



the wingspan

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Cover photo by: Eliza Andrew



Principal Cynthia Dillon Reflects on Her First Year

Photo by: Eliza Andrew

In a school of 1,612 students, a single face passes by new principal Cynthia Dillon. She says hello, just as the student smiles with a welcoming invitation to their club event later in the week. With a beaming look she says, yes, of course!

Dillon, after almost 180 days of being principal of Centennial High School, has attended nearly every student event possible: from band concerts, to It's Academic tournaments, art galleries, sports games, and Worldfest. She has devoted the majority of her time here to the students— their individual needs, requests, and ideas.

“The hard part was when a kid would say to me in the hallway, ‘Hey, can you come to this tonight?’ I kind of felt like I couldn’t say no... my job is to be here for you and serve you,”

Dillon assured. “If there’s a kid who wants you to come, you’re there.”

The average high schooler, as Dillon has noticed, yearns for change. She is fascinated by Centennial’s students, who yearn for school inclusion, safety, and success.

Such student-driven change can only make for an exciting, yet overwhelming year. As principal, handling such drive can become a challenge.

With only seven hours in a school day, and an exponential number of people to oversee, Dillon recognizes the powerful position she holds, and how different it is from being principal of a middle school.

“I quickly figured out what I do, because there are twice as many of you, twice as many teachers, twice as many parents,

but I still have the same 7-hour day,” said Dillon. “So when you guys come to my door, I’m stopping what I’m doing.”

Out of the plethora of memorable moments from the past school year, the ones that stuck out most to Dillon were the individual, intimate conversations with students. The most seemingly insignificant and trivial responses may last a lifetime.

Despite these incredible moments, not all moments have been positive. Such an intensive job can only come with extreme highs and lows, times in which school conflicts feel endless, and parking permits may never be resolved.

“Another thing I care about is equity,” said Dillon. “If we take the parking for example, we asked every high school in the county, what is your process,

how do you issue permits?”

In the heights of such student, teacher, or parent frustration, Dillon must sit back and understand her place.

“The hardest thing in the first year in any assignment is stopping and watching. So what I think it should be, may not be what it is here, and just because it’s not what I think it should be doesn’t mean it’s wrong,” said Dillon. “It’s just different.”

Upon walking through the expansive front doors of Centennial High School, Dillon immediately felt a wave of anxiety among the students. What formerly had been only warnings of the competitive nature became reality within an instant. Centennial’s high-achieving reputation does not exist without truth, as she discovered. Students from ages 14 to 18

“My job is to be here for you and serve you.”

from recognizing there was a lot to learn.

“A couple times this year I’ve made decisions like a middle school principal and not a high school principal... and didn’t go and say hey, this is what I’d like to see, how can we make it happen,” Dillon stated. “Once or twice I ruffled some feathers unintentionally.”

In just a year’s time, a lot has changed in Centennial. Most of all, it may be Dillon’s view of her position, and the students who make it possible. An experience many high schoolers can describe as the best of times, and the worst of times, is a year to remember- as Dillon’s legacy has only just begun.

Most importantly, to Dillon, of course, is her relationship with the students. “I think the role of the principal is to serve,” she says.

-Natalie Knight-Griffin

crowd the halls in discussion of their grades, SAT scores, AP test results, and anxieties.

“Certain students stress themselves out trying to achieve at such high levels that it’s emotionally unhealthy. I think a big part of this issue stems from students being reticent to talk about their stress.”

Dillon has appreciated every second she has spent in Centennial, learning and understanding the school’s community. Centennial, as she put it, is like no other. Especially different from that of middle schools, high schoolers possess an interest in the community’s well being. Often taken aback by the intensity of student passion, Dillon appreciates student conversation.

“All of a sudden, my primary target customers [students] are advocating for themselves, and coming to the door, whereas middle schoolers will very rarely seek you out.”

In Dillon’s past experience as a middle school principal of 12 years, she learned lessons she thought would be applicable to this new job, but soon realized otherwise. The most significant lessons, recalled Dillon, came

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PRINCIPAL CYNTHIA DILLON TALKS WITH A GROUP OF CENTENNIAL STUDENTS.

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CENTENNIAL ATHLETICS YEAR IN REVIEW

As the school year comes to a close, Centennial students look back on all the remarkable athletic accomplishments they achieved throughout the 2018 school year. Students of all grades not only performed exceptionally well in their academics, but did so while playing at the highest level on numerous sports teams.

The first, and longest sports season of the year kicked off strongly this past fall. The boys' soccer team made a promising playoff run with an extremely talented group. Despite their tremendous efforts, the boys fell to James M Bennett in penalty kicks.

Although they suffered a tough loss to Atholton in the playoffs, the girls' team fought hard and placed well in the county. Much of the team's success can be attributed to great regular season play and leadership from senior Ashley Moltz and juniors Ashley Bilger and Carolina Pellegrini.

Several individuals found themselves in great positions to win big on the golf course this season. The girls' golf team placed first in counties and sev-

eral students participated in the state championship. Senior Kenny Chaplain and juniors Morgan Taylor, Klaus Wood, and Ty Sams were all invited to the first day of state play. As a result of his great placement, Sams earned himself a spot on the course for the second day.

