



THE CENTRALIZER

Central High School of Philadelphia

Please pardon the appearance of this edition of the newspaper, we have experienced problems with our usual software due to quarantine. We hope you understand. Enjoy!

June, 2020

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Graduation Edition

A Reflection on Central

Viktor Kagan
Op-Ed Editor (279)
President of 279

Walking into Central in April 2016, I was awestruck by the amount of people in the huge auditorium. I found my middle school friends sitting in the back and nervously staring at the stage. I was in Central High School, famous for its prestige, academic challenges, and the opportunities awaiting for every student to grasp. Like the rest of my future classmates, I radiated fear- fear of my future, my upcoming experience at Central, and whether I could succeed coming from a class of 82 students to one of 650.

Watching my graduation on June 10, 2020, I realized how far Central has taken me. The institution pulled at me in every way, stressing me out daily, pushing me to manage my time better, and introduced me to so many new concepts. The Central High School experience is amazing and insightful, with the many celebrations, the deep conversations generated in classroom settings, and the great activities and clubs available.

Yet, four years into my time at this institution, I see Central differently. Sure, it is still prestigious, academically challenging, and has provided me with amazing opportunities, but see another Central. This Central is one where students miss school because they are overworked and overwhelmed, a Central where communication is bleak and limited, and a Central that stresses itself on the concept of being a “college preparatory school,” but makes few strides in preparing its students to apply and succeed in college.

I cannot emphasize the good that Central has within it until its flaws are fixed and as a class representative, I wish I had done more to improve the quality of mental health, the concerns of my classmates, and their opportunities to succeed. Sadly, I am at the end of my high school career, so my impacts as a student are ineffective, but as a new alumnus, I feel that there are issues that need to be addressed and worked on by all parties involved in Central High School, including students, faculty, alumni, parents, and etc. Central students deserve the most, as to why I propose certain changes to the Central High School experience.

Mental health is simply not a strength within the student body. Every teacher claims



to support their students and no teacher intends to overwhelm them with work, but it just so happens to be that that happens far too often. Members of 279 had the opportunity to experience the “Senior Grace Period,” where senior year teachers were expected to not assign homework or have assessments, allowing seniors to focus on the college application process. The gratitude expressed by my classmates was immense; not only could they apply EA and ED to prestigious universities, they could also catch up on work and relax from the immense workload. Teachers feared that their lesson plans would be messed up, but as we have learned from the unprecedented COVID-19 situation, lesson plans cannot and must never supersede the health, whether physical or mental, of students. Central students deserve a mental break every so often. While every senior class deserves a Senior Grace Period, other grades also need mental health days. If Central had a biweekly mental health day, where no homework would be assigned, students would be more enabled to participate and less mentally drained.

Central is nowhere near perfect and deserves better student representation. Students ought to have the opportunity to meet with and discuss issues with administration, alumni, and teacher leaders. As much as well run the institution is, many issues go unnoticed. It takes full cooperation and communication between every party involved in the school to solve issues including teacher-student issues, better representation of different students in classes, improvements in mental health, and the development of new ideas to benefit the school.

Students also need help with the college application process. Our counselors are amazing, but the limit in funding, an issue on its own, has inhibited on how much they can do. Each academic department ought to help contribute to helping students prepare for college, including providing mentoring, helping write the “Common App” essay starting in 10th grade, and following systems utilized by private schools. Our teachers have attended some of the most prominent institutions in the country and recent Central alumni are in attendance at universities across the world. Their experiences with the process and at different schools can be essential in helping current students learn about different universities, majors, and the opportunities available to them. The insight from various groups of people can help expand the scope of students who cannot visit campuses, do not know where to apply, or what majors to look into.

Central has allowed me to become a more knowledgeable individual, growing my interests and ability to be a leader. Yet, this is not the experience for many students and issues need to be addressed to help improve the institution. Central’s prestige needs to mirror its students’ experiences, in order to truly be the amazing institution that it strives to be.

Central, thank you for all of your contributions to thousands of students’ lives. Now, it is important to help the current students’ experiences and make their experiences even better. For that, mental health, communication, and college preparedness need to be emphasized.

