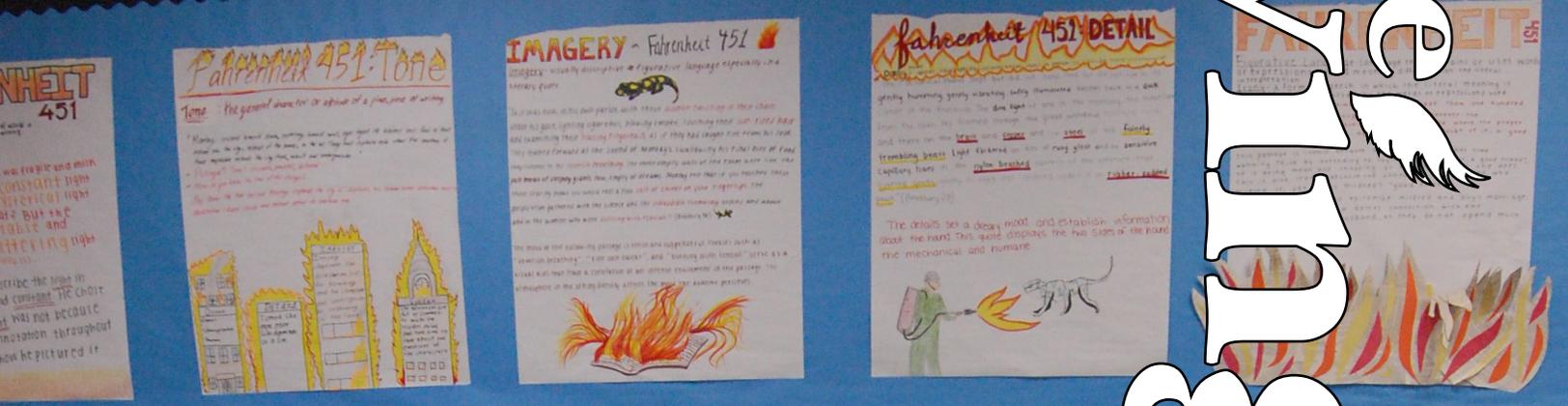


# the Wingspan 3 S L S P E A N

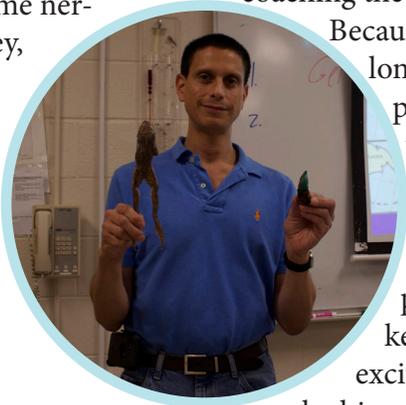


the Wingspan *Design By: Nova Kim*  
*Cover Photo By: Meghan Moore*

June 8, 2017  
Volume 40 Issue 7

In the 2017-2018 school year, nothing but great things are expected to come from Centennial High School. Some of Centennial's key changes to come include the incoming freshman class of 2021, class level changes, and changes in the athletic community.

As it is every year, some freshmen are ready for the challenges and new opportunities high school brings, and some are not, but almost all are excited for the move to high school in some way. Currently an eighth grader at Burleigh Manor Middle School, Elijah Ruiz, who is going to enter Centennial, said, "I am excited, but at the same time nervous." Julia Berkley, an eighth grader, said, "I'm a bit nervous, it's just weird leaving some friends behind and moving into a new building with new and bigger people."



Changes to class levels will also occur next year. One of the main departments in which many changes are taking place is the science department. According to Todd Rosenfeld, Earth and Space Science teacher, a curricular level switch affecting many incoming freshmen will be the removal of the G/T class option for Earth and Space Science. Starting next year, only a regular-level option will be offered for the class. Many other science classes at Centennial will be making the exact opposite changes: many will remove all regular level classes.

Rosenfeld gave his insight on the changes. "I feel it's a disservice to the students," said Rosenfeld. "It's limiting the options and there is also going to be additional lim-

itations in terms of the courses."

Rosenfeld hopes that there will eventually be changes; however, he said, "Unfortunately, as of this point for next year, it looks like it won't."

New athletic changes are also occurring in the Centennial community. One major and well known change in the athletic community of Centennial is the change of boys' soccer coaches for both the Varsity and J.V. teams. With former Centennial Boys' Varsity soccer coach Mario Moon no longer coaching the Eagles, former J.V. coach Justin Thomas will step up to the challenge of coaching the Varsity program.