After a challenging start to the season, the Centennial field hockey team made one final push and secured a spot in the playoffs. In the first round, Centennial defeated Long Reach to advance to the regional semi-final. Unfortunately, the girls fell to rival Mount Hebron in their following game. This successful season, led by senior Annabel Baldy and sophomore Lily Sullivan, shows signs of a promising future for the field hockey program.

As expected, the cross country team continued their astonishing legacy at Centennial as the boys' team placed first in the state championship and the girls' team placed third. Both teams' successes are due in part to great leadership from seniors Justin Ziegler, Alison Betler, Cora Blount, Christina Stavlas, and Caroline Shimeall.

Despite an entire season full of injuries, the Centennial girls' volleyball team earned a spot in the playoffs and a legitimate chance to play for a state championship. They defeated rival Mount Hebron in five sets. Due to unfortunate seeding, the team had one day to prepare for their following game at Atholton; as a result, they were knocked out in a three-set match.

The Centennial football program has had a few challenging years, but a new coach with a new game plan could help the team rebuild quicker than expected. Despite finishing the season without a win, the team has begun to take major steps in the right direction. Coach William Martin and various veteran players have recruited Centennial students from other sports to join the team. Along with finding more interested students, being placed in a lower division to maintain a competitive atmosphere could be just what the team needs to revive their program.

Despite strong regular seasons for both the boys' and girls' basketball teams, Centennial

basketball was upset in the 3A East Regional playoffs. Seniors Jordan Dossett and Ashley Moltz, as well as junior Rasa Welsh, consistently led the team throughout the season. After defeating Atholton, the girls were knocked out of the playoffs by Long Reach.

Unfortunately, the boys' team joined the girls in an early offseason. The boys' basketball team was eliminated by Reservoir, despite junior Joey Sedlacko and senior Ryan Hollwedel's tremendous leadership.

As many had anticipated, the community witnessed yet another breathtaking season from senior Jason Kraisser and the wrestling team. Kraisser won his fourth state championship in four years, making him just the eighth public school student to do so in the state of Maryland. Kraisser fulfilled his family legacy after he completed an undefeated season with 40 matches won.

As expected, Centennial's near-perfect track team performed at a high level this past spring. The team continues to impress as they make history year after year. As a whole, the

boys' track team placed third in regionals and the girls' team placed fourth. Jacob Cole advanced to the state tournament where he placed third in the two-mile.

On the lacrosse field, both the boys' and girls' teams suffered upsetting losses which knocked them out of contention for a state championship. Despite having just one returning senior, the girls' lacrosse team beat the odds after taking down several top-ranked teams in the county. The girls hosted a rematch against rival Mount Hebron in the 3A Section semi-final. Although Centennial was victorious in the first meeting, they were unable to defeat Hebron in the playoffs. The girls' successful lacrosse season was largely due to great maturity and perseverance from senior Marissa Lagera and junior Rasa Welsh.

After starting the season with seven straight wins, the Centennial boys' lacrosse team battled until the end. The boys entered the playoffs with high expectations, but found themselves surprised in the third round as they suffered an unexpected loss to Mount Hebron. The talented team was led by seniors Stafford Smith and Peter Krawczyk, and sophomore Alex Kauffman.

Despite being cut one game short of Regionals, the baseball team fought through a season that they will never forget. The boys closed out the regular season with a strong week, finishing with a record of 11-10. Prior to the playoffs, Centennial defeated Mount Hebron and Howard, the top two teams in the county, on back-to-back days. Unfortunately, the boys were eliminated by Atholton in the 3A East section final. Sophomore third baseman Jack Pist-



*Junior Olivia Tsai leaves it all on the court at the state championship.
Photos contributed by: Olivia Tsai*

ner and sophomore shortstop Chris Betler both earned themselves a spot on the all-county first team.

The softball team found themselves in the same boat as baseball. After a clutch win over Long Reach in extra innings, the girls advanced to the 3A East section final. They lost a heartbreaking game to Reservoir by a final score of 3-2. Centennial relied on junior Jordan Hinz, as they have all season. Hinz shut down Reservoir, allowing no runs after the third inning. With the bases loaded in the final inning, the girls desperately fought to send home one more runner. Unfortunately, they

could not get a hit with two outs remaining and were eliminated.

Senior Grace Bennett and junior Lauren Marcotte (committed to Penn State) assisted Hinz in this tremendous year.

On the tennis courts, senior Christopher Chen and junior Olivia Tsai took their play to the next level. The duo placed third in mixed doubles and the team, as a whole, won the state championship. The team fought back hard and stepped up in the later rounds. Freshmen Ryan Huang and Danny Ho placed second in the boys' doubles bracket, and senior Abby Jackson and sophomore Shreya Vallimanalan placed second in the girls' dou-

bles bracket.

"I think I'll remember our unity as a team," said Tsai. "The amount of support that you receive from your team and fellow teammates makes any experience so much more memorable."

The team's success was built on great team chemistry and hard work throughout the season. When students look back on their years at Centennial, they will not remember the accomplishments they achieved, rather the relationships they made and the great times they had.

-Shawn Kruhm

TRIPLE THREAT

The commitment to playing a varsity sport is a demanding task, one that requires a vast amount of time and energy to be able to perform at the highest level in high school sports.

