 a.m.  
Landings of Lexington, 9400 Lexington Ave.  
**December 11** | 6:00 p.m.  
Centennial Square, 3200 89th Ave. NE

**Spring Topic: Athletics and Activities.** Watch for the schedule in future communications.



**CREATING COMMUNITY THROUGH EXPERIENCES**

The school year is off to a great start! Centennial Area Learning Center students attended the production of *The Addams Family* at the Ordway Center. Back in the classroom, students used themes and examples from the musical to respond to writing prompts in English courses.

A hands-on learning opportunity for Pines School students deepened their understanding and created a lasting appreciation for the vital role bees play in our world.



**EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BEES**  
Pines School students brought their learning to life through a cross-curricular project centered on bees and honey. After studying the science behind honey production, students expressed their creativity through an art project, then explored literature connected to the theme. The unit culminated in a field trip to a local bee farm where students experienced firsthand how bees to produce honey.



**BATTLE OF THE BUSES BEGINS!**  
Centerville Elementary is teaming up with Rehbein Transportation to make bus rides safe, respectful, and welcoming for all. The Battle of the Buses contest kicked off with a focus on arriving and deboarding safely. Congratulations to the Fox bus for winning the first challenge with 21 points! More contests are coming soon, along with a new Bus Leaders Program to keep Centerville's 4 R's of Respect, Responsibility, Right Choices, and Readiness rolling strong.

Congratulations to the Fox bus for winning the Centerville Elementary Battle of the Buses, a competition focused on making bus rides safe, respectful, and welcoming for all students.

## Mark Your Calendar for a Centennial High School Theatre Performance!

**Performance:** *Carmilla*

**Tickets:** Tickets go on sale November 20.  
See [centennialtheatre.org](http://centennialtheatre.org) to purchase tickets online.  
Cash is not accepted at the door; online ticket sales only.

**Location:** Performing Arts Center  
4761 North Road, Circle Pines

**Dates:** December 4, 5, & 6, 7:00 p.m.  
December 6 (understudy) & 7, 1:00 p.m.



# CENTENNIAL

## student news

### TRAVELING TO PERU

The Centennial Nomads Travel Group took off on an adventure to Peru over the summer. This travel abroad opportunity gave students an incredible experience, and the Centennial community should be proud of their exemplar conduct!



Along their travel journey, Centennial High School students experienced life in the Amazon rainforest by fishing for piranha and visiting indigenous villages and learning their ways. From the Amazon the group ventured to Cusco to see the remains of the Inca stronghold and learned the customs and traditions. Finally, students traversed their way up to Machu Picchu where and experienced the Incan city in the clouds.



### THE ADDAMS FAMILY IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Hennepin Arts' Spotlight Education honors and supports Minnesota high school musical theater students and programs with Spotlight Awards. Award recipients for the spring production and performance of *The Addams Family* are: **Lydia Carroll** (11) and **Riley Eckman** ('25), Outstanding in a Leading Role; **Mae Ryan** ('25), Outstanding in a Supporting Role; **Crow Pinsonnault** (12), Honorable Mention in a Lead Role; **Annika McCarthy** ('25) and **Luke Peterson** (12), Outstanding in Technical Leadership; **Delainey Schmitt** (11), **Hayden Partyka** (11), **Sidney Benson** (11), Honorable Mention in Technical Leadership. Additional awards include Outstanding Overall Technical Team, Costume Crew, Lighting Crew, and Honorable Mention Overall Technical Production, Overall Performance, Student Orchestra, Sound Crew, Vocal Performance by and Ensemble.



This fall, 75 members of the Centennial High School Marching Band participated in the University of Minnesota High School Band Day. Students practiced with the band, played in tailgate lots and on the field. Students performed with Centennial alumni: **Carter Day** ('25), **John Hong** ('22), **Nikki Katzke** ('21), **Britta Bergdahl** ('23), **Johnny Ziebol** ('24), **Gurshan Khosa** ('24), and **Mason Houfek** ('25).

### WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS!

**Anna Takahashi** (12)  
*Japan*

Host Family:  
Paul and Marilyn Erickson

**Haizea Ibarra Heppe** (11)  
*Spain*

Host Family:  
Joseph and Stefanie Waldoch



Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Miss Lino Lakes Ambassadors **Ella Friedman** (11), **Sofia Taylor** (12), and **Delilah LeClair** (11). The Ambassador program empowers young women in the community to become confident leaders through mentorship, volunteerism, and educational scholarships.



