



CENTENNIAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

THE OBSERVER

YOUR DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS



Listening, Learning, and Planning for Centennial's Future

Over the past several months, Centennial Schools has shared updates about who we are as a school district today and how our community continues to evolve. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to read those updates, attend meetings, ask thoughtful questions, and engage in conversations about our schools. That interest and care are a strength of Centennial Schools.

As we look ahead through the lens of *Centennial Forward*, our long-term framework for planning and decision-making, it is important to share not only what the data tell us but also how we use that information responsibly and thoughtfully.



Our recent demographic and enrollment study confirmed something many of us experience firsthand: Centennial is a stable, strong community that is changing gradually, not dramatically. Overall enrollment has remained steady, and population growth is modest and manageable. At the same time, our student population reflects a broader range of learning needs and life experiences than in decades past. That reality influences everything from how we staff classrooms to how we design learning spaces and deliver student support services.

In short, our schools today must do more — and do it differently — than they did even 10 or 20 years ago.

Over the past two years, district leaders and the School Board have reviewed data, evaluated district operations and facilities, and engaged with staff, families, and community members to better understand how well our current systems support all of our learners. This work is not about change for the sake of change. It is about ensuring our decisions align with our shared values of student success, fiscal responsibility, and long-term sustainability.

As part of this process, we are developing proposed facility and operational referendum questions to be presented to the School Board this spring. These recommendations are guided by several core questions:

- How can we best support student learning and well-being across all grade levels?
- How can we use our existing resources, including our people, programs, and improve facilities, as effectively as possible?
- How do we plan responsibly for the future while honoring our community's history and expectations?

It is important to emphasize that this work did not begin recently. Throughout the fall and winter, the district continued to gather input, share information, and engage with staff, families, and community members to understand priorities, questions, and concerns. That feedback, along with a scientific random-sample community survey, enrollment and demographic

studies, and additional operational data, has been central to shaping the direction of this work.

We are now in a phase of fine-tuning and refining potential facility and operational referendum questions based on what we have heard and learned. In the coming weeks, district leaders will prepare a proposal for the School Board's consideration that reflects both the data and the community input received during this process. As that work moves forward, we remain committed to transparency and clear communication so our community understands not only what is being proposed but also why.

Change can feel uncomfortable, especially when it involves something as personal as our schools. At the same time, thoughtful planning is one of the ways we ensure that Centennial Schools remains strong, not just for today's students, but for future generations.

Thank you for your continued engagement and trust. We look forward to the conversations ahead and to working together to shape a future that reflects the best of Centennial.



Follow along with our discussions and decisions at isd12.org/centennial-forward or scan the QR code. Highlights of the feedback on the planning work can be found in the District News section of this issue of *The Observer*.



WINTER/SPRING ISSUE | 2026



June 9: Last day of school for students

Aug 31: First day of school for grades 1-6, 9

Sept 1: First day of school for preschool, kindergarten, grades 7 & 8, 10-12, and Journey

Students at **Golden Lake Elementary** enjoyed reading books at the school's Book Beach Blast in January. It was so cold outside, but inside it was nice and warm on the "water." The school's gym was transformed into an ocean complete with floaties, crashing waves, and palm trees. Students had a great time reading at the beach!





The Centerville Elementary community is proud of their students for taking initiative, using their voices, and working collaboratively with the school's parent organization on a food drive this spring.



After learning the general basics of vehicle paint maintenance, Centennial Area Learning Center students took their new skills to the test and worked on their own cars.



The Centennial Middle School Student Council led the decorating of doors and more in their school to celebrate World Kindness Day. It is Wicked-ly Cool to be Kind!



Blue Heron Elementary Grade 5 students are expanding their global literacy by learning about the countries of the world. As they progress, they earn passport stamps. The Passport Club opportunity is provided by Gifted Services and the school's Grade 5 teachers.



From the superintendent

We are well into the second half of the school year, and spring is on its way! Thank you for your continued partnership and for your support of our youth. Together, we are doing great things for our students!

