

Central High School LEADING THE WAY FOR INNOVATION & CREATIVITY











THE TIME IS NOW

Central changed my life and opened up new horizons for me.

It allowed me to be in the first generation of my family to go to college.

Bernard G. Spain 198

There has never been a more critical moment to invest in the future of Central High School. Philadelphia needs more of all that we foster – engaged students, invested faculty, rigor and academic excellence, commitment to community service, and social good.

LEADING THE WAY FOR INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY supports our mission to provide a transformative educational experience for our students and create a lasting legacy of excellence.

With your help we can repair and invigorate the campus, deliver academic richness, advance the performing arts, provide 21st century learning opportunities, integrate STEM education and create a Central Fund for the Future.



LEGACY, EXCELLENCE, & LEADERSHIP

Attending Central High School was a life changing experience for you when you walked the halls of "Dear Old High". It is the same today for our current students. We offer a rigorous academic program with the goal of preparing our students to be the leaders of their generation. Their drive for excellence is inspiring. As we look forward to the ever changing landscape of education, we recognize the need for new funds so that we can evolve and continue to offer the best educational experience for students in Philadelphia.

I am so proud to lead the most historic high school in Philadelphia. Our current students continue to thrive in all aspects of our academic, athletic, music and art programs despite lacking the resources of our suburban counterparts. The commitment of our school community is focused on the successful development of the young scholars we serve. As we embark on this historic campaign, I ask you to remember your Central experience and support the students of tomorrow.



LEADING THE WAY FOR INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY will enable us to renovate and create the world class facilities that our students deserve. The current state of educational funding in our commonwealth has led us to this place. We recognize that this is not the normal path that a public high school traditionally travels but we know that there is nothing traditional about our school. We are the elite, public college preparatory high school in Philadelphia. It is time for us to rally and support Central High School so that we can continue to change the lives of the gifted young people in our great city.

Timothy J. McKenna

14th President of Central High School

For 180 years and 275 graduating classes, Central High School has proven to be an educational leader in Philadelphia and nationwide. It is known for its singular focus: admitting students with a passion for learning and providing them with a rigorous experience, in and out of the classroom, that helps them excel at college and in life. With 2,450 students from every zipcode in the city, Central is educating a broad racial, ethnic, and economic group, earning Central recognition as the most diverse public high school in the country.

EDUCATIONAL MISSION

OUR MISSION

As a college preparatory public school, Central High challenges students with rigorous academic programs to prepare them for the demands of higher education. Building upon the diversity in our school, we aim to prepare students to contribute and thrive in a heterogeneous world. We enable students to develop problem solving skills, a life-long passion for learning, and aspirations to be thoughtful leaders of their generation.

OUR BELIEFS

The diversity of our student body is a precious asset; the inclusion and engagement of all community members is essential to our collective success.

Our essential purpose is to foster the highest level of academic achievement for each student.

Students thrive when provided with the necessary intellectual and emotional supports to meet the challenges of a total learning community.

Students learn best when their curiosity is stimulated, and they are encouraged to take intellectual risks.

The availability of robust and inclusive extra-curricular programs are essential to the positive overall experience of the school.

Service is critical to the development of students' character and sense of civic responsibility.

Central, as an institution, is committed to the same process of selfexploration that it cultivates in its students.

Central strives to build a cohesive, mutually supportive, academic community to serve as a model for the community at large.

Central's rigorous academic standards, coupled with the intellect of my classmates, set benchmarks for success. I honestly can say that my time at Central provided me with exceptional preparation for the future.









Robert N. C. Nix 186





Louis Kahn 134























CENTRAL THROUGH THE YEARS



Celebrating 180 Years



Chartered in 1836, Central High School is the 2nd oldest public high school in the country. Originally located in Center City Philadelphia across from City Hall at the site of the former Wanamaker Store, Central's first class included 63 students. Central was the first public high school established in Pennsylvania, and the first one founded beyond New England.

Central High School developed as an institution of great importance in the annals of American education. An Act of Assembly granted Central the authority to confer degrees in 1849, just as the University of Pennsylvania possessed.

Over the course of 180 years, Central has continued to grow in size, academic programs and extracurricular activities. The school has moved to three additional locations during this time, always driven by pedagogical needs and buildings best suited to its expanding programs. In 1939, soon after the school celebrated its centennial, Central opened the doors of its current building, one of the last schools constructed in Philadelphia prior to the start of World War II. Select additions and renovations have been completed in the last 40 years when needed funding has been available from the Philadelphia School District or by private donations.

As Central's curricular goals again drive a need for new space to accommodate our expanding programs in arts and technology, we are fortunate that our National Historic Registered building is positioned on a campus with ample space available to accommodate further additions. Whereas the initial three building relocations in 1838, 1854 and 1900 occurred approximately every 50 years when the buildings were in need of major renewal, Central's current building at 78 years old is considerably past due for facilties renewal.