**Jenna Orcutt** (12) attended Minnesota Girls State held at Bethel University in June. Girls State is a week-long summer program for high school junior girls, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota (ALA) that teaches about government and leadership by engaging in hands-on, mock-government activities. Orcutt was selected by Centennial High School Counselor **Sarah DiMartino** based on a demonstrated interest in government, strong leadership abilities and character.

## district news



Scan for Enrollment Information

### ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Scan the code or see [isd12.org/enroll-today](http://isd12.org/enroll-today) to learn more about enrollment in Centennial Schools.

### Open enrolling in Centennial Schools

Do you know of someone interested in attending Centennial Schools or do you have a future kindergarten student to enroll? Open enrollment applications are being accepted.

### Welcome Class of 2039!

Is your student entering kindergarten in the fall of 2026? Residents will receive enrollment information in the mail by mid-December or enroll online beginning December 1.

Scan the code or visit [isd12.org/enroll-today](http://isd12.org/enroll-today) for kindergarten enrollment information.

### Kindergarten Preview Day

Students eligible to begin kindergarten in fall of 2026 were

invited to attend Kindergarten Preview Day at their neighborhood school on October 23. Families and their future kindergartener toured the school with the principal, took a sneak peek of the vibrant school where their child will learn, grow, and thrive, played on the playground and met future classmates.



Are you ready to be a Centennial Cougar? Future kindergarteners got a high-five welcome at Preview Day on October 23 at Centennial Elementary.

### NOMINATE A CENTENNIAL GRADUATE OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS MADE AN IMPACT ON CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS FOR CENTENNIAL'S HALL OF FAME!

Visit [www.isd12.org/get-involved/hall-of-fame](http://www.isd12.org/get-involved/hall-of-fame) for nomination details. Deadline: January 6, 2026.



Hall of Fame inductees were celebrated at a reception, sponsored by the Centennial Area Education Foundation, before the homecoming game. Since 2013, the school district has inducted 34 members into the Hall of Fame. Alumni are honored for their outstanding professional accomplishments and community members are honored for their longstanding history of service to the Centennial School District.



September marked School Board Recognition Month. The Centennial School Board was recognized by **Dr. Jeff Holmberg**, superintendent, for its commitment to Minnesota's public-school students. Thank you for your service to Centennial Schools! From left, **Craig Johnson**, clerk, **Gloria Murphy**, director, **Heidi Hansen**, director, **Jessica Schwinn**, treasurer, **Sue Linser**, vice-chair, **Tom Knisely**, chair, and **Dr. Jeff Holmberg**, superintendent.



**SOFTBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 3RD PLACE IN 5AAAA SECTIONS**

**ADISON BORDER** ('25) AC  
**KENDALL COCHRAN** (11) AC  
**PEYTON CORBIN** ('25) AC  
**RILEY O'CONNELL** ('25) AC,  
 ALL-SECTION, ALL-STATE HM

**LILLIAN RENSLOW** (12) AC  
**MADISON ABERNATHY** ('25) AC,  
 ALL-SECTION  
**GRACIE NICKLE** (11), HM, ALL-SECTION,  
 ALL-STATE ACADEMIC



**BOYS LACROSSE**

**DAVID MORAN** (11) AC, ALL-SECTION,  
 2ND TEAM MIDFIELD, ACADEMIC  
 ALL-STATE, ALL-AMERICAN  
**MATTHEW FROST** (11) AC,  
 ALL-SECTION, 1ST TEAM DEFENSE  
**GAVIN CUNNINGHAM** (12) AC,  
 ALL-SECTION, 2ND TEAM ATTACK

**GAVIN KRAGE** ('25) AC, ALL-SECTION,  
 2ND TEAM MIDFIELD  
**REED HELGERSON** ('25)  
 ALL-SECTION, 2ND TEAM DEFENSE  
**KELLEN SEARLES** (12) HM,  
 ALL-SECTION, 2ND TEAM LSM  
**LARS GOERLITZ** ('25)  
 ALL-SECTION HM, DEFENSE

**ISAIAK ADAMS** (11) AC,  
 ALL-SECTION HM, DEFENSE  
**SOLOMON MARSHALL** ('25) AC,  
 ALL-SECTION HM, ATTACK  
**TRAXTON BECKER** (12)  
 ALL-SECTION HM, LSM

# sports & activities

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



**BOYS TRACK AND FIELD**

**LIBAN AHMED** (12) AC 800M,  
 HM 4X400M RELAY, STATE  
 QUALIFIER-4X400M RELAY  
**OWEN CARTER** (11) HM  
 DISCUS, STATE QUALIFIER  
 (6TH PLACE)  
**TRYSTAN GREEN** ('25) HM  
 4X400M RELAY, STATE  
 QUALIFIER-4X200M RELAY  
 AND 4X400M RELAY  
**NOAH BERG** (12) HM 800M