Because Thomas is no longer running the J.V. program, a new coach will be brought in to coach Centennial's J.V. team.

Varsity soccer player Matt Merkey said, "I'm really excited to be coached by him. He's been watching the previous varsity coaches and learned from ways they have coached, so he knows what will work and what won't." Merkey added, "I think he will help make this team more disciplined so we will be able to get the job done when it comes to the playoffs. Usually Centennial soccer is solid during the regular season but when playoffs come around we don't bring enough to make it to where we hope."

Merkey added that coach Thomas has already "helped set things up for us in the summer so we will be working hard during the offseason which will put us a step ahead of other teams in the fall." -Zach Grossman

Photo By: Laila Abu-Ghaida

# the wingspan

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English Teacher Mr. Wheeler leads group discussion in English 9.

All opinions expressed within the Wingspan are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff and its entirety, its advisor, or the school.

# FRESHMAN FLASHBACKS

STUDENTS REFLECT ON THEIR FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman year can be difficult. Both big and small changes from middle school are strange: selecting from more challenging classes, walking among fellow students that look more like adults, and having multiple lunch blocks are just a few examples.

However, the high school experience also presents interesting opportunities to the crowd of 14- and 15-year-olds making up the class of 2020.

Introduced to a crowd of more than 1000 students, many freshmen, including Hannah DeGroff and Shazma Malik, have enjoyed the opportunity to interact with new friends. "Being introduced to new crowds and experiencing new things with new people made this year so much more interesting," stated DeGroff.

High school sports come

with longer practices and more intense workouts, but many freshmen have accepted these challenges. "Cross country really taught me motivation and teamwork. [My teammates and I] all helped each other and made [the experience] bearable," Carlos Montemayor communicated.

John Boncore's best memory of freshman year has been playing baseball. Even those not participating in sports have enjoyed cheering on their friends under Centennial High School's floodlights.

The core of high school itself, a higher level of education, has also been appreciated. Education outside of the classroom has clearly rung a bell with students.

Nia Klender loved taking a field trip with her science class to the Air and Space Museum, sharing that she

"loved walking around and looking at all the exhibits." Malik recalled visiting the Little Patuxent Stream with her biology teacher Mrs. Reynolds.

This is not to say that the high school experience is perfect. Time management has been a struggle for many freshmen. "Sometimes [school] will be really easy with hardly any homework, and then every teacher gives you a ton of essays, projects, and tests all at once," remarked Klender.

Because of the "crazy amount of homework," as DeGroff described, stress can be a pertinent issue.

Most freshmen realize this. In a call for advice for incoming freshmen, Olivia Tsai stated, "Have fun and don't stress too much." John Boncore voiced a similar opinion, commenting, "Don't worry too much. You

can do this."

Getting involved in school activities is key. Kim suggests to try out as many clubs as you can. Finding activities you enjoy can detract from stressful schoolwork, make one's high school experience that much better, and may even help one determine what career path to pursue.

Schoolwork still serves as the basis for everything. "Stay on top of your schoolwork and everything else will fall into place," DeGroff asserted.

-Caroline Chu



## Students' Opinions on Off-Campus Lunch

-Meghan Moore



Robert LaCava, 11  
"I believe that Howard County should allow students to have off campus lunch because sometimes you forget your lunch...so then you can go get some [food] from a nearby restaurant. A man's gotta have his 'Arby's, you know?'"

Camila Cavero, 10  
"Lots of people don't bring and don't like the lunch from [Centennial] but they shouldn't just not eat."



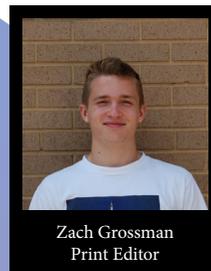
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# MEET THE NEXT PRESS

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# Centennial Sports Records

## BOYS 2016-2017 GIRLS

Golf: 4-3-1(county) 4-3-1(overall)  
 Soccer: 8-3(county) 9-5(overall)  
 Football: 1-9(county) 1-9(overall)  
 Wrestling: 1-4-5(county) 1-5-6(overall)  
 Basketball: 12-4(county) 16-8(overall)  
 Baseball: 7-9(county) 7-10(overall)  
 Lacrosse: 9-3(county) 13-3(overall)  
 Tennis: 14-0(county) 14-0-1(overall)

Golf: 7-0-1(county) 7-0-1(overall)  
 Soccer: 7-3-1(county) 12-4-1(overall)  
 Volleyball: 8-3(county) 12-5(overall)  
 Field Hockey: 7-4(county) 8-4(overall)  
 Basketball: 6-10(county) 10-12(overall)  
 Tennis: 12-3(county) 12-3-1(overall)  
 Softball: 10-6(county) 12-8(overall)  
 Lacrosse: 8-4(county) 9-6(overall)

-Zach Grable



## *Girl in Motion*

*Making A Mark In Dance*

the Junior Dance Company passed by quickly thanks to a supportive and close team. Being a leader of the group allowed Sanders to have the opportunity to choreograph dances and teach them to other members. "This helped me realize that while I love to perform, choreographing and teaching may be where I'm headed," she added.