I also appreciate your feedback on the district's long-term plan development. Our community's voice—through your shared concerns and questions, participation in a phone survey, and community meetings—is helping guide this work. We are also using data from enrollment and demographics studies, as well as budget forecasts, to move *Centennial Forward*.

Centennial is the hub of our five cities. Our enrollment has been steady. We want to continue meeting your expectations for strong schools and Centennial pride. The cover story lays out the work of the past two years as well as what's ahead. Also, highlights of feedback on the long-range plan are available in the "District News" section.

This issue also includes a preview of our schools. Take a look at all the great things going on in the classroom and the co-curricular activities our students engage in. Our middle school students "refocused" as the new semester began; our high school students are teaming up with peers to help study after school; and in the elementary schools, from author visits to making connections with families, our schools have been busy! Also, you won't want to miss the spring theater productions!

The safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority. We have safety protocols in place and practice safety drills throughout the school year. During these unprecedented times, our school leaders, family advocates, and liaisons have been connecting with families who need support. More information on how we maintain safety and security at our schools is available on our website at isd.12.org/discover/safety-security.

We look forward to finishing the school year strong, and it won't be long before summer will be here. Registration for Community Education's summer activities opens March 23 at 8:00 a.m.!

Dr. Jeff Holmberg
Superintendent of Schools



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR A SNEAK PEEK INTO CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS
[centennial.isd12](https://www.instagram.com/centennial.isd12) #centennialproud

INSIDE school news



A WARM COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Blue Heron Elementary Student Council and PTO hosted the school's first annual Cocoa, Cookies, & Connections. The community gathered in the cafeteria to warm up and connect on a cold January evening. Students played board games, enjoyed cookies, and spent quality time with their families. It was wonderful to see kids and parents together, away from screens and focused on simple fun and meaningful connection. Thank you to our Student Council and PTO for making this special event possible.



Cocoa, cookies, and time together made for the perfect winter night at Blue Heron Elementary's Cocoa, Cookies & Connections.



CELEBRATING READING WITH LOCAL AUTHOR

Local author and Centennial alumna **Elizabeth Andrews** visited Centennial Elementary students as a part of "I Love To Read Month" festivities. Elizabeth has been working at ABDO Books for over six years and writing non-fiction texts for students in grades 2-6 since 2020. We appreciate her willingness to share her experience and stories as well as her team of editor and illustrator with the students of Centennial Elementary.

Local author **Elizabeth Andrews** has written over 150 texts and returned to her alma mater to share her experience and stories with Centennial Elementary students. Elizabeth is a graduate of Centennial High School, Class of 2014. Thanks for giving back to our schools!



ORGANIZING A FOOD DRIVE

Centerville Elementary's Student Leadership Team is putting leadership into action by organizing a food drive to support our local community food shelf. Recently, student leaders attended a PTA meeting to share their idea and invited the PTA to partner with them on the effort. The food drive will take place in March with donations going to the Centennial Community Food Shelf.



EXPLORING THE WORLD OF SCIENCE

Future scientists in action! Grade 4 students at Golden Lake Elementary visited the University of Minnesota for a hands-on, Physics Force presentation and discovered how science and physics work through exciting demonstrations. Physics Force is an outreach program run through the University of Minnesota with the mission of generating an interest in science in students grades kindergarten - 12.



Grade 4 students at Golden Lake Elementary attended Physics Force at the University of Minnesota where science and physics demonstrations bring excitement and wonder to students.



BRINGING HISTORICAL FIGURES TO LIFE

Grade 5 Odyssey students studied the Civil Rights Era and brought historical figures to life at its Wax Museum. Students learned how different historical figures, like Coretta Scott King, John Lewis, Martin Luther King Jr., and Cesar Chavez among others changed history and made a lasting impact for future generations. Odyssey is a school-within-a-school housed at Rice Lake Elementary that provides full-time instruction delivered in self-contained classrooms for gifted students in grades 3 - 5.



Students enrolled in the Odyssey program at Rice Lake Elementary studied historical figures and brought them to life at its Wax Museum. Students shared their knowledge with the dozens of visitors that came to check out the event.