**TRISTAN HANSON** (12) HM  
 HIGH JUMP, STATE QUALIFIER  
 (12TH PLACE)  
**CHARLY HAYES** (11) HM  
 POLE VAULT  
**MAXWELL JOHNSON** ('25)  
 HM 400M, 4X400M RELAY,  
 STATE QUALIFIER-4X400M  
 RELAY  
**GAMADA BULLO** (12) STATE  
 QUALIFIER-4X200M RELAY

**GAVIN MOORE** ('25) AC  
 200M CHAMPION, STATE  
 QUALIFIER-200M (4TH  
 PLACE) AND 4X200M RELAY  
**COLE NELSON** ('25) HM  
 4X400M RELAY, STATE  
 QUALIFIER-4X400M RELAY  
**HAMADO GELGELU** (12)  
 STATE QUALIFIER-4X200M  
 RELAY



**GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD**

**LAUREN KLEIN** (12) AC 800M CHAMPION,  
 400M, 4X400M RELAY, STATE QUALIFIER  
 -800M (11TH PLACE)  
**REGINAE TANDOH** (11) AC 200M CHAMPION,  
 100M, STATE QUALIFIER-100M (9TH PLACE)  
 AND 200M (3RD PLACE)  
**NATALIE LAUINGER** (11) AC  
 4X400M RELAY  
**HAILEY PETERSON** (10) HM HIGH JUMP,  
 STATE QUALIFIER (14TH PLACE)

**KYLIE NELSON** ('25) AC 1600M CHAMPION,  
 3200M, 4X400M RELAY,  
 STATE QUALIFIER-3200M (7TH PLACE)  
 AND 1600M (7TH PLACE)  
**MIRANDA SAWVEL** ('25) AC 4X400M RELAY,  
 HM 800M  
**MADELINE WOOD** ('25) HM 300M HURDLES  
**GILLIAN TURI** ('25) HM HIGH JUMP  
**AMELIA SUTCH** (10) HM TRIPLE JUMP



**GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL**

**NORA HELVIG** ('25)  
 ALL-DISTRICT, STAR TRIBUNE  
 "TOP PLAYERS," ALL-STATE  
 TEAM, 1ST TEAM  
**ALEXIS LARSEN** ('25)  
 ALL-DISTRICT  
**ALLENH LOOTS** ('25) HM

**ALEXIS LARSON** (12)  
 ALL-DISTRICT, DISTRICT  
 OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE  
 YEAR, ALL-STATE TEAM,  
 1ST TEAM  
**MEGAN SKALICKY** ('25)  
 ALL-DISTRICT

**MIA JAROMBEK** ('25)  
 ALL-DISTRICT, DISTRICT  
 DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE  
 YEAR, ALL-STATE TEAM,  
 2ND TEAM  
**ELLA KIEFFER** (12) HM  
**ADDISON LONG** ('25) HM



**BASEBALL**

**CALVIN COPPERSMITH** (12) AC  
**THOMAS MEYER** (12) AC  
**JADEN ANDERSON** (11) HM

**BENJAMIN CLAUSON** ('25) HM  
**JACOB HOSFIELD** ('25) HM



Season passes and individual tickets to athletic events must be purchased online at [highschool.isd12.org/athletics-activities-at-chs/fan-zone](https://highschool.isd12.org/athletics-activities-at-chs/fan-zone).



