

2023 DRAWS TO A CLOSE

The completion of the first semester also marks the end of 2023. The past year has brought with it considerable attention to our community and school district. Many people have been watching our community growth and have been taking notice.

The year 2023 brought the Nebraska Cornhuskers Volleyball team to town with an exhibition match against Wichita State in the Bison Activity Dome. This event will go down in history as one of the biggest events to ever come to the community of Central City. Further, Central City was broadcast across the nation as the Bison Activity Dome was viewed by hundreds of thousands on the Big Ten Network. This was a huge opportunity and accomplishment for our school and community. It is amazing to think that same young team is now competing for a National Championship this month, and everything started here in Central City.

That event, along with the exposure of recent facility improvements, created a positive buzz around the state and beyond. Over the course of the past year, nearly forty different groups that included five alumni groups toured the Central City School campus. The Bison Activity Dome has created a desire to take a closer look at Central City. All of these groups also toured the amazing impact our updated science, industrial technology, and activity areas are having on Central City students. People visit with amazement at what this community and school are doing for our students here.

Staff, parents, and students have been collaboratively working towards great progress and production. The year 2023 continued to raise the academic bar at Central City Public Schools. The first day of enrollment was over 800 students for the first time since 2000. That total demonstrates a growth of nearly 110 students since just 2016-2017. The Nebraska Education Profile ranked Central City Public Schools as a “great” school with record performances in the elementary school and middle school. The high school continues to evolve with career education and providing students with unsurpassed opportunities in Work-based Learning.

In addition to continued academic elevation, Central City High School qualified teams for the state tournament in Boys Basketball, Baseball, and Softball along with individuals in Wrestling, Track, Golf, and Cross Country during the 2023 calendar year. The Bison Activity Dome and Performing Arts Center were also home to Conference Basketball, Sub-District and District Basketball, Conference Volleyball, multiple conference One-Acts, and District One-Act bringing thousands of individuals to our community in 2023. As always, the District Fine Arts programs once again performed at a high level with excitement and energy that is reflective of their instructors.

It is hopeful that everyone will enjoy family and friends over the holiday season, take the time to reflect, and to look forward to more in 2024. It is very difficult to find a school and community that is doing more to be progressive, thinking outside the box, and being innovative to improve our community and to support growth. We cannot take what the overall

community is doing for granted, and we must continue to do our part to support the growth of Central City. Happy Holidays to everyone and enjoy the break!