The College Destinations of the 279th Class

Juwayriya Abdul-Hadi - Bloomsburg University
Aaliyah Abdul-Quddus - Seton Hall University
Allen Abraham - Temple University
Ahnazah Adams - West Chester
Heather Adams - West Virginia University
Theresa Ademola - TBD
Rachael Alexander - Howard University
Arianna Alfaro - Temple University
Shayla Allen - Arcadia University
Isabella Amada - University of the Arts
Maia Arbel - Temple University
Samantha Jenn Arcila-Olivera - CCP / gap year
Caleb Arters - TBD
Zoe Bailkin - University of Pittsburgh
Jaela Bambino-Forte - Temple University
Mariam Begum - Temple University
Achraf Benkhalifa - Penn state
Emma Bertolino - University of Delaware
Esther Besson - Boston University
Ostap Bezrukyy - Drexel
Andrei Birladeanu - Drexel University
Matthew Blöse - Drexel University
Mikal Blount - CCP
Damon Borgia - Umass Boston
Tommy Bounchanavong - Drexel University
Synia Boyer - Howard University
Marissa Brabazon - Florida Gulf Coast University
Patrick Brinkley - CCP
Shae-Lynn Brown - Thomas Jefferson University
Gabriel Brown - gap year
Han Bui - Temple University
Ensar Bunjaku - Penn State University
Noe Bunster - Temple University
Kyle Buonomo - Shippensburg university
Christopher Buonomo - TBD
DeJhore Butler - Temple University
Bené Butler - TBD
James-Dujon Byfield - Usciences
Jalah Byrd - CCP to Temple
Vicky Cai - Jefferson University
Elvis Cao - Drexel University
Frank Cao - TBD
William Carney - University of LaVerne
Raven Carter - CCP
Evan Carulli - Temple University
Noah Cason - Undecided
Jaisha Castillo - Brigham Young University
Anja Castro-Diephouse - Northeastern University
Juah Chae - Temple U
Joey Chan - University of Pennsylvania
Kate Chan - University of Pennsylvania
Dominic Checchia - TBD
Kimberly Chen - Thomas Jefferson University
Jason Chen - Temple
Xuzhe Chen - Thomas Jefferson University
Tony Chen - Drexel University
Wenjie Chen - Temple University
Anthony Chen - Drexel
Steven Chen - Drexel University
Xian Han Chen - University of Pennsylvania
Joie Chen - Drexel
Wendy Chen - Thomas Jefferson University
Johny Chen - TBD
Benjamin Cherian - Temple University
Kenya Chestnut - Howard University
Aaron Cheung - Temple U
Saia Chin - Trade School - Electrician
Flora Chiu - Temple University
Sylvia Cho - Drexel University
Joshua Choder - CCP
Emilio Ciervo - Penn State University
Timani Clement - Temple
Kayla Cofield - Howard University
Lily Cohen - University of Pittsburgh
Daniel Cohen - University of Delaware
Anna Cole - West Chester University
John Coleman - Clark Atlanta University
Malikah Coleman - CCP
Ramon Cruz - Penn State University
Elijah Cruz - Howard University
Nyna D'Oliveira - Gap Year / Iowa State University
Samuel Dafils - Penn state Abington
Ethan Daguian - TBD
Alex Dalton - CCP
Julia Dang - TBD
Jaida Davenport-Gans - North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Saliyah Davis - Penn State Abington
Joyce Davis - University of Pennsylvania
Tysheera Davis - Howard University
Ka'Neisha Davis - Drexel University
Karina Dawdanow - Temple University
Raye-Julianne Delos-Reyes - Temple University
Kelly Deng - Temple University
Chadi Dennani - TBD college
Mikayla Dennis - University of the Sciences
Jordyn Dennis - Penn State University Park
Eda Dervishi - Drexel University
Ciara DeVose - TBD
Dennis Diduk - Temple University
Daniel Diep - Holy family university
Adam Discher - Penn State University
Shannon DiStefano - Temple Rome
Thomas Do - Drexel
Jake Do - University of Pennsylvania
Christ Do - University of the Sciences
Shamaya Dolby - Penn State Abington
Jackie Dong - Penn State University
Amy Dong - Drexel University
Victoria Dong - University of Pittsburgh
Sasha (Alexandra) Dotsenko - Drexel University
Michelle Droz-Santiago - CCP
Jordyn Drummond - University of Pittsburgh
Ranita Ear - TBD
Kameryn Easley - Shippensburg university
Jade Edwards - University of the Sciences
Josephine Effendi - Drexel University
Nicholas Eiler - University of Pennsylvania
Joshua Elahi - Temple University
Tiana Ellis - Howard University
Akito Emery - CCP
Moritz Endriss - Temple University
Ailey Eng - Drexel university
Brandon Ereforokuma - Penn State University Park
Shanae Evers - Empire Beauty School
Brooks Ey - Fordham University
Uchechi Ezengwa - Drexel University
Finda Fabian - Saint Joseph's University
Alexandra Fedorovsky - Bucks County Community College
Julia Fey - West Chester University
Nafees Fields - Howard University
Sophia Firoud - Bucks County Community College
Nikita Fishbeyn - Bucks County Community College
Quierra Fisher - Howard University
Quyaira Flint - CCP
Elijah Foltz - Gap Year