Few athletes have what it takes to be able to compete at such a high level, let alone in three different sports.

Centennial freshman Lauren Pellegrini is a three-sport varsity athlete who excelled for the Eagles in soccer, basketball, and lacrosse.

This year, Pellegrini was the only freshman athlete at Centennial who played three varsity sports. It is an impressive accomplishment because of its high level of difficulty.

The motivation to be an athlete came when Pellegrini first started playing sports.

Pellegrini's dedication is what sets her apart from other athletes. She has played soccer since she was three years old, and she started basketball and

lacrosse in kindergarten. Her many years of hard work have allowed her to compete at the varsity level.

"I started playing them all when I was very young and so I grew up with a passion for each of them," Pellegrini stated.

One of the benefits of playing multiple sports is that the athlete does not get tired of playing just one sport. However, this is not the case for Pellegrini. Even after many years of playing, Pellegrini's love for the sports that she plays continues to grow.

When asked if she enjoyed a specific sport more than the others, Pellegrini stated, "All three are pretty much equal to me, but soccer is slightly ahead of the other two. This is because I've played it longer and at a higher level."

The sports Pellegrini plays all revolve around working as a team. The camaraderie and trust between her teammates is one aspect that she enjoys most

about playing team sports.

"I really love having teammates who I can rely on to support me. When I'm faced with challenges or losses, I can fall back on my team and I know that they will help me get better," stated Pellegrini.

Playing three sports comes at a cost, however. It is a serious commitment and can interfere with life both inside and outside the classroom. Trying to balance the time between playing sports and completing schoolwork can be a difficult task, especially when the athlete is participating in numerous sports like Pellegrini.

"I usually budget my time well and can juggle sports and schoolwork, but occasionally, it gets hard to keep up at school," said Pellegrini. "I also miss a lot of social activities because of practices and games, and there is not much time for vacation."

Another drawback of playing three sports is the possibility of the sport seasons interfering with each other.

"One of the biggest challenges is the overlap between my sports. For example, this year I had to begin the lacrosse season late because of the basketball playoffs," Pellegrini explained.

In addition to playing for Centennial, Pellegrini also plays club sports which are not organized through the school.

"Club sports can also get in the way of high school," Pellegrini added. Club sports require additional practices and games, but help athletes improve in their sport by gaining more experience.

Although playing three sports requires a large amount of time and effort, Pellegrini focuses on using sports as an outlet to distract herself from everyday troubles.

"I love that when I play sports, it gives me some time away from the pressures of real life. During practices and games, I forget about what is happening in my life and it gives me an escape from all [the] stress," Pellegrini explained.

Pellegrini has gained valuable experience in varsity sports as only a freshman. She played against tough competition throughout the duration of the whole year, which will benefit her as she continues to improve in each sport. Already, Pellegrini has an advantage over other athletes, who for some, will not reach the varsity level until their junior or senior year.

It will be exciting to watch Pellegrini develop as an athlete during her time at Centennial after her successful freshman year, and as she continues to make a name for herself in high school sports. The sky is the limit for Pellegrini's potential.

- *Joey Sedlacko*

Photo by: *Zach Grable*



Rising **SOPHOMORES** Address the Fears of Incoming **FRESHMEN**

The transition from middle school to high school can be intimidating, and many freshmen are terrified for their first day. All students share similar fears, from not having classes or lunches with their friends, to being overwhelmed with work.

While eager for new opportunities, Billy Allen, a current eighth grader at Burleigh Manor, isn't sure how he will balance everything. "I would say that increased workload is one of my biggest concerns," said Allen.

Emily DeSena, an incoming freshman from Burleigh Manor, has similar worries. "[I'm worried] that I won't be able to take the workload and I won't be able to do some of the things that I want to do. What if I screw up in high school? What happens then?"

Both DeSena and Allen share one of the most common worries between all rising freshmen, but they know it will be even harder to handle the workload. Colin Hitzelberger, a current freshman, has some advice for balancing everything.

"If you keep on top of the workload and don't get buried in it you'll be fine," he said. Although there was less work than he expected, Hitzelberger still has advice for rising freshmen. "Just going to class and having a good work ethic helped with [my] classes."

Current freshman Ananya Soogoor had a different experience than Hitzelberger. "I

actually didn't expect as much [work] as [I was] given," she said. Despite this, Soogoor has learned to adjust to her classes effectively. "I have learned to prioritize my tasks and focus on ones that are most important. I do have to sacrifice a few things but it is worth it when you have completed everything required of you."

Although she had to make some sacrifices, Soogoor has valuable advice for students. "Learn how to manage your time... being able to prioritize is a life skill, and will help you in the long run," said Soogoor.

Along with managing a workload, Allen is worried about the change in rules.

"I am also nervous because I have heard that some of the teachers are strict," he mentioned. Despite these worries, Allen is eager for the added freedom and opportunities next year. "I am excited for the ability to take more classes that I am interested in rather than following a [rigid] class schedule."

Soogoor agrees with Allen's perception of classes. "In middle school, we had a lot more restrictions with what classes we wanted to take, but in high school, we get to decide what classes to take based on our own interests."

