

October 3, 2022

Volume 1

Dear Central High School Parent and Guardian Community,

Welcome to the month of October. As students begin the sixth week of school, I want to take this opportunity to share information about some programming and successes. This newsletter will also provide you with an overview of what to expect during the month of October.

September 2022

September was an extremely busy month at Central High School. We kicked off the first week of school with grade-level assemblies. During these assemblies, students received their 22-23 school planner and heard from their class sponsor and the assistant principal overseeing their grade level. 282 had a **College Kick-Off Assembly** on September 15th led by 282's class sponsor Ms. Zeserman. During this assembly, 282 students learned about Naviance, the Common App and FAFSA. Members of 282 have also been busy having their senior portraits for our Yearbook taken by Lifetouch.

We held a number of successful events throughout the month of September. The counseling department held a **Financial Aid night** on September 8 in partnership with Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). Approximately 100 families attended this event. We were elated to welcome more than 1000 parents and guardians to our Back to School Night on September 21. If you were unable to attend BTS Night, please feel free to connect with your student's teachers via email.

Our **shadowing program** for prospective 9th grade students kicked off on September 19 and runs through November 4, 2022. The shadowing program is run by Central alum Mr. Chuck Steinberg, Class 221. Our shadowing program runs parallel to the School District of Philadelphia's **School Selection** window. Applications for prospective students are currently open. The process is fully online. Interested students must have As and Bs on their report card, 95%+ attendance, and score in at least the 80th percentile on the standardized assessments for ELA and Math (PSSA or TerraNova). All admission decisions for Class 286 will be made by the School District of Philadelphia. Please help us spread the word to ensure that all eligible prospective students submit their applications by the deadline.

October 2022

October is gearing up to be an even busier month than September. On October 4th, Central's nearly 620 9th graders and 40 transfer students are encouraged to attend Central's **Freshman Tea** event in the Wrestling Gym. Freshman Tea is an important part of the Central tradition where students can learn about our more than 80 school-wide clubs and how to join. Thank you to the Home and School Association for supporting this event and providing parent volunteers.

On October 12th, 9th through 11th graders will take the **PSAT** and 12th graders will take the **SAT**. There is no cost associated with these tests and we encourage all students to take advantage. Central will have their first **SEL Day** ("Social and Emotional Learning") on October 14th. SEL days provide students a classwork and homework free day in order to refresh and catch-up. During the October 12-14th window, **Interim**

reports will be available for student and parent review through the student Infinite Campus Portal. I encourage parents to monitor grades at this time.

Throughout the month of October, the counseling staff has arranged over 20 in-person and virtual college visits. To view the college visit schedule, please click [here](#). College visits are open to all 11th and 12th graders and are excused events during advisory. **282 Museum Day** is taking place on October 14th. Museum Day is a long standing tradition at Central and provides our nearly 600 seniors the opportunity to visit five of Philadelphia's best museums. Students can sign up on the 282 Google Classroom page. If you are interested in chaperoning, please reach out to 282 class sponsor Ashley Zeserman at Azeserman@philasd.org.

On October 21st, **283 National Honors Society (NHS)** Induction will be held in the auditorium during advisory. New NHS members and their families will receive a formal invitation from NHS Sponsor and English Department SBTL, Benjamin Hover.

We have three days in October when school will be closed or we will have an early dismissal:

Wednesday, October 5th, Yom Kippur - **school closed**

Friday, October 7th, Staff Professional Development - **12 pm early dismissal**

Monday, October 10th, Indigenous People's Day - **school closed**

Important Contacts

If you have any questions about who to contact at Central High School, here are some frequently requested email addresses:

Questions about Student Association and Clubs	Ms. Whittle (awhittle@philasd.org) Ms. Chrissis (pchrissis@philasd.org)
Questions about Athletics or Physical Education	Assistant Principal Brooks (JbrooksIV@philasd.org) Coach Drayton (rjdrayton@philasd.org)
Questions about grade-specific activities	285/ 9 th grade: Assistant Principal Brooks (JbrooksIV@philasd.org) 284/ 10 th grade: Assistant Principal Scott (Tescott@philasd.org) 283/ 11 th grade: Assistant Principal Snyder (ahockfield@philasd.org) 282/ 12 th grade: Assistant Principal Harrington (Tharrington@philasd.org)
Department-specific Questions	The Arts - Mr. Blazer (Bblazer@philasd.org) English - Mr. Hover (Bdhover@philasd.org) Math - Mr. Zak (Jzak@philasd.org) Science - Mr. Ovetsky (Bovetsky@philasd.org) World Language - Ms. Rodriguez (Rgrimes@philasd.org) Physical Education - Mr. Drayton (Rjdrayton@philasd.org) Social Studies - Ms. Sheldon-Matje (Isheldonmatje@philasd.org) Counseling - Dr. Soda (Csoda@philasd.org) Special Education - Dr. Abayomi-Ige (otabayomiige@philasd.org)



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Kate Davis, President
Theresa Harrington, Asst Principal
Tracy Scott, Asst Principal
Aviva Snyder, Asst Principal
James Brooks, Asst Principal

282, 283, 284, and 285 Celebrations

Last week, I shared these celebrations with students. I hope you enjoy them as well:

*There is **so** much to celebrate after our first month together! I would like to begin by acknowledging our Freshman class, **285**, as they've completed their first month of high school. The transition to high school can be challenging, especially after our COVID years, and you are handling it beautifully. Shout out to **284** for exemplifying school spirit and supporting the Central Lancers football team during your 284 Day. Similarly, **283** has done an excellent job designing and voting on their junior class button and long-sleeve t-shirt designs. This is exactly the kind of school spirit that we want to build and encourage at CHS. Last but not least, I want to shout out **282** on their wildly successful Blood Drive. Not only did you meet your collection goal, you also demonstrated exemplary leadership within our school community. Thank you for your commitment to saving lives.*

*To wrap it up, I want to shout out each and everyone of you for your impressive daily attendance. I know that the transition from summer vacation to back-to-school isn't easy and yet an incredible **91.6%** of Central students have more than 95%+ daily attendance. This is twenty five percentage points higher than the School District of Philadelphia's average and demonstrates your commitment to academic excellence. A special shoutout goes out to **285**, who have the highest daily attendance of all grades at **93.5%** of the class with 95%+ daily attendance. Great work, 285!*

In conclusion, I look forward to a wonderful October with your students. Please continue to stay connected with our Central team. If I haven't met you already, I look forward to meeting you sooner rather than later.

With Appreciation,

President Davis