**BOYS GOLF**

**JOSEPH PERZICHILLI** ('25) AC  
**COOPER DAIKAWA** (12) AC

**BRADY ZINS** (11) HM; STATE  
 QUALIFIER



**GIRLS GOLF**

**TAYLOR THOR** (11) AC, STATE  
 QUALIFIER (17TH PLACE)

**TAYLOR NELSEN** (9) AC  
**MARLEY LUTZ** (10) HM



**BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

**AYDEN PHONGSAVATH** ('25)  
 AC

**AUSTIN BRANG** ('25) HM  
**ANDREW NARWID** (12) HM



**BOYS TENNIS**

**ANDREW ABRAHAM** (12) AC  
**BECKETT BABIASH** (12) HM  
**JUSTIN DRIVER** (12) HM

**DREW GANGL** ('25) HM  
**ANDER JULSON** ('25) HM



**GIRLS LACROSSE**

**AVERY SAUBER** ('25) AC  
**ELLA WEIST** ('25) AC  
**LILLIAN BRAUSEN** (12) HM  
**RIAN CHEESEBROW** (12) HM

**PAIGE CLAUSON** (12) HM  
**DELANEY LINSER** (12) HM  
**MAKENZI MUNGER** (12) HM



**ADAPTED SOFTBALL**

**ABBY PASS** ('25) AC  
**ANNA HEMBRE** ('25) HM  
**CHRISTIAN WUSSLER** (12) HM

**NEVEAH HARMER-SHAW**  
 SPRING LAKE PARK  
 COOPERATIVE (12) HM

# donor news

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CENTENNIAL STUDENTS



## 2025 GRANT CYCLE

The 2025 Grant Cycle has just closed, and grants will be awarded soon. Watch the website at [caefoundation.org](http://caefoundation.org) for a listing of new grant recipients. Award recipients will be notified.

## JOIN THE CAEF TEAM!

The Centennial Area Education Foundation is looking for new members. CAEF is a dedicated group of individuals. We are your neighbors, parents, educators, and school board members looking to make an impact in the Centennial School District and our community. As a non-profit education foundation, CAEF awards grants to the staff and community groups in the Centennial School District, provides student scholarships for graduating seniors and hosts an annual Gala to support our grant and scholarship program. If you are interested in becoming part of a CAEF committee or the CAEF Board, please contact us at [thecaef@gmail.com](mailto:thecaef@gmail.com). We would love to have you join us!



At the 2025 CAEF GALA, \$16,100 was raised for Fund The Need for Arts programs preschool through grade 12 in the Centennial School District. The check was presented to the school board at its September meeting.



## 2026 CAEF GALA SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! CAEF will celebrate its 25th year at the Foundation's annual Gala at the Bunker Hills Golf Club. Come celebrate with us! Bring your friends and family to join us for a night of fun. Watch our website at [caefoundation.org](http://caefoundation.org) for opportunities to help plan, volunteer, donate, sponsor and purchase tickets to this fun event.

## 2025 CAEF Gala



The spring 2025 CAEF Gala celebrated community in style—a casual or elegant look. With a Denim & Diamonds theme and entertainment by DJSkoolz, the night had something for everyone. A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, and bid on the auction items. We raised nearly \$63,000 for education! Mark your calendar for the 2026 Gala!



Photo credit: Leslie Larson Photography



## Powerpack Food Program Led By Volunteers

In the first five weeks of the 2025-2026 school year:

**1,229** PACKS distributed.

**246** FOOD PACKS distributed on average per week.

**2,101** POUNDS of food.

**\$2.50** AVERAGE COST per pack.

Thank you for your support!

Interested in donating? See [givemn.org/organization/Powerpack](http://givemn.org/organization/Powerpack). Are you an organization or school interested in helping fund the Powerpack program? Send an email to [powerpackdistrict12@gmail.com](mailto:powerpackdistrict12@gmail.com). Powerpack is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization housed under the Centennial Community Food Shelf.



## Backpack/School Supply Donations

**30** YEARS of filling backpacks.

**232** ELEMENTARY BACKPACKS

**144** MIDDLE SCHOOL BACKPACKS

**100** HIGH SCHOOL BACKPACKS

**90** CALC STUDENTS + **40** PINE SCHOOL STUDENTS received supplies.

**COST: \$60-\$120** per backpack based on the school and grade.

Project sponsor: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

More than **\$13,500** in donations made to the program by **34** individuals and **6** organizations.

Each elementary school, Early Childhood Family Education, and Indian Education received supplies donated through school supply drives and by the adopters.

Thank you, community supporters! Without you, this program would not be possible!



# alumni news

We want to hear from you! Send your alumni news to [info@isd12.org](mailto:info@isd12.org).

## CLASS OF 2000 25TH YEAR CLASS REUNION NOVEMBER 29, 2025

LOCATION: BIG WOOD BREWERY, VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN

TIME: 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.

COST: \$35/PERSON

RSVP/Tickets: Check out the CHS Class of 2000 Facebook page and [isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association](http://isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association).

Questions: Send an email to [classof2000.cougars@gmail.com](mailto:classof2000.cougars@gmail.com).

## CLASS OF 2006 20TH YEAR CLASS REUNION JULY 2026

Check [isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association](http://isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association) for updates.

## WINEGAR RECEIVES OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

**Peter H. Winegar**, PhD ('13) is the recipient of an Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Michigan Tech. The award recognizes alumni

under the age of 35 who have distinguished themselves in their career and recognizes their achievement. After graduating from the university in 2017 with his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Winegar went on to graduate school at Northwestern University where he received his PhD in Chemistry in 2022. He is currently an NIH NRSA F32 postdoctoral fellow at the University of California at Berkeley.