Soogoor says that she was able to overcome her original fears. "I was a little anxious for [orientation and the first day] because I wasn't sure how I'd go about making friends because barely any of my friends from



Current eighth graders listen to speeches by Centennial students during their visitation day.

Photo by: Ellie Zoller-Gritz

middle school were in my classes," Soogoor said.

Even though she did not know most of the other freshmen, Soogoor quickly made friends. "I'm grateful that I was able to befriend a few people at orientation itself. It isn't as hard as it seems because the majority of the freshman class is nervous."

Soogoor says that high school isn't as stressful as it seems. "[It] is often portrayed as intimidating through media, but I think it depends on how you assert yourself and which social circles you choose to join," she said. Soogoor acknowledges that talking to new people made her less nervous, and she has enjoyed her first year. Although she was worried, Soogoor recognized that her middle school prepared her and her classmates better than she was anticipating for freshman year, and she and her friends were quickly able to fall into the typical routine of a high school student.

Hitzelberger didn't think

that there was a huge difference between middle and high school either. "The first year was fun and adapting wasn't that bad," he said. "The biggest difference from middle school would probably be the size of my school and the amount of students."

Overall, high school is less intimidating than students think, and students find creative ways to balance work and social life. The first couple of days of school can be intimidating, but eventually everyone is able to find their place in friend groups, classes, and school work.

-Sasha Allen

Guizzotti says Goodbye

Words and Photo by: Delanie Tucker



Guizzotti plays basketball with Morgan Taylor.

As of the end of the 2018-19 school year, Centennial's own security guard, Mike Guizzotti, will be saying goodbye after ten years of service.

Since 2009, Guizzotti has been keeping peace within Centennial, making sure that every student and staff member feels safe and secure in their learning environment.

Due to security changes being made throughout Howard County, Guizzotti is being transferred out of Centennial.

"As of right now, I am getting moved to Atholton High School," Guizzotti stated.

This decision was out of Guizzotti's hands, which "made it even more frustrating."

"It's heartbreaking. I've been in Centennial now ten years, I love it here. It's close to home. I love the kids and families. It's truly heartbreaking to leave, but it's what the bosses above decided," Guizzotti expressed.

In his time here, Guizzotti has become a vital part of the school atmosphere. He has formed close bonds with not

only his fellow staff members, but a majority of the student body, as well. He even has close friendships with the families of several students.

Guizzotti explained how important these relationships are to him, and how hard it will be to say goodbye to all of these people.

"Between sports programs or just meeting kids in the hallways, I've gone from knowing zero people to almost knowing everyone, including the parents and families," Guizzotti said.

But these relationships were not easy to form. It took years for Guizzotti to connect with the student body and earn their trust.

"It takes a good three years to build a bond," he said.

He was determined to get to know everybody, though. He first formed bonds with his fellow staff members, since he'd have to work so closely with them, especially the other members of Centennial's security team.

"We were both Baltimore City

police officers, so we share a lot of stories and a lot of the same beliefs," Marc Corneil, Centennial's School Resource Officer, commented on getting to know Guizzotti when they first met.

Corneil expressed his feelings about Guizzotti leaving, and how he understands that the move will be hard.

"Moving is not always easy because you're being shipped out of your comfort zone. Of course I'd rather him stay, but I have no control over that."

Cameron Rahnama, one of Centennial's vice principals, also had a few words to say on Guizzotti's departure.

"[He] has been at Centennial for a very long time and has become a fixture here," Rahnama commented. "He will be greatly missed."

Guizzotti worked to get close with his students, who were also vocal about their distaste towards the transfer.

"It's definitely not going to be perfect, bringing a completely new person into a school with so many students," sophomore

Nour Eloiseily stated. "I mean, I'm sure the new guy will be great, but I think everything works because we all know and love Mike."

Sophomore Ellie Zoller-Gritz agreed.

"It's hard to trust someone to protect you when you barely know them, but it was really easy to trust Mike. He's just someone you meet and automatically like. I hope whoever this new guy is will be the same, or the kids probably won't trust him."

This likability is something Guizzotti takes pride in, and he hopes it's a character trait that the future security guard will be able to adapt.

His advice to attain this trait was simply, "Be happy. Smile."

Regardless of how big of a change this will be, the students and staff of Centennial will, in time, learn to trust the new security guard just as they learned to trust Guizzotti.

Freshman Rend Nayfeh commented, "I'll miss Mike, but I'm sure it will all work out."

End of an Era: Hollwedel Steps Away from the Sideline



When Chad Hollwedel switched his major from engineering to education, he knew that, wherever he taught, he wanted to have an impact on the school community beyond the classroom. With sports being a major part of his youth, he also knew that he wanted to coach.

However, what the 26-year-old Hollwedel didn't know when he first started teaching at Centennial in 1997 was just how impactful his coaching would be. He didn't know that he would help lead the basketball program to ten straight winning seasons. He didn't know that his teams' success would bring an entire school community together. He didn't know that in 2015, with all of Centennial behind its back, his team would win the first boys basketball state title in school history. He didn't know that his coaching would continue to influence and inspire his players years after they graduated. Now, twenty-two years later, with his coaching career finally coming to an end, Hollwedel knows. And so does Centennial.