Zakaiya Ford - Drexel University
Je'von Freeman - TBD
Emmanuel Freeman - TBD
Liam Fuller - Temple University
Cerinne Furniss - Penn State Mont Alto
William Galanti - Pennsylvania State Abington
Jahya Gale-Cottries - Spelman College
Kara Gammage - Millersville University
Christian Gant-Madison - Howard University or Wyoming Seminary (Prep year)
Winnie Gao - Temple University
Tai Garcia-Boykin - CCP into Drexel/Widener
Tahara Garrison-Brown - TBD
Navin George - Drexel University
Christin George - Temple University
Kamryn Ghilyard-Norman - Attending Johnson and Wales University North Miami campus
Ravi Giberson - CCP
Jonas Gindin - Los Angeles working as an actor
Wiktorina Godek - CCP
Alejandro Gomez - Penn State University
Oleksandr Goncharov - Penn State University
Meleny Gonzalez - Penn State
Emmett Gordon - DePaul University
Dmitrii Gradinari - Drexel University
Marcanthony Grant - Drexel University
Kayla Greco - Jefferson
Kevine Green - Pennsylvania State University
Shadir Green - Cheyney University
Najia Green - Temple University
Isabella Greene - Tufts University
Nile Grey - Howard University
Morgan Griesemer - University of Pittsburgh
Julia Grugan - Dartmouth College
Raina Guinther - West Chester University
Nakita Guiteau - Penn State University
Madison Gustin - Rowan University
Karilyn Guzman - CCP then Temple
Maximillian Hall - University of Pennsylvania
David Hamilton - CCP
Kate Hamilton - TBD
Louisa Hanson - McGill University
Chad Harriott - CCP
Ray Hartzog - Gap Year / University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Alyson Harvey - Penn State
Dalip Haxhiu - CCP
Tori Haynes-Harrison - Coppin State University
Emilio Hernandez - TBD
Olivia Hiester - Temple University
Muhammad Hill - CCP
Hillary Ho - Temple University
Eli Hoffberg - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
Ian Holbrook - TBD
Sean Hollis - CCP
Justin Holmes - CCP
Jane Hopper - Gettysburg College
Margaret Howell - University of Pittsburgh
Xianjun Hu - Temple
Andrew Hu - Drexel University
Yu Huang - Penn State University Abington
Jialin Huang - Muhlenberg College
Anry Huynh - Drexel University
David Huynh - Temple
Calvin Huynh - CCP
Sam Huynh - TBD
Emmanuel Imperial - University of Pennsylvania
Ife Islam - Georgia State University
Ah'Nazha Jackson - Lincoln University
Fiona Jacobs - University of Pittsburgh
Fahnbulleh Jallah - West Chester university
Krupa James - Thomas Jefferson University
Nohan Jariyath - University of Pennsylvania
Danny Jiang - University of Pittsburgh
Xingyu Jiang - Pennsylvania State University
Anthony Jiang - University of Delaware
Grace Jickling - Sophia University
Jaime Johnson - Thomas Jefferson University
Suhailah Johnson - Howard University
Saniyah Johnson - Attending Penn State University
Linyae Johnson - Temple
Tahir Johnson - TBD
Stella Jones - The New School-Eugene Lang College/
gap year
Eve Jones - Delaware State University
Desiree Jones - Drexel University
Devon Jones - Penn State Brandywine
Christian Jones - TBD
Steffi Joseph - Holy Family University
Shayennah Joseph - Lincoln University
Adam Kadi - Temple University
Viktor Kagan - Yale University
Syeda Kalim - Drexel University
Zhuoxi Ke - Drexel University
Yoselin Kearney - Juniata College
Omais Khan - Temple University
Julianna Kim - University of the Sciences
Paul Kokayko - Undecided
Igli Kordha - Drexel University
Milana Korobko - University of Pennsylvania
Michael Kowalewski - University of Pennsylvania
Henghak Kun - University of Pennsylvania
Rufat Kupa - TBD
Hannah Lac - Temple
Melody Lam - Arcadia University
Binita Lamichhane Gurung - Penn State University Harrisburg
Hana Lampson - Harvard / gap year
Devin Lanni - Drexel
Etienne Lanzetta - Harvard
Maxwell Lapsley - TBD
Lynn Larabi - University of Pennsylvania
Kayla Lark - Daemen College
Maftuna Latipova - University of Pennsylvania
Brian Lau - Drexel University
Jordan Laws - Drexel University
Kayla Le - University of the Sciences
Kiet Le - CCP
Kevin Lee - University of Pennsylvania
Amanda Lee - University of Pennsylvania
Allen Lei - The University of the Arts
Julia Levin - Temple
Joyce Li - Drexel University
Samantha Li - Penn State University
Eevee Li - Drexel University
Jiacong Li - Drexel University
Annie Li - Drexel University
XinYu (Linda) Li - Thomas Jefferson University
Zelin Li - Penn State University Park
Phat Lieu - Temple
Alessandra Liller - Penn State University Main
Kiki Lin - Drexel University
Shiyang Lin - Drexel University
Fanny Lin - University of Pennsylvania
David Lin - Drexel
Cindy Lin - TBD
Sophia Lin - TBD
Jessica Lip - Drexel University
Elizabeth Lipson - Gap year

