



July 28, 2017

Welcome

Dear Centre Parents and Community Members:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Centre and a new era in education! As shared by Kansas State Department of Education Commissioner, Dr. Randy Watson, this is an exciting time in education as we begin with a “new education funding formula, a new accreditation system, a school redesign program, monies for improving teacher salaries and hiring needed staff, and focus on increased partnerships with communities.”

Adoption of this mission incites us to dream, plan and create a vision for the success of every Centre student. Our short-term and long-term goals identified include: students will learn and practice the “Cougars Habits of Success” developing positive student leadership and creating a new and positive school culture; students will establish their learning/behavior goals and monitor those goals while teachers provide rigorous programming resulting in learning readiness and competency; middle school and high school students will explore and identify career and college interests with district support in offering student career/skill building opportunities; improve parent/at home involvement with student education/career planning in support of enhancing student and family values for high school graduation, and increase student and parent participation in planning and setting student goals for employment, vocation, and or career success. We are excited about our plan this year, for building student success and increasing student focus on their success!

In our efforts to plan for this school year, we recognize you are the expert in knowing your child and what works for them, so, we say, “thank you” for your interest in their education and encourage you to participate in your child’s daily activities and school events, as possible. We offer many opportunities for parents to become involved in our school, to participate at all junctures of the educational process and to attend and volunteer in school activities. The Centre Parent Teacher Organization, homeroom parents, volunteer opportunities, and sign-up for duties related to athletic events, are a few of the things parents can select to be involved in. Also, as you have suggestions for administration and staff, please contact us or drop by our offices to visit and share ideas.

SUSAN BEESON • *Superintendent / K-12 Principal*

SHELDON PATTON • *Athletic Director*

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Kicking off the school year, a couple of new events to make parents aware of:

1) **The Centre “2017-2018 Open House Night & Ice Cream Social”** is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, 2017 from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to greet students and parents, accept supplies, etc. An Ice Cream Social will be offered in the commons area, please plan to join us and enjoy the refreshments.

2) **Solar Eclipse Event – Monday, August 21, 2017**
Students in grades 7-12 will travel to Hiawatha, KS to view the eclipse.
Pre-K - grade 6 students will participate in an event at Centre School.

Included in the enrollment packet you will find information concerning this special event. Mr. Duerksen, Mrs. Montgomery, and Mrs. Basore have joined to plan in coordinating this event as a special moment for students to observe a natural occurring scientific event. Please read the informational materials to learn more about the time line and geographic location in which this event occurs. With parent permission, students in grades 7 -12 will travel to observe the event. Students in grades Pre-K - 6 will observe and enjoy planned activities at Centre School.

Again this year, as for all new school years, I cannot believe it is time to ask parents and teachers to wind up the summer vacations, to end the late morning sleep-ins, and to buy that new pair of school shoes, as it is Back-to-School! For me, it has been a very busy school break, both with personal activities and work activities, which cause me to secretly say, “It can’t be that time, again!” However, selfishly, the first day of school is my favorite day of the entire year! The “First Day” experience is like no other! The buses drive in and kids unload, I get to see the shining, smiling faces of our little ones, I get the high fives from the boys and get to hear the mumbles of “hi” from middle schoolers. I get to observe the growth and maturity that occurs during the summer months and most of all, I get to feel love and happiness fill my heart. These are our Centre kids! All is good!

In closing this back to school letter, I sincerely appreciate your support of your child and Centre Schools. I will also share a short story about the work of a group of high school students who choose to attend Centre. While working together this summer, this group was tasked with selecting a name for their school organization group and ultimately selected the word “TEAM.” When asked, “why they chose that word because you guys fight,” the students responded, “we are competitive at Centre, we also see the tears and pain of one another, which causes us to unite and feel joy, we are a TEAM.” This is not the close of a letter, but a look to the future of uniting our school-family partnership!

Sincerely,

Susan C. Beeson
Superintendent/K-12 Principal

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