When he first arrived at Centennial, Hollwedel wasted no time getting involved. In 1997, he joined the basketball program as an assistant for the Junior Varsity (JV) team. Hollwedel worked his way up the coaching ladder, serving as a Varsity assistant under head coach Jim Hill before taking over as head coach of the Junior Varsity team in the 2000–01 season. When Hill stepped down after the 2006–07 season, he felt confident leaving the program in the hands of Hollwedel.

Over the next twelve years, Hollwedel turned a historically inconsistent program into a model of consistency. After be-

ginning his tenure with two losing seasons, Hollwedel led Centennial to ten straight winning seasons. His 193 career wins include three regional titles and one state championship.

Behind Hollwedel's extraordinary success was his unwavering passion for the game. For twenty-two years, he devoted his life to the Centennial basketball program. For every hour of game the public watches, there are hours upon hours of practice to coach, meetings to hold, and film to watch. Factor in his off-season responsibilities and it's easy to understand why, as Hollwedel put it, "Everything I did in my spare time was really [at Centennial]."

And while Hollwedel's passion was evident in the amount of time he devoted to the program, it was how he coached in that time, and how much the program meant to him, which truly gave a sense of his incredible ardor.

Ben Goldsmith, a 2012 Centennial graduate, played for Hollwedel on the 2011 and 2012 regional championship teams. In Goldsmith's eyes, Hollwedel's greatest skill was the passionate attitude he coached with.

"He never had an off day," Goldsmith recalled. "Whether it was an early Saturday morning practice or over holiday break, Hollwedel brought an energy to the gym."

This energy—a general enthusiasm for the game and a demand for excellence—was contagious.

"It was easy to play our hearts out and enjoy doing it," explained Goldsmith, "because we had a coach who was coaching his heart out and enjoying it too."

For many of Hollwedel's teams, the spirited, team-orient-

ed culture which he developed translated into on-the-court success. In Goldsmith's junior year, Hollwedel led Centennial past the regional finals and into the state final for the first time in school history. And although the 56–44 loss to Milford Mill in the championship hurt, making it there in the first place was an extremely rewarding accomplishment for Hollwedel.

The following year, Centennial won the regional title again and made it to the state tournament for the second year in a row. Having already been there and lost, Hollwedel felt that Centennial had to win this time. So when they came back empty-handed again—this time losing to Thomas Stone in the semi-final—there was a much greater feeling of failure for Hollwedel.

"That was personally devastating at the time," he recalled. "I was just hoping to be able to get back."

Three years later, after posting a 20–2 regular season record and on the heels of a dramatic win at the buzzer over River Hill in the regional final, Centennial got back. And this time, with the 2012 semi-final loss still weighing heavily on his shoulders, Hollwedel felt an even greater sense of urgency to win.

Nevertheless, he entered the state tournament at ease, confident that his team would finish what his 2011 team had started.

"After [the buzzer beater], I just felt like we were going to do it. Whether I had the right to believe we were going to do it or not, I believed we were going to."

Centennial cruised past C. Milton Wright 75–61 in the semi-final, setting up a showdown with Westlake in the

state championship. It's a game which, one may argue, epitomized Hollwedel's career.

Hundreds of fans greeted the Centennial players and coaches as they walked onto the Xfinity Center court before the game.

"It just looked like this mountain of red," described Hollwedel. "It was overwhelming how many people were there."

Making up that mountain were students, parents, teachers, alumni, and future Eagles-- an entire community brought together by one basketball team. Hollwedel had built something which they all found hope in together, took pride in together, and celebrated together. From when the clock started ticking till the sound of the final buzzer, his team united them as Eagles.

Those Eagles cheered on, as loud and spirited as ever. Even as the two teams battled back and forth over the first three quarters, Hollwedel and Centennial never wavered. Then, with eight minutes left to decide whether they would make history or go home devastated, Centennial broke through.

Over the final quarter, Centennial outscored Westlake 20–9. As the clock hit 0:00, sealing a 57–43 win and the first state title in school history, the mountain of red erupted into a thunderous roar.

Shortly after the game ended, the announcer called up each of the players one-by-one to receive a plaque. As Hollwedel looked back on that moment a few weeks ago, the emotions of that day, the extraordinary significance of that win to him, his players, and the community, suddenly came flooding back.

"It was the happiest and most rewarding feeling that I've had as a coach," he said, holding back tears. He searched for the

right words to match the magic of that moment but could not find any. His voice shaky, all he could manage was “It was indescribable.”

When it was his turn to receive the state championship trophy, and the announcer officially pronounced the Eagles as Class 3A State Champions, Hollwedel turned and hoisted it triumphantly toward the Centennial crowd. Once again, they erupted in celebration.

In a way, that trophy was theirs as much as it was his. For years, the program and the community had fed off of and strengthened each other. Now, Hollwedel had brought the ultimate prize back to the community which put him there.

“It was truly a beautiful thing to witness,” remembered Isaiah White, a senior on the 2014–15 team. “Us playing as a team, and then him turning and pumping his fist into the crowd yelling ‘Let’s go!’”

It was not only in the community, however, that Hollwedel’s passionate coaching made a difference. It was in his players as well.

White, for instance, will never forget Hollwedel’s saying, “1–0.” One of Hollwedel’s points of emphasis, it meant players should focus on one game at a time rather than the season as a whole.