STUDENTS TAKE LEARNING VERTICAL AT MINNEAPOLIS BOULDERING PROJECT

Pines School students recently stepped outside the classroom for a day of movement, challenge, and growth at the Minneapolis Bouldering Project as part of its ongoing project-based field trips. The experience encouraged students to solve problems, build



PAUSING TO REFOCUS

Returning from winter break, Centennial Middle School students attended an all-student assembly to refocus on: Making Friends and Belonging; Academics and Learning; Being a Positive Leader; Reflections, and Advice to their Sixth-Grade Selves. A panel of teachers reflected on how they see students stepping up as quiet leaders in their classrooms each day.

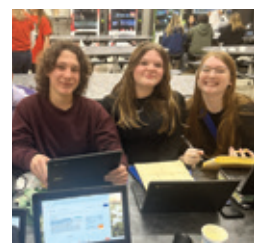


Centennial Middle School students returned from winter break to an all-school assembly. Topics celebrated mid-year success while setting the stage to refocus for the start of the second half of the school year.



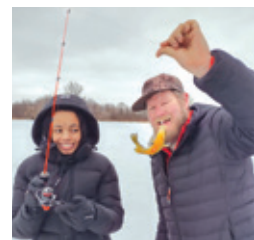
PREPARING FOR EXAMS

Centennial High School students in Grade 9 attended a Cookies and Cram study session after school where Peer Leaders helped them prepare for their first round of high school final exams.

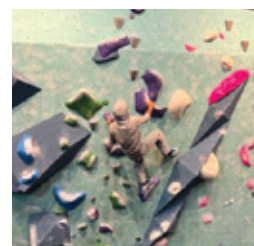


LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCES

Centennial Area Learning Center (CALC) students in Kathy Vadnais' biology class participated in an ice fishing trip to Peltier Lake this winter. Students learned about watersheds, habitat and fish from Fishing 4 All, a group supported by a grant from the Department of Natural Resources. While the weather was cold and cloudy, students had lots of fun putting their lessons into action and trying a new (to them) winter activity.



CALC students have taken learning outside the classroom. From seeing "A Christmas Carol" at the Guthrie, to packaging food at Feed My Starving Children and ice fishing, students have gained experience in a range of activities.



Through climbing, teamwork, and guided instruction, Pines School students practiced perseverance, confidence, and healthy risk-taking—skills that directly connect to both academic learning and real-world success.

resilience, and support one another while engaging in a physically and mentally demanding activity. The trip was a powerful example of how learning can happen through experience, reflection, and movement.

Mark Your Calendar for a Theatre Performance!

For tickets and information, visit centennialtheatre.org

Centennial Middle School: *Rock of Ages*

Performance Dates: March 26: 7:00 p.m. March 28: 5:00 p.m.
March 27: 7:00 p.m. March 29: 1:00 p.m.

Centennial High School: *Mary Poppins*

Performance Dates: April 30, May 1 & 2: 7:00 p.m.
May 2: 1:00 p.m. (Understudy)
May 3: 1:00 p.m.

CENTENNIAL

student news



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM TAKES SECOND PLACE

Congratulations to the Centennial Middle School Speech Team and Coach **Eric Webster**. They took 2nd place in the Eden Prairie Finals in January. This is a significant accomplishment as they had 23 entries in only 9 of the 13 categories in the competition. All other schools had 50 or more entries each. Humorous Prose: **Marion Howard** (7), 1st place, scored a perfect 100 in all three competition rounds; **Laney Matthiesen** (7), 4th place, two scores of 99 and one, 100. Duet: **Nora Beeson** (8) and **Lucy Palm** (7) 1st place, perfect 100 scores in each round. Serious Poetry: **Cass Locke** (8), 1st place, two scores of 99 and a perfect 100; **Aren Hansen** (8), 5th place. Drama: **Brynn Partyka** (8), 2nd place; **Hunter Strong** (8), 3rd place. Original Oratory: **Fiona Czerniecki** (6), 4th place, scored a perfect 100 in round one. Storytelling: **Elena Larson** (7), 3rd place, scored a perfect 100 in round three; **Mukwa Chase Spencer** (8), 2nd place; **Samantha St. Germain** (8), 5th place. Serious Prose: **Irene Fuhrman** (6), 3rd place, scored a perfect 100 in round two; **Alina Yurchak** (8), 4th place; **Sarah Alatbee** (8), 5th place, scored a 99 in round one. Creative Expression: **Pranesh Nithyanandam** (8), 3rd place, scored a perfect 100 in round