AMONGST OUR PEERS

While it's true that the 'best schools' lists vary, it is interesting that there is so much accord among experts as to what sets the frequently mentioned schools—Stuyvesant, Boston Latin, Central High School in Philadelphia—apart. And above.

Life Magazine



Central High School is the largest public college preparatory high school in Philadelphia. To understand how our performance, diversity and funding metrics compare, we look to our peer urban exam-based schools in Boston and New York City, as well as a neighboring suburban public school Lower Merion High School. Central has been rated the most diverse high school in the nation by Niche.com while maintaining our high academic, athletic and public service achievements. When viewed amongst our peers, we are making these great achievements with the least funding and the most economically disadvantaged students.

School funding formulas vary, with Philadelphia consistently having less funding than many other major urban school districts. A 2015 Pew Charitable Trust study on school funding in Philadelphia shows that the Philadelphia School District budget distributes on average 67% less per student than Boston, and 78% less than New York City. In addition, both Boston Latin and Stuyvesant have supplemental funding from private donations and endowment enabling them to provide the level of education, counseling, facilities and operations needed for success. Lower Merion school district provides 80% more in funding per student than Philadelphia, and they too pursue private sources to fund additional initiatives.



FUNDING

Among its peers. Central receives the lowest dollars per student, mostly from public funding. Lower Merion receives the highest dollar amount per student, at almost twice the funding for Central students. Boston Latin and Stuyvesant are mid-range, but with a mix of public and private sector funding.

URBAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING:

Boston - \$18 626 New York - \$16.035 Philadelphia - \$12,570

Source: Pew Charitable Trust 2015 Study titled "A School Funding Formula for Philadelphia'



Baccalaureate courses. Our faculty of scholars embraces education and encourages curiosity and risk

OUR CHALLENGES



This proposed phase of improvements builds on the foundation of a comprehensive masterplan completed in 2016 and focuses on developing new educational spaces that support Central's academic mission while also addressing significant deferred campus maintenance and improvements.

- **1** Aging campus site conditions and building deferred maintenance require immediate attention
- 2 Built on a hill, campus spaces are disconnected and parking is not accessible
- 3 Rehearsal rooms for the arts are undersized and insufficient
- 4 Underutilized spaces are missed opportunities
- **5** A lack of student common spaces inhibits learning outside of the classroom
- 6 STEM and project-based learning spaces are severely lacking
- Classrooms within academic divisions are dispersed 7
- No accomodations for deliveries and trash removal neccessitate dual use of the main entry 8
- Vehicular driveways are narrow and unsafe 9





A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

Central High School is one of the premier public college preparatory schools in the nation.

Our recent graduating class (275) was presented with over \$22 million in scholarships, prizes and awards, which confirms the successes of our prior capital investments in the Barnwell Library, Gymnasium Addition and Auditorium Renovation. This motivates us to continue to enhance our facilities with improvements leading the way for innovation and creativity.



Repair and Invigorate the Campus

Repair and Invigorate the Campus Central's 25-acre campus and its 200,000sf 1939 historic academic building is the 4th campus for Captral since its founding in 1836. It's time to invest in our "Dear Old High" facilities and grounds, be stewards of our past, and continue and expand our legacy forward.



Academic Planning

Comprehensive academic planning fits near term initiatives within the long term pedagogical vision for Central.



Integrate STEM Education Building on the success and entrepreneurial spirit of Centrals' world championship robotics program, the new STEM Innovation Center will allow collaboration and project-based learning to take place across Science, Technology, Engineering and Math disciplines.



 Provide 21st Century Learning Opportunities

 Many of our top performing students need access
 Many of our top performing students need access to computers and new technology that are necessary in today's learning environments. The new Digital Media and Technology Center housed in the new Student Commons, will provide technology for classroom research and writing projects, podcasts, and broadcasting.



Advance the Performing Arts

The arts are flourishing at Central High School, with 41% of students participating in music, theatre, dance and visual arts through coursework, ensembles and extracurricular clubs. Purpose-built space for the arts will illustrate our belief that arts education is an integral pedagogical component that is proven to foster high academic achievements.

REPAIR & INVIGORATE THE CAMPUS

The campus grounds, in a current state of neglect, are envisioned to be repaired and invigorated with life. A new sense of arrival is created through site development and placement of the new Performing Arts Center. The campus vehicular entry is moved away from the busy traffic intersection of Olney and Ogontz Avenues and will be wider and safer for incoming and outgoing traffic. The parking lot is reconstructed at a lower elevation allowing for the removal of deteriorating retaining walls and narrow driveways that are unsafe and divide the campus. Rather than a stark blank asphalt lot, the new parking lot will be infused with sustainable infrastructure to manage stormwater, offer shade, and provide for handicap accessible parking.