“It’s something that’s stuck with me throughout other aspects of my life,” he explained, “reminding me only to take care of what I can control, and to focus on the task at hand.”

After graduating from Centennial in 2015, White went on to play Division 1 basketball at the University of Maine. In addition to teaching him intangible lessons, White credits Hollwedel with coaching him the

fundamentals and laying the foundation he needed to take the next step at the college level.

“I know for a fact that he helped get me where I am today,” concluded White.

Like White, Goldsmith also played basketball collegiately after graduating from Centennial. Now, Goldsmith is finishing his second year teaching at Leonardtown Middle School and coaching basketball at Leonardtown High School. Goldsmith says that without Hollwedel, he would have never chosen this career path.

“I try to model what I do after what Coach did at Centennial,” said Goldsmith. He aspires to develop a program at Leonardtown built on teamwork and determination just like Hollwedel did at Centennial.

As Goldsmith walks in the footsteps of Hollwedel, he ensures that Hollwedel’s message and attitude will continue to impact players and communities long after his retirement from coaching. His influence now extends beyond Centennial; he has forever changed the lives of his players and they are eager to have that same effect on others.

This year, Hollwedel is stepping away from the Centennial program. The possibility had been on his mind for years. After the 2018–19 season ended in March, Hollwedel spent time reflecting and ultimately decided that now was the right time.

Most importantly, Hollwedel felt that he was having trouble maintaining the passionate energy he believes is needed to run the program. He was a high energy coach who no longer had a high level of energy.

Also weighing into his decision was the opportunity to spend more time focusing on his family. His daughter, Emily,

plays volleyball at Centennial and on a club team in the offseason. His son, Ryan, is planning on playing basketball at Hood College this winter. He is looking forward to spending more time watching and enjoying both of their athletic careers.

“I definitely just want to be a dad,” he explained.

While Hollwedel admits that it will be “extremely hard” to step away from something that has played such an important role in his life for the past twenty-two years, he doesn’t feel hesitant about his decision.

Hollwedel expects that stepping away from the basketball program will be similar to when he stepped away from coaching football. He noted that, even though Friday nights were tough for him at first, “It didn’t last very long. I still knew that I could enjoy it without being on the other side of the fence.”

With that being said, there are certainly some aspects of coaching that Hollwedel will miss. He says that the packed crowds, the thrill and emotion of the game, and the opportunity to grow relationships with his players all come to his mind.

In his twenty-two years at Centennial, coaching has become part of Chad Hollwedel’s identity. Visit him on any given day and you’ll likely find him in a Centennial basketball t-shirt, teaching in a classroom whose walls are lined with pictures and newspaper clippings of the program he helped build. He says he’ll miss having that as part of his identity, miss people saying “Hey, Coach” in the hallway. In a few years, he expects that there’ll be kids who never even knew he coached. And for an ordinary coach, that may be true. But Hollwedel’s coaching career was bigger than basket-

“Whether it was an early Saturday morning practice or over holiday break, Hollwedel brought an energy to the gym.”

ball. In turning the Centennial basketball program into a consistent winner, Hollwedel brought an entire community together. Through his passion and leadership, he made a difference in, often even changed, the lives of countless players. And so, even as Hollwedel steps away from the sideline, to all of those people whose lives he touched, whether they were part of the program or cheering it on, he will always be “Coach.”

-Caleb McClatchey

MEET THE *press* NEW



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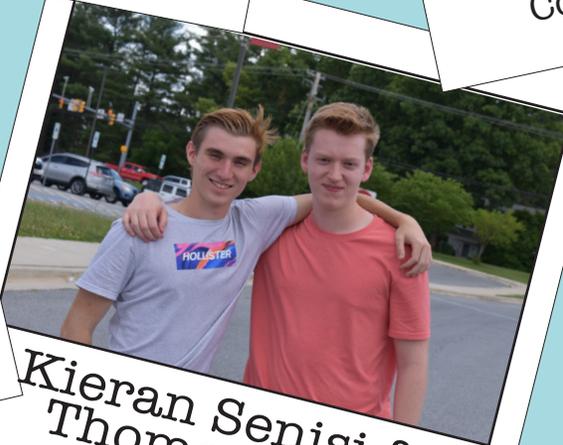
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What Staff Does Over the Summer

School is almost out, which means on that as mental final day, students will be hurrying from the doors of Centennial to soak up the sun. They will go on vacations, hang out with friends, and be free from the stressors of school, homework, and standardized tests. But for many, what teachers do is completely off their minds.

Hannah Elliot, one of the art and photography teachers, is eager for the freedom of summer, away from the dim lights of Centennial.

“[I look forward to] being able to see the sunlight during the day,” Elliot said. “And knowing what the weather is without being cooped up in a windowless school!”

Other teachers, like science teacher Yuanjun Liu, are looking forward to getting some sleep.

“I don’t have to get up at 6 am; I am not a morning person!” Liu stated.

While summer is full of relaxing times, teachers also said they will miss the kids in school.

“I will miss seeing my students!” said Alyssa Eller, who teaches math at Centennial. “I love teaching you all and cheering you on through your successes and obstacles inside and outside of class.”

English teacher Thomas Wheeler noted that long-term vacations don’t agree with him.