## Stay Connected with Alumni

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

- Centennial Alumni Association (Official)
- chsALUMNiisd12
- [isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association](http://isd12.org/get-involved/alumni-association)

**Planning a reunion?** Tell us and we'll post your information on the District's website and on Facebook. Contact the Centennial Alumni Association at [centennialalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:centennialalumniassociation@gmail.com) for posting information on Facebook and [info@isd12.org](mailto:info@isd12.org) for posting on the District's website.

# staff news



Patty Nelson was misidentified in the summer issue of *The Observer*. Mrs. Nelson is the recipient of a 2025 Employee of the Year Award.



In addition to welcoming students and families to the new school year, the district hosted the All Staff Welcome Back with the Centennial High School pep band and choir kicking off the event. Nationally-recognized educator and author Tom Murray was the guest speaker with a message on making every day an opportunity for our students, each other, and our community.



Staff welcomed new families to their classrooms and gathered with fellow colleagues for their all-school staff photos. The start of the school year was spent making connections with families, the community, and with each other.



# community ed

## Good times ahead!

View all offerings in the online registration, [isd12.ce.eleyo.com](http://isd12.ce.eleyo.com).

### FOR YOUTH:

- Dec. 1** Cookies and Canvas (gr. 6-8)
- Dec. 1** Karate (ages 4-12)
- Dec. 6** Breakfast with Santa (ages 10 and under with adult)
- Dec. 13** Centennial Ski/Snowboard Club (gr. 6-12)
- Dec. 13** Santa's Holiday Workshop: Gingerbread House Making (ages 3-11 with adult)
- Dec. 13** Canvas Fun: Cozy Owl
- Dec. 16** Sugar Cookie Decorating: Merry Little Cookies (ages 10+, adults)
- Dec. 31** Spark Equestrian Day Camp (ages 6-12)



### FOR ADULTS:

- Dec. 2** A Christmas Carol: Sidekick Theatre (adult)
- Dec. 5** Holiday Lights Photo Walk (adult)
- Dec. 11** Scandinavian Delights Cooking (adult) (online)
- Dec. 13** Gingerbread House Making (adults with disabilities)
- Dec. 16** Sugar Cookie Decorating: Merry Little Cookies (ages 10+, adults)

**communityed.isd12.org** Click on Community Ed under the list of schools on the [isd12.org](http://isd12.org) website to find our online registration system. You may also call our main line to register over the phone, 763.792.6100. Financial assistance may be available.



Scan me to register



### KIDS CLUB

One of the field trips during Summer Kids Club C.A.M.P. consisted of bringing all three sites together to participate in Field Day. Students dressed up all week (Jersey Day, Color Day, and Pajama Day to name a few). Participants at Centennial Elementary Summer Kids Club took it one step further by having a penny war, where monies they brought in were donated to the Centennial Community Food Shelf. Points were awarded to a grade level when pennies and bills were brought in. Points were subtracted from a grade level when nickels, dimes, and quarters were brought in. A total of \$287.49 was raised.



### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Winter Activity Guide opens for registration on **December 1 at 8:00 a.m!** Look for many new and returning offerings for youth and adults for winter through early spring including:

- *Guys and Dolls* at Chanhassen Dinner Theater
- Winter Walking
- Super Bowl Quilter's Weekend
- Power Tools for Women
- Mini Kickers Soccer
- Spring Youth Volleyball League
- DASH and Skyhawks Sports
- Forest Bathing
- Marvelous Macarons
- Let them Eat Cake!



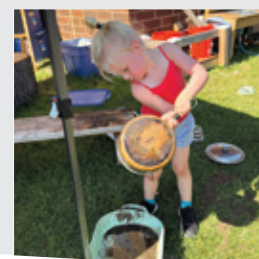
### AQUATICS

The winter session of swim lessons will be open for registration beginning **December 4**. Contact the pool office directly for questions regarding swim lessons and pool rental, 763-792-5240.



### EARLY CHILDHOOD (ECFE) & CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL

**Outdoor Explorers Preschool has begun at the Early Childhood Center!** Students are actively engaging in hands-on learning through our newly developed outdoor classroom. The program also includes visits to the Wargo Nature Center and a variety of nature-based adventures that inspire curiosity, exploration, and a love for the outdoors.



### 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 available in-person and online throughout the year. Contact **Pearl Cheng**, 763-792-5054 for more information.



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



## 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.

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[www.isd12.org](http://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](http://isd12.org) to view agendas, watch live-stream from your own device, or view meetings from the archive.

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