

## HERE WE GO!

We have blinked, and the 2025-2026 school year is here! As we look forward to a new school year, we cannot help but think about the incredible things that happened a year ago. The school and community accomplished an unsurpassed amount of success stories over the past year.

A year ago, our Motto was “Elevate Great,” following an amazing 23-24 school year of success. What we didn’t fathom was that the 24-25 school year would surpass the previous year to include record academic scores, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place Quiz Bowl Team, multiple individuals qualifying for National Academic Events, a Superior Band accomplishment, two runner-up athletic teams, a Top Five athletic team, individual champions and placers, and an EXCELLENT NDE District rating. Over the summer, to add to these successes, the Boys were announced as the All-Activities State Champions for Class C. All of this happened in one school year and there are many other items not mentioned.

As we approach the 25-26 year, the motto for the year will be “Connecting, Inspiring, and Empowering the Herd.” Much of the 25-26 school year will emphasize continued leadership development, ownership, and enjoyment for education that includes the overall development of the person. The word “Herd” is integral as it takes ALL to accomplish great things, including students, staff, parents, and community.

First day enrollment appears that it will surpass 800 students for the third straight year as the District continues to grow. This year will include a record number of nearly eighty option enrollment students. The District Census report also shows continued growth in overall student population.

With each year, new faces will join our staff. Two staff members will replace retired teachers, one new teacher will be a part of program expansion, and four teachers will replace departed staff members. Angela Broekemier (Art) and Dale Jones (SPED) will be alumni that are returning to teach in their hometown. Cal Switzer (Band), McKenna Larson (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math), and Lance Sorenson (HS Math) are teachers bringing their experience to Central City. Hailey Oswald (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and Briana Sandmeier (HS ELA) are highly recommended individuals that will be entering the teaching profession for the first time.

Summer is always a great time to make repairs and improvements to the facilities. As students leave for the summer, custodians are busy with projects and focused on details as they work to enhance our exceptional facilities. This summer, the business classrooms received a facelift with new ceilings, lights, carpet, paint, and furniture. In addition, several areas of concrete were replaced across the District. Detail work is very important each summer to continue to stress pride in what we have here in Central City.

With each year, we move closer to becoming one campus with the eventual move of the elementary to the southern campus. Plans are nearly complete to provide the visual of how a K-12 southern campus will look. In addition, work is being done to dissect what it will take to separate the 1947 and 1998 additions from the 1927 building. The plan is that the 1947 and 1998 facilities will continue to be used by the District for early childhood to support additional child care needs for the community. The 1927 facility will be sold for external uses or unfortunately be torn down if a proper use cannot be obtained. Keep in mind that the retreat from using the 1927 facility allows the District to be more efficient, avoid heavy operating costs, and avoid expenditures for windows, roof, HVAC, and mechanical to the 1927 facility.

The 25-26 school year will also mark year five of the continuous school improvement model. That means that an external team of six individuals from across the State will visit our District and provide feedback. Many individuals will be involved in this process to provide information on how our District can continue to improve to meet the changing needs of our students. Within those six members of the external team, two individuals have previously visited our District as a part of previous external visits. They will be able to provide the larger group with information on how much the District has changed over the course of eleven years.

We are hopeful that everyone had an enjoyable summer break and that everyone looks forward to the 2025-2026 school year. With each year, the bar continues to be set higher. We look forward to continued expectations and we look forward to enjoying the upcoming school year. Go Bison!