Although she still has a long road ahead of her, Sanders is determined to push herself and try her best no matter what. "I hope to be a part of the Senior Dance Company in the future," Sanders said.

-Lien Hoang

Freshman Jillian Sanders is pushing boundaries with her talent of dancing both inside and outside of school. Her skills earned her a spot on Centennial's Junior Dance Company, the second highest company that Centennial High School offers to students.

She was also voted captain of the Junior Dance Company by her teammates. Surrounded by upperclassman dancers, Sanders became the only freshman captain for the Junior Dance Company.

Although the leadership role came as a surprise to her, Sanders was very excited when she found out she had won the position, and she was "eager to take on the challenge."

Besides dancing for Centennial's team, Sanders also dances in competitions outside of school. Having competed since the second grade, she participates in four local competitions a year in addition to nationals.

Unsuccessful attempts to play t-ball and soccer resulted in Sanders' mom enrolling her daughter in a dance class

a friend was taking. She immediately enjoyed the class and the teacher. She then later joined Arabesque Dance Studio, where she developed her skills as well as her passion for dance.

Sanders has been dancing for the studio since the age of four and continues to do so for a total of 16 hours each week. At her studio, Sanders works with teachers that inspire her to improve her dancing. "They have pushed me for these past eleven years to be a versatile and disciplined dancer," Sanders said.

Her year as captain for

# Going above and B E Y O N D



Every year Centennial's PTSA awards a staff member the Commitment to Excellence Award. Generally, the award is given to a teacher for academic achievements or for closely mentoring students. Being awarded this accolade is among one of the most highly respected accomplishments in the Centennial community.

Allen Anderson, this year's recipient of the Commitment to Excellence Award, is the head custodian at Centennial High School. Anderson has been at Centennial for eight years, and plans to stay with the community for much longer. However, he is much more than his job title: he plays an active role in the school, always coming into classrooms and talking to anyone he knows. One can often find him in the gym or the weight room challenging students and having good-natured competition. If you don't see him interacting with students, then he is most likely with Officer Carneal or school security guard Mike Guizzotti watching over the halls.

Anderson is extremely kind hearted and caring, always there for anyone who needs help and completing any job that needs to get done. There isn't much that



he doesn't do; he is willing to attend to messes or be there for someone who needs him on a rough day.

For Anderson, the Excellence Award was much more than an award. "Oh man, I was honored, I could have named a lot of other people that deserved the award. It was emotional too because of my situation right now, and just to know that people care and are actually thinking about me enough to nominate me."

Anderson wasn't expecting the award and was at a loss for words when he was called upon at the senior assembly. "It was shocking; at the time I did not really feel like I was doing anything too overly important to receive the award. After speaking to a lot of kids and parents coming up to me, thanking me for positive encouragement that I had given to their children."

The speech was extremely touching as he spoke of his wife who recently passed away. When the

community found out about the loss, it wasn't long before everyone who knew him was there to mourn with him. "I have had parents just call and make sure my day is okay, see how my week's going," said Anderson. "Parents have provided meals so that I would not have to worry about cooking, my kids are very involved in sports and stuff after school. We are constantly going up and down the road. The com-

munity has really just done a lot to show that they care a lot about me and my family; it has been really special to our family."

Luke Shapiro, a junior at Centennial, has a cordial relationship with Anderson stating, "Mr. Allen always knows how to put a smile on your face in the morning."

Anderson can brighten someone's day even in the early morning hours of school which are often the most difficult hours for students.

Matt Ritchie, another junior at Centennial tells about a life lesson he has learned from Anderson: "He has taught me to make the best of everything and that you can have a bigger impact on people than I thought."

Anderson impacts students in life more than he might know. The lessons he leaves behind can last a lifetime.

Anderson has gone far beyond his job description, creating more than just a bond with co-workers and students; he has built relationships with people that will last much longer than the short four years of high school.

*-Parker Subasic*