3. Most Improved of the Year: **Jade Nelson** (8), **Peter Galiov** (8). Named 6th Grade Rookies of the Year: **Brodie Walker**, **Amelia Gray**.



A SPECIAL NIGHT OF MUSIC

The Centennial High School Wind Ensemble performed the world premiere of "Eko Overture" by Minnesota composer **Moriah Margaret Jensen** at their Winter Concert. The Centennial Band Boosters, in cooperation with the Centennial Community Band, commissioned Jensen to write this piece in honor of the teaching legacy of retired band teacher **Becky Weiland**. It was truly a special night of music!

Prior to the performance, Jensen visited the Wind Ensemble class to see how her creation was coming along. It was a great opportunity for students to have a Q&A session with a music professional.

CHOIR STUDENTS SELECTED FOR 9/10 ACDA HONOR CHOIR
Sophomores **Scout Groshong**, **Farris Kassen**, **Jacob Ratgen**, **Sofia**



Girls Club members dream big at Vision Board Night, hosted in partnership with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

Zacher, Paladin Dawson, and Moua Harmony (9) were selected as members of the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota Honor Choir.

MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH MUSIC

Members from the Centennial High School Concert Choir and the district-wide elementary choir performed together at Centennial Middle School. The Centennial High School Concert Choir also performed at the Centennial Middle School 8th Grade Choir Concerts. At the end of the concert, all 185 singers joined on the stage together and sang "Seize the Day" from *The Newsies*.



SIP AND STUDY

Students have opportunities to connect with others and get help after school from their peers. Sip and Study sessions are hosted by Close the Gap, an after-school collaborative study group led by students of color where all students are welcome to attend. More than 60 students attended. Seniors **Yihan Sang**, **Nawal Osman**, and **Wada Gameda** coordinated the session.

CREATING A VISION

Girls Club, a newly formed club at Centennial High School, partnered with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota to host "Vision Board Night." Around 50 students learned about the importance of being a leader in their school and in their communities, and conceptualized their future by creating a vision board. The event was funded by a grant from the foundation. Centennial alumnae have been invited to Girls Club meetings this school year to speak on their own careers in male-dominated fields: **Paige Miller** ('11), a senior scientist with a PHD, shared what it's like being a female scientist at the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention and **Hannah Besmer** ('11), a chemical engineer and water filtration specialist, talked about her experience as a woman in STEM college courses and how she found her passion.

SCHNEIDER SWORN IN

Garrett Schneider (11) was sworn in as Junior Councilmember, City of Centerville. The Junior Councilmember program encourages youth participation in government.

Katlynn Pracht (12) competed in the World Martial Arts Committee Elite Championships in the United Kingdom, bringing home a World Championship and World Grand Championship belt in Japanese Kata. She also received a bronze medal in female point fighting.

Eva Wills (12) shared her Camp RYLA experience with the Chain of Lakes Rotary, which sponsors a student each year to attend. The camp helps students in grades 10 and 11 develop leadership, teambuilding, and problem-solving skills.

board & staff news



Minnesota Senators **Heather Gustafson** and **Michael Kreun** and Representative **Matt Norris** attended the annual Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Centennial School Board. Centennial's legislative platform—funding priorities, property tax equalization, and support and funding of the implementation of state mandates—was presented.