“I miss everything about school after a couple of weeks,” he said. “Once I recharge my batteries, I start to miss coworkers, students, and my daily routine.”

While some teachers spend time relaxing and soaking up the sun, others travel across the world, like Liu.

“Every summer, I travel from one side of the earth to the other end of the earth.” Liu said. “Summer makes me feel I have two worlds: home life and work life. Summer separates and connects the two worlds together.”

Wheeler said.

Elliot had one piece of advice for Centennial students this summer: to get out and do things.

“Enjoy the outdoors whenever you can and stay off the phones as much as possible!” she said. “There is so much to appreciate in the world right outside our doors that we take for granted, and you may not always have this sort of opportunity to indulge in it.”

-Emily Hollwedel



Elliot, Eller, Wheeler, and Liu get excited for summer break.
Photo by: Adithi Soogoor

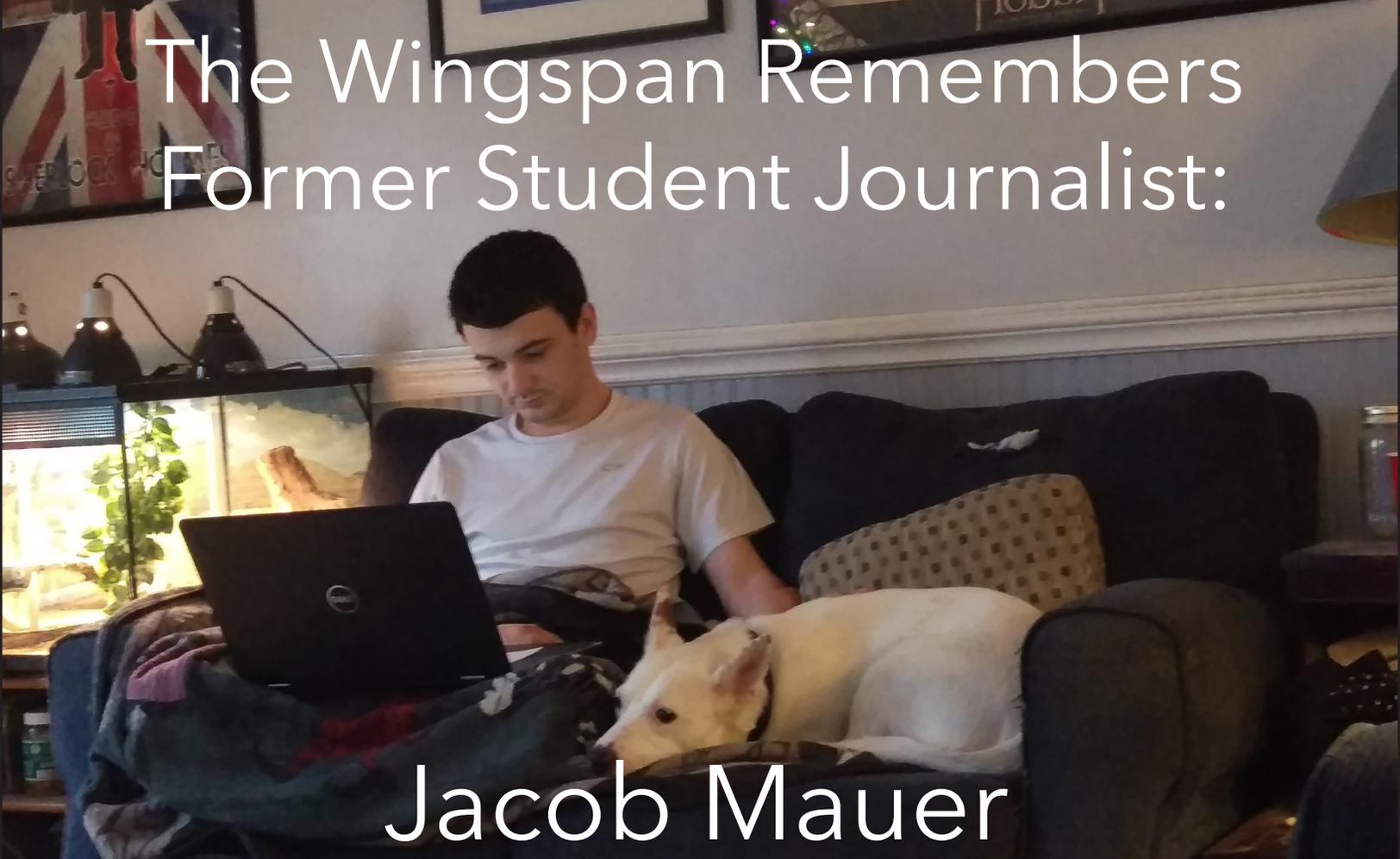
“I love teaching you all and cheering you on through your successes and obstacles inside and outside of class.”

Meanwhile, Eller will be staying a little closer to home at popular east coast beaches.

“I will have a few weeks before [we] come back in August to relax by the pool and go to Ocean City, Maryland or Sea Girt, New Jersey as often as I can.”