A site for a new Performing Arts Center is chosen between the pedestrian and vehicular entries at the north lawn creating a shared entry courtyard and outdoor commons to the school. The historic main entry of the school is retained and remains prominemnt. Outdoor spaces that are useful to academic, social, athletic, and operational needs are incorporated, including outdoor STEM classrooms and an area designated for loading and deliveries.

The memorable South Lawn is preserved as a quiet space for future campus development of athletic, academic and social spaces.





A STEM Innovation Center is created as an extension of a consolidated Science department in the Lower Level.



Lower Level

The Performing Arts Center positioned on the north lawn forms a renewed entry sequence for students and visitors.



1st Floor

The Campus and Facilities Masterplan evaluated the needs of the school and envisioned a new Performing Arts Center to appropriately house rehearsal and performance spaces in taller, acoustically tuned rooms. With spaces for music housed in a new structure connected to the main building, we are able to reallocate spaces in the main building to consolidate academic departments and add new spaces for STEM and Digitial Media and Technology Center within a centralized Student Commons that will bridge the arts and academics.



2nd Floor

The Digital Media and Technology Center and Student Commons link the main building to the Performing Arts Center. The middle bay of the main building houses the world language department when the music department moves to the Performing Arts Center.





3rd Floor

INTEGRATE STEM EDUCATION

Building upon the strength of the science and math curricula at Central, Robotics has been the fastest growing extracurricular club in recent years. In 2016, 100 students brought Central's nationally ranked RoboLancers to the FIRST World Championship for the 2nd year in a row. The RoboLancers illustrate the potential and strength of interdisciplinary collaborative projects in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at Central. Of the eleven 2016 graduating RoboLancers, ten are studying engineering or science in college and the the eleventh is studying international business.

Making use of an underutilized space in the lower level of the Main Building, The STEM Center will be home to robotics after school and will host interdisciplinary class work and research throughout the academic day.

The Maker Space and Robotics Studio will allow Central's three Robotics teams to work in dedicated space with a robotic field and ample room for planning and construction. The Maker Space is a workshop outfitted with 3D printers, CNC-milling machines, laser cutters, tool benches and other breakout spaces for group work. The Flex Lab and Research Studio includes wet lab facilities for research and hands-on engagement with associated spaces for computer work and group research. These spaces are supported by a Metals workshop, a STEM classroom and an outdoor project-based learning space with amphitheatre seating built into a hillside.



The RoboLancers robotics team gives students an experience which our industry mentors find eerily similar to their work as professional engineers. The students design, build, and test complex machines on tight timelines; they secure funding and manage an annual budget of \$100,000; they write and speak about their work to judges, sponsors, politicians, and the press; they are good community partners, supporting hundreds of students in schools and programs around Philadelphia; and they build strong professional relationships with each other, earning trust and respect as they lead their peers and hold each other accountable for excellent work.

Michael Johnson, Science and Robotics Team Faculty





- 4 Robotics Practice Field
- 5 Group Study Rooms
- 6 STEM Classroom
- 7 Metal Shop
- 8 Loading Ramp
- 9 Huddle Lounge
- **10** Storage



PROVIDE 21ST CENTURY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The social hub of Central High School is the main hallway, or "street" that on every floor fills to capacity with students between classes. Students have a free period during the day when they need places to study, collaborate, prepare for tests and complete their work. Many students do not have access to technology and appropriate study environments that are needed to excel when they are not at school. Beyond the library, which is used by classes and can seat just 1/3 of the students during their free period, no other space is available besides the "street" where you will see students sitting on the floor trying to work.

The new Performing Arts Center connects to the main building at the 2nd floor. The north wing transforms into a Student Commons anchored by a new Digital Media and Technology Center providing computer labs for research, green screen rooms, voice over rooms and a broadcast room, all allowing integration of media and technology into Central's curricula.

The Student Commons is the hub of student life centrally positioned vertically and horizontally in the building. Group study rooms and collaboration areas encourage interdisciplinary project-based learning through collegiate level study environments.





- 1 Music Classrooms
- 2 Student Commons Bridge
- **3** Group Study Rooms
- 4 Commons Lounge
- **5** Multipurpose Room
- 6 Recording Studio
- 7 Digital Media & Technology Center
- 8 College Guidance
- 9 Computer Labs

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students need a place to study and collaborate outside of a classroom at any given time

ADVANCE THE PERFORMING ARTS

A new Performing Arts Center provides purpose-built space for the performing arts at Central housing rehearsal and performance spaces for Central's 11 large performing ensembles, 5 chamber music ensembles and academic courses in history, multi-culturalism, music theory, and music technology.

A performance venue seating 400 people will accommodate music performances of all sizes, theatrical and dance performances, as well as musical theatre and extracurricular club performances. Instrumental and choral rehearsal rooms will be scaled to fit the size and acoustical needs of large ensembles. Individual and ensemble practice rooms will allow for break-out rehearsals and practice times before, during and after school. A scene shop and dressing rooms will support the venue and allow for outside groups to perform at the school.