BOARD HOSTS LISTENING SESSION

In ongoing efforts to gather feedback from stakeholders, the School Board hosts quarterly Listening Sessions for the public. The next Listening Session will be held on April 20, 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

in the District Office Board Room. The Listening Sessions provide the opportunity for community members, staff, parents, and students to meet informally with board representatives and the superintendent to discuss topics in the schools.

BOARD CHAIR RECOGNIZED

School Board Chair **Tom Knisely** is the recipient of a Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Directors' Award which recognizes the completion of 100 or more hours of attendance at MSBA-sponsored meetings and activities within a four-year period.



Dr. Fran Stephens **Casey Rutherford**

SCIENCE TEACHERS SHINE AT CONFERENCE

Centennial High School and Middle School science teachers attended

the National Science Teachers Association National Conference held in Minneapolis. In addition to learning and networking, Centennial High School Science Teacher **Dr. Fran Stephens** presented the work she does in the classroom in a Food Chemistry course. **Casey Rutherford**, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented teaching math strategies in science courses.

Job opportunities for the 2026-2027 school year:

View postings and apply at isd12.org/join-our-team. Substitute teachers and paraprofessionals are needed yet this school year. Apply online at myKelly.com.

Join Our Team!



FOOTBALL 2025 AAAAA SECTION CHAMPION & STATE PARTICIPANT, SILVER ACADEMIC AWARD

JOSH O'SHEA (12) ALL DISTRICT, ALL-STAR GAME, STAR TRIBUNE ALL MINNESOTA FOOTBALL TEAM—TOP 25 PLAYERS IN THE STATE
TYLER COOK (12) ALL DISTRICT
BRAYDEN BOESCH (11) ALL DISTRICT

JUSTIN DRIVER (12) ALL DISTRICT, ACADEMIC ALL STATE
CALVIN COPPERSMITH (12) ALL DISTRICT, ALL-STAR GAME
MERHAWI ZERESEYAY (12) ALL DISTRICT
ISAAC BELINSKE-STRAUSS (12) ALL DISTRICT

JACK RUEGSEGGER (11) ALL DISTRICT
FINN UNDERSANDER (11) ALL DISTRICT HM
WESLEY KUKKONEN (11) ALL DISTRICT HM
CALEB MELSER (12) ALL DISTRICT HM

TANNER DITTRICH (12) ALL DISTRICT HM
SAMUEL BIANCONI (12) ALL DISTRICT HM
CALEB NELSON (12) ALL DISTRICT HM
NOLAN LARSON (11) ALL DISTRICT HM



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL 7AAAA SECTION CHAMPION & STATE PARTICIPANT — CONSOLATION CHAMPIONS, GOLD ACADEMIC AWARD

ELENA HOECKE (12) AC, ACADEMIC ALL STATE, 2025 CLASS AAAA ALL STATE TEAM, MNVBCA MS. BADEN VOLLEYBALL 2025
CHASE MANTHEY (11) AC

ADDISON KEMPER (12) AC, ACADEMIC ALL STATE
MCKENNA MANTHEY (12) ACADEMIC ALL STATE
NORA LIESER (10) AC

ASHLEY POULIOT (12) ACADEMIC ALL STATE
LILY SANG (12) ACADEMIC ALL STATE
AUBRIE WIRKALA (11) HM

sports & activities

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



GIRLS SWIM & DIVE GOLD ACADEMIC AWARD

LYDIA HYDUKOVICH (9) AC
SOPHIA NGUYEN (10) AC, SECTION CHAMPION, STATE PARTICIPANT - INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY, 2:13:27
LUCY FOSTER (9) HM
LEILANI GANDY-JOHNSON (9) HM
AMELIA POLE (9) HM
BRIELLE REYNOLDS (12) HM
CORDELIA SCHULTZ (10) HM

MADLINE UELMEN (11) HM
CLAIRA ZEBELL (12) HM
 SECTION CHAMPIONS, STATE PARTICIPANTS - 200 MEDLEY RELAY, 1:51.24
LYDIA HYDUKOVICH **SOPHIA NGUYEN**
LUCY FOSTER **AMELIA POLE**