Wheeler will be doing the same, keeping literature part of his summer routine despite being out of school. “I always find time to enjoy at least one book by the pool or beach before I go teach summer school,”

The Wingspan Remembers Former Student Journalist:



Jacob Mauer

The Wingspan team honors Jacob Mauer for his dedication to this program. Jacob was a contributing member to our team from 2014-16 and was always eager to cover any event from hard news to opinion pieces. In just two years he published eleven articles online. His commitment was a model for us all and his legacy will never be forgotten.

-Piper Berry, Editor-in-Chief

Xander Mauer, Wingspan member, remembers his brother:

Jacob wasn't just my brother, or my best friend, or the person who was always there for me— he was a part of me. I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for Jacob. We used to fight so much in our youth; our parents almost thought we would never be friends, but then we slowly grew closer. For the past seven years, we have been inseparable. Whenever we weren't working or at school, we were still together. Even if we weren't doing anything, we were doing that together. We were so similar in behavior and appearance that everyone thought we

were twins when they first saw us. Whenever something would happen and we weren't together, my first thought was always, "I gotta tell Jacob about this."

Even now I'll start to pull out my phone to text him about something before remembering that he'll never see my message.

Even with all our time spent together, I can't remember the last time I heard him say, "you're welcome." He always would say, "no problem," or "happy to help," because that was the truth. He would always go out of his way to help others, no matter who they were or

what they needed help with. He was so selfless and ready to help that he didn't expect anything in return. He always insisted on giving something in return whenever someone else helped him.

I didn't know how much everyone he met loved him and cared about him until after he died. I knew people appreciated him, but I had always thought that the true depth of his character was only known to a select few. So many people have come to pay condolences and share fantastic stories of him since the news broke. My mom even

compared it to the end of *It's a Wonderful Life* when George Bailey is shown how much of an impact he has made and how much everyone cares, except in this story there's no guardian angel to make everything normal again in the end.

Jacob is the most important person in the world to me, and I don't know how I'm going to get through this. I just know that he would want me to try my best.

Words From Those Who Worked Alongside Jacob:

Rus Vanwestervelt, Wingspan Advisor

When Jacob was on our team, he served an integral role as the go-to writer who always said yes to any assignment, often volunteering when others couldn't cover their beat.

Not only did he offer to take those last-minute stories, he met his deadlines with a polished, publishable product every single time.

He accepted assignments with a smile, and his witty humor and his shared love for chocolate eased the stress in our press room at each deadline.

Jacob Mauer is certainly one individual who understood, embraced, and modeled what it means to be a member of the Wingspan team.

We will always remember Jacob as making a heartfelt and meaningful contribution to that larger Wingspan legacy. That allows each new team to inherit the expectation that every individual matters, just like Jacob always will.

Meghan Moore

Jacob was always someone you could count on. He never failed to do his job to the best of his ability, make someone laugh, or to bring in chocolate on Friday.
We'll miss you, chocolate king.

Sandy Eichhorn

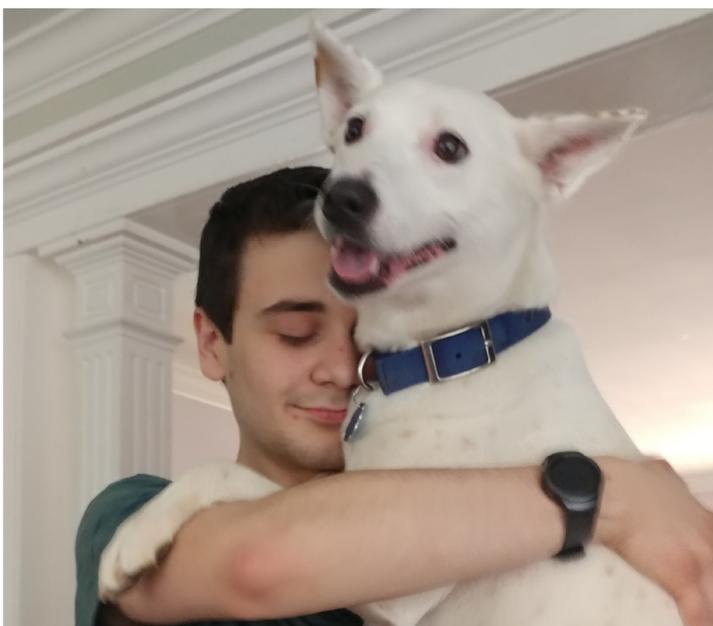
Jacob was someone I went to whenever I needed something done quickly. He was kind and funny and he always made an effort to talk to everyone.

Michael Moore

Jacob was one of the most positive, and friendly humans I had the pleasure of being around. He always had a smile on his face, and was always joking around and making those around him happier. His welcoming attitude towards others around him was contagious, and was something that still sticks to me to this day.

Sabrina Han

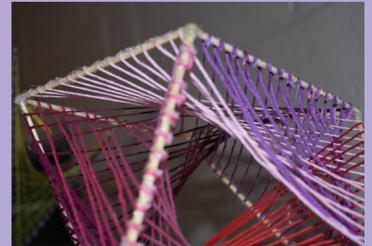
Jacob had a great sense of humor and was always laughing and joking around. We will always remember him as an internal part of the Wingspan legacy.



Your Wingspan Team Will Always Remember You.



Centennial Art Gallery



THANK YOU INDIGO INK FOR
ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT
THIS YEAR!