The Student Commons extends from the hallway of the Main Building into the lobby of the Performing Arts Center creating a dynamic and engaging lobby and entry sequence.





Featured as a Grammy Signature School, Central's ensembles have performed all over the world including trips to Austria, England, Israel and Hungary. Every spring, the Music and Art Departments present a full-scale musical theater production. Our recent performances were Seussical, Oklahoma, Aida, Hairspray, West Side Story and Annie Get Your Gun. 400 students participated as cast, musicians, stage crew, design, marketing, set design and construction, costume design and more.



The performance venue can accommodate various music ensembles, as well as theatre and dance productions. The balcony level connects to the 2nd floor of the main building and is connected to the main floor with open circulating stairways.



Serving as the Central High School Music Department Chair is an extreme pleasure, honor, and adventure of a lifetime. Our music students are some of the finest young musicians and scholars in the city of Philadelphia. Their compassion, dedication and intense work ethic inspires our faculty. The department is flourishing as a model of academic achievement, artistic excellence and civility. I look forward to a brilliant future for the arts at Central.

Benjamin E. Blazer Music Department Chair

I'm excited for this new building because it will give the future students the chance to feel the same joy that I have felt while being a part of the arts program.

Dylan, 277



G We have outgrown the close confines of small spaces devoted to the arts... this Performing Arts Center will provide us with new and exciting experiences to flourish.

Grace, 277











LEADING THE WAY



Performing Arts Center \$32 million

6100 STEM Innovation Center \$3.1 million 60 Site Development & Loading \$8.1 million Student Commons - 2nd floor Study and Collaboration Suite 15% \$1.3 million Student Commons - 1st FloorMultipurpose Room & Entry \$3.8 million Digital Media & Technology Center \$4.4 million



Our masterplan envisions the capital improvements of this campaign being completed within the next decade, and other long term masterplan initiatives such as department reconfigurations, athletic renovations, infrastructure improvements and additional site development incrementally as funds become available.

Campaign project costs are based on 2016 estimates.

YOUR ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN...

Due to Central, I was the first in my family to attend college. In one generation the educational and economic trajectory of my family has changed for the better.

Nicole Gaughan VanBuskirk 257

I am who I am because of Central. David Kahn 220

Central opened my eyes to the world. Pete Forjohn 235

I have a wall full of awards and the one that everyone notices is my Central High diploma.

Dr. Donald Stoltz 200

The musical tutelage I received laid the foundation for my own musical career. Mike Franchetti 255

Central is the most significant institution that affected the course of my life. Bernard G. Spain 198

Every alum has their own reasons—but all say that attending Central High School changed their life more than any other place or event. Our ability to continue to educate and inspire future leaders, engineers, artists and innovators converges with three major streams of operational excellences:

- **1** Spaces for learning that propel our mission for future generations
- 2 A well-stewarded campus and grounds
- **3** Strong private funding sources that build upon the foundation of our public resources

Join us in **leading the way for innovation and creativity** and extend the great legacy of Central High School for generations to come.



...HELP US CONTINUE TO CHANGE LIVES

LEADERSHIP

On the occasion of my 70th birthday, my wife Joan recalled that I have always spoken highly of my high school experience at Central and how it changed my life. As a first generation American growing up in a mid to lower class immigrant family in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of the city, Central exposed me to an education that was beyond my imagination. It was only through Central that I ever conceived to be able to attend College.

Joan made a gift to Central on my behalf as a present and we visited the school to talk about how best it could be used. We found the students, faculty and staff to be the finest quality, as it was when I attended, but the building was falling apart. Spaces that Joan remembered from high school dances and athletic games as brand new were now well used worn spaces that were in desperate need of repair. We realized during our visit that now we are fortunate to be in the position to make change in a meaningful way at the school, and that's what we started to do.

Through our financial support, we have helped the school where it has been needed most, in the facility itself. We have helped renovate the auditorium and restore its historic art deco light fixtures. We have transformed the library into a modern research center and created a much needed conference center that students use to capacity all day long. We have painted lockers, repaired the main entry, constructed a robotics lab, and purchased computers to advance the Music Department's music technology course offering.

We supported this work at the school because we love Central. It maintains high admissions requirements and does wonders everyday transforming lives of the same high achieving mid to lower class students that I was growing up, many of whom are also the first in their families to attend college.

Bernard G. Spain 198



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We are grateful to the many people who have helped to create this vision of innovation and creativity for Central High School. Support for our efforts comes from the commitment of our Associated Alumni Board of Managers, our President Timothy J. McKenna, our Home and School Association, The School District of Philadelphia, and from our many friends in the community who share our passion for education.

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