GIRLS TENNIS GOLD ACADEMIC AWARD

LAUREN KLEIN (12) AC, SECTIONS, 2ND PLACE, STATE PARTICIPANT, 6TH PLACE
SOPHIE WYNN (12) AC
ELEANOR NELSON (10) AC

JENEVIE ORCUTT (12) AC
HANNAH LOFGREN (10) AC
ASHLIN KILMER (9) AC
RADHA ANDIAPPAN (11) HM



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

ANNA SWANSON (12) AC, ACADEMIC ALL-STATE
EMMA DELF (10) AC
ALEXANDRA SINDT (9) AC

MADISON CHRUSCIEL (11) HM
BROOKE HAYES (11) HM
EMMA NELSON (10) HM
HAILEY PETERSON (10) HM



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



ADAPTED SOCCER

CAITLYN REICHENBACHER (10) AC
BEN BOWEN (11) HM

NEVAEH HARMER-SHAW SPRING LAKE
PARK COOPERATIVE (12) AC



FALL CHEER

Thanks to the Centennial High School Cheerleading Squad for cheering on our fall teams!



BOYS SOCCER

BECKETT BABIASH (12) AC
SEBASTIAN FERNANDEZ (12) AC
LOGAN GARCIA (12) AC
KEEGAN JANACEK (12) AC
ELIOT SHEPARD (12) HM

CAMDYN JANACEK (12) HM
YASIN ABDELAZIZ (11) HM
NOAH BERG (12) HM
GILBERT JOLY (11) HM



GIRLS SOCCER

MIA SUTCH (10) AC
ALEXIS LARSON (12) AC
DARA AKPAN (10) AC
LILY FERNANDEZ (11) AC

ELLA KIEFFER (12) HM
VIENNA STREEPER (9) HM
KAITLYN FRANK (12) HM
KAYLIN GREEN (12) HM



MOVING OVER THE SUMMER?

- Moving and will reside in the Centennial School District?
- Moving out of the district and wanting to continue enrollment at Centennial?
- Moving out of the district and not returning to Centennial Schools in the fall?

Please call your student's school with address changes. After June 10, please send changes by email to registration@isd12.org.

Discover Centennial Schools

Are you ready to be a Cougar? Kindergarten registration for the 2026-2027 school year is online at isd12.org/enroll-today. There are spaces available!

Do you know of a family who lives outside the Centennial School District boundaries and is interested in attending our schools? We are accepting open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year for Preschool - Grade 12. See isd12.org/enroll-today.

Do you have children who are not yet enrolled in Centennial Schools? Tell us you live in the Centennial School District so we can plan for the future. See isd12.org/enroll-today/census-form.



district news



WHAT WE HEARD FROM OUR COMMUNITY

As part of the *Centennial Forward* long-range planning process, Centennial Schools gathered feedback from staff, families, students, and community members over the fall and winter months. Over 240 responses were collected through surveys, meetings, presentations, and community conversations. That input has played a critical role in shaping the recommendations for a potential November referendum that are now being refined for School Board consideration.

While perspectives varied, several clear themes emerged across schools and stakeholder groups.

- Safety and building infrastructure were consistently identified as top priorities. Community members expressed strong support for secure entrances, tornado-safe spaces, and a "maintenance-first" approach that protects aging facilities while addressing urgent needs.
- Student learning and support spaces were another major focus. Feedback emphasized the importance of classroom environments that support a range of learning needs including dedicated spaces for special

education, English Language Learners, small group areas, quiet and more flexible learning spaces.

- Athletics, activities, and fine arts generated high engagement. Many respondents value these programs for the role they play in student connection and community pride, while also raising important questions about how opportunities and resources are distributed across schools, facilities, programs and grade levels. Feedback also highlighted the need to maintain an appropriate balance between academic and extracurricular investments.
- Financial impact and transparency surfaced across nearly every school community. Residents want to understand how proposed investments align with student needs, how decisions are prioritized, and how costs affect taxpayers, particularly in a challenging economic climate.
- Early childhood and elementary experiences received attention as well, with feedback highlighting playground safety and accessibility, classroom design, and preserving program integrity for our youngest learners.

