

## PROGRESS ARTICLE 2020

The theme of progress correctly identifies the Community of Central City. Central City is a model for small-town growth and prosperity that is possible outside of Omaha and Lincoln and this is evident by Central City being selected as a “Showcase Community” in 2019. The community continues to address amenities, quality of life standards, and housing shortages while making plans for even bigger things in the near future. A forward-thinking community coupled with a progressive school system allows for continued success.

In 2019, our district enjoyed a number of student and staff successes in the classroom, on the stage, and on the various fields of play. These successes do not happen without the constant efforts and dedication of our students, staff, administrators, Board of Education, parents, and community. A great deal of time and effort goes into educating our students and providing them with quality educational opportunities.

In 2019, the District demonstrated great growth. The District increased enrollment by over thirty students from 2018-2019 to the current school year. 765 students are currently enrolled at CCPS. This is an increase of nearly seventy students in the last five years. This growth can be contributed to progressive thinking, stability, community economic development, and the large commitment to student offerings and opportunities.

During the 2019 Calendar Year, Central City Public Schools continued to raise the academic bar. In the Winter of 2019, Central City Public School students ranked above the norm in twenty-five of twenty-seven sub-categories based on grade level in ELA, Math, and Reading. This was a record for the District during the Winter testing window and this was followed up with record numbers in the Fall of 2019 MAPS NWEA testing window. Central City Public Schools was also moved from being a “Good” to “Great” school district according to the Nebraska Department of Education. Academic success was also recognizable with the success Central City Public School students had at the National Science Fair, in the Quiz Bowl, and various other competitions.

Activities and athletics are an extension of the classroom in which students have the opportunity to learn and develop skills that cannot be taught in the classroom. Incredibly talented students showcase their abilities in One Act, Choir, Show Choir, Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Speech, Art, and the Musical. Students are also provided the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities in Football, Volleyball, Softball, Cross Country, Golf, Basketball, Wrestling, Track, and Baseball. The District also offers many other clubs and organizations that include FFA, DECA, Art Club, Science Club, Fishing Club, and many more.

Central City Public Schools is known for their tremendous facilities and those facilities continue to improve. In the Spring of 2019, voters supported a \$7.995

million bond to improve the District's safety, science and industrial technology facilities and offerings, and to modernize the 1968 high school building. Construction began during the Summer of 2019 and Phase I was completed in the Fall. Phase I included the addition of a second pre-school classroom at the elementary, renovating the elementary offices into a secure entrance, and the renovation of special education classrooms at the high school. Phase I allowed the District to provide additional early childhood education and to reduce contractual services to better support the education of students in Central City over sending them and their dollars to other communities, saving tax dollars and improving education. Phase II is currently underway with additions and renovations to the science, agriculture science, and industrial technology wings, secure office construction, safety, and other classroom improvements and modernizations. Phase II is scheduled to be complete by August of 2020 and these improvements will provide District students with state of the art science and industrial technology facilities. The completion of this project also includes a Master Plan for the District five, ten, and fifteen years into the future.

In addition to the construction stated above, a modern greenhouse was constructed in the Spring of 2018. The new greenhouse is a collaborative effort to provide educational opportunities for agriculture education, science projects, and the FFA. The community supported a major outdoor athletic complex upgrade with the installation of artificial turf a few summers ago. A truly unique and classy field known as "Preferred Popcorn Field" has been installed at Bison Stadium while proudly displaying the community in which it calls home. The project also included a student-built concession stand. School vehicles are also now housed in a student-built bus barn.

Considerable time and effort is being put into the future of Central City Public Schools by taking a strong look at providing students with additional opportunities, courses, and creating a vision for the future of education in this community. Started during the 2017-2018 School Year, in addition to the core subjects, middle school students now receive educational exposure to all six-career fields. The exposure to the six career fields will culminate into a career course that will highlight their strengths and interests to help them transition into high school with a focused academic curriculum for their future. In the high school, graduation requirements have been modified by creating additional student flexibility within those requirements and adding community service and job-shadowing requirements. Course offerings are also being placed into career pathways. The pathways include introduction, intermediate, and capstone courses that provide students with dual-credit courses through local and regional colleges and universities and hands-on learning opportunities through work-based learning.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the Bison Family. The community has a great deal of positive momentum and a great deal of exciting things going on. We are very excited about the future of this district and proud to be a part of the community. Go Bison!!!