- Throughout the feedback, one message was consistent: people care deeply about Centennial's schools and want decisions to be thoughtful, transparent, and grounded in both data and lived experience.

As the *Centennial Forward* process continues, district leaders are using this feedback, alongside enrollment, demographic, and operational data, to refine a referendum proposal that reflects both community priorities and long-term needs. Information will be shared as recommendations move toward School Board consideration and action.

IT'S KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP TIME

We look forward to meeting you!

- Blue Heron Elementary**
April 14, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Centennial Elementary**
April 23, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Centerville Elementary**
April 21, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Golden Lake Elementary**
April 8, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Rice Lake Elementary**
April 22, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Did You Know?

Centennial Forward community feedback also reflected growing awareness of how much happens behind the scenes in Centennial Schools every day.

1.1 MILLION+ MEALS SERVED 2024-25 school year

Prepared daily in district kitchens and currently rely on hand-washing dishes due to the absence of dishwashers.

61,000+ STUDENT HEALTH VISITS

In one school year, nearly **1 in 4 students** manages an ongoing health condition, requiring daily support during the school day.

14,000+ COMMUNITY EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS

Across youth and adult programs, District facilities were used for **14,000+ hours beyond the school day**, serving learners of all ages.

60+ STUDENT PROGRAMS & TEAMS

Clubs, athletics, and fine arts. Students participate in **34 clubs and activities, 29 sports teams, and multiple fine arts programs** that rely on shared, specialized spaces.

community ed

Warmer weather soon will be here!

Sign up for Summer Recreational Soccer (entering gr. K-5)

Our program, led by Centennial Soccer Club, is a great introductory experience to learn and develop soccer skills and participate in fun games! Registration includes a jersey. The deadline to register is April 29.

SPRING ACTIVITIES HAPPENING SOON!

- Mar. 30** Middle School Track & Field (gr. 6-8)
- Apr. 1** Music Together (newborn-PreK with adult)
- Apr. 1** Middle School Girls Who Code (gr. 6-8)
- Apr. 1** After School Youth Soccer (gr. K-5)
- Apr. 4** Code Championship Virtual Coding (gr. 6-8)
- Apr. 14** Skyhawks Flag Football Camps (ages 2-10)
- Apr. 18** Intro to Pickleball Clinic
- Apr. 20** Beginner Outdoor Tennis Lessons (ages 5-15)
- Apr. 20** Middle School Tennis (gr. 6-8)
- May 5** DASH After School Track & Field Camp (gr. K-4)
- May 7** Moss Art (ages 16+)
- May 11** Karate (ages 4-12)
- May 15** Wolf Howl Bonfire

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Summer Activity Guide opens for registration March 23 at 8:00 a.m.!

Look for many new and returning offerings for youth and adults for summer fun and activity:

- Sports and recreation
- STEM and academics
- Fine arts and creative classes
- Special events and more!

communityed.isd12.org Click on Community Ed under the list of schools on the 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



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.



KIDS CLUB

Slime time at Kids Club! Students have the choice to participate in STEAM activities most days while at Kids Club. Try making it at home with this recipe!

Ingredients: 1/2 cup glue (white or clear), 1 teaspoon baking soda, saline solution, and optional add-ins such as paint, glitter, beads or charms.

Directions:

1. Mix the glue and baking soda.
2. (optional) Add paint and mix.
3. (optional) Add glitter or other add-ins, mix.
4. Add saline solution, 1-2 drops at a time, mix.
5. Add more saline solution until slime no longer sticks to your hands, slime will still be slightly sticky. Enjoy the together-time with your child!



Kids Club Summer C.A.M.P. registration is underway! Visit us online for information, communityed.isd12.org/kids-club.



AQUATICS

The summer session of swim lessons will be open for registration March 23. Contact the pool office directly for questions regarding swim lessons and pool rental, 763.792.5240.



EARLY CHILDHOOD (ECFE) & CENTENNIAL PRESCHOOL

It's already time to think about fall! Registration for Centennial Preschool is open now. Full-day classes for ages 4 and up and part-day classes for ages 3 and up are available, including our Outdoor Explorers nature-based preschool. ECFE's parent-child classes for ages birth-5 will open for registration later this spring. Centennial's Early Childhood program supports children and their families at important stages of development. See **earlychildhood.isd12.org** for full information on all our programs.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community Garage Sale! Saturday, April 25, 9 am-noon, Rice Lake Elementary. Come shop this multi-family sale and find amazing deals!

Looking to sell items? Purchase a table to sell items. Table fees will benefit the Community Education Financial Assistance Program.



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.

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*
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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.

donor news

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CENTENNIAL STUDENTS



2025 CAEF GRANTS

The Centennial Area Education Foundation (CAEF) awarded \$15,000 in grants in November to the Centennial School District and our community. The grants help to enhance classroom opportunities and experiences as well as support ongoing programs that provide services to our kids. The next grant cycle will be in fall 2026.

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

3D Printer (Pines School) \$1,620

Adaptive and Inclusive Prom Rental (Centennial High School) \$585

Backpack Program (District-wide) \$3,000

Chair Pockets (Golden Lake) \$333

CHS on the Road (Centennial High School) \$500

CNC Milling (Centennial High School) \$500

Little Spot (Early Childhood Special Education) \$592.85

Newspaper Print Copies (Centennial High School) \$250

Novel Study (Centennial Elementary) \$250

Peer Leader Training 2026 (Centennial High School) \$500

Powerpack (District-wide) \$3,000

Staff Retirement Gifts (District-wide) \$2,000

Giving Back - Students of the Month (Centennial High School) \$500



Centennial Band Boosters - Drums (Centennial High School) \$500

2026 CAEF GALA: MARCH 28

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! CAEF will celebrate its 25th year at the 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. Check out the website for opportunities to donate, sponsor and purchase tickets or volunteer for this fun event. See caefoundation.org for information. Proceeds from the Gala allow CAEF to continue to offer grants and scholarships to our schools and community.

CENTENNIAL AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
presents

ART & SOUL **25th YEAR!**

GA LA

Saturday, March 28th, 2026
6:00 pm-11:00 pm
Bunker Hills Golf Club

Tickets and Sponsorships available
at CAEFoundation.org/gala
Scan Here

***EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE**
UNTIL FEBRUARY 14TH.



The Centennial Area Education Foundation awarded a \$3,000 grant for the Powerpack program which provides nutritious weekend meals for students in need.

2026 FUND THE NEED:

ARTS AND MUSIC PROGRAMS

CAEF will be supporting the Centennial School District Preschool-Grade 12 Arts and Music programs at its annual Gala. In 2025, Fund the Need raised over \$16,000 for elementary music instruments. Can't attend the Gala and you'd like to donate to Fund the Need? Donate online at caefoundation.org.

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 send an email to thecaef@gmail.com. We would love to have you join us!

DISTRICT DONOR NEWS

Donations Needed!



ADOPT A BACKPACK

Donate school supplies to help ensure all students are ready for back-to-school in the fall. See centennialbackpack.org for information.



POWERPACK

Thanks for your support this school year! Your donations provide a weekend bag of food for Centennial students. To learn how you can help visit centennialfoodshelf.org/powerpack.

alumni news

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

CLASS OF 2011 | 15TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

MAY 16, 2026

LOCATION: Trappers Bar and Grill, 6810 Lake Dr., Lino Lakes

TIME: 7:00 p.m. - Midnight

COST: \$20/person (Venmo: Tanya-Marie-24); \$25 per person at the door

CLASS OF 2006 | 20TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

JULY 18, 2026

LOCATION: Rail Werks Brewing Depot, 4055 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights

TIME: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$45/person (Venmo: @chs2006; PayPal: CHS-2006)

QUESTIONS: Centennial2006@gmail.com

Looking for reunion information? Planning a reunion? Let us know and we'll post your information. Send information to info@isd12.org for posting on the Centennial School District website.

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