Daniel Liu - Drexel
 Kiki Liu - Drexel University
 David Liu - Drexel University
 Yuheng Liu - University of Pittsburgh
 Johnathan Liu - Drexel
 Anna Lopez - Penn State Abington
 Harrison Lorenc - Ursinus College
 Christopher Lorenzo-Aparicio - Temple University
 Sarah Louis - Arcadia university
 Layla Loune - Temple University
 Adiel Loya-Rico - TBD
 Ivan Lu - Drexel University
 Anna Lu - Temple
 Judy Luong - Drexel University
 Jeffrey Luong - Drexel University
 Jessica Lvov - University of Pennsylvania
 Zhuohui Ma - Drexel University
 Jan Mach - CCP
 Andrew Mach - TBD
 Tayanna Mack - Delaware State
 Joyce Mai - Drexel University
 Samantha Mangus - Drexel University
 Sesilia Marini - TBD
 Daniel Martinez-Sallee - Drexel University
 Nicole Mathew - Drexel University
 Aleena Mathew - University of the Sciences
 Maria Mathew - Temple University
 Siobhan McAtamney - University of Pennsylvania
 Joshua McCole - University of Pittsburgh
 Dru McIver-Jenkins - Temple University
 Nazhe McNeal - University of Pittsburgh
 Sid McNulty - Temple
 Yukio Mee - CCP
 Michelle Mei - Temple
 Hui-Hong Mei - Thomas Jefferson
 Brielle Mendoza - Gap Year
 Maisha Menefee - Temple University
 Alexis Meneses - CCP
 Julia Miller- Temple University
 Amira Miller - TBD
 Ines Milon - Temple University
 Daniel Minkovsky - University of Pennsylvania
 Destiny Mitchell - Temple University
 Siani Mitchell - CCP
 Qinlan Moc - Drexel University
 Marta Mokra - Penn State
 Daniel Molchansky - Temple University
 Janae Molett - Temple University
 Dalba Monegro - West Chester University
 Harry Montalvo - Drexel University
 Kiana Moore - Howard University
 Zoe Moosbrugger - Ursinus College
 David Morales - Penn State Main
 Md Muidul - Temple University
 Andrew Mullen - Messiah College/University
 Kevin Mungo - Howard University
 Khongor Munkherdene - Drexel University
 Aniah Murphy - Villanova University
 Dazeem Murphy - Temple University
 Stavro Nako - Temple
 Joyce Nghiem - TBD
 Vy Nguy - Drexel University
 Aleana Nguyen - University of Pennsylvania
 Jessica Nguyen - Jefferson University
 Caohoc Nguyen - Temple
 Timothy Nguyen - Temple University
 Tran Nguyen - San Jose State University
 Philip Nguyen - Drexel University
 Nhung Nhan - Drexel university
 Ariyan Nheb - Drexel University
 Jason Ni - Drexel University
 Shaeon Nixon-Mosee - West Chester
 Mahiya Noor - Arcadia
 Arianna Nunez - Drexel University
 Chris O'Neill - Temple University
 Veronica Ocansey - University of Maryland in Baltimore County
 Lena Oeun - Temple University
 Lillian Ohr - University of the Arts
 Allany Oliveira - Penn State university park
 Henry Or - Drexel University
 Adolfo Orozco Rasique - Temple University
 Trinity Osbourne - Penn State University
 Dana Osypovych - TBD
 Nazim Ouchene - West Chester University
 Nyimeochen Owate - Penn State
 Sofia Paculan - La Salle
 Jorge Padilla - Swarthmore College
 Brian Ray Padolina - TBD
 Jay Pandya - University of Pittsburgh
 Georgina Papa - TBD

Neel Satyam Patel - Drexel University
 Neel R Patel - Temple University
 Victoria Paulection - CCP
 Simeon Pel Jr - CCP
 Leony Peña - CCP
 Jose Perez - Thomas Jefferson university
 Sierra Peter - CCP
 Sarah Pham - University of Pennsylvania
 Alesha Philip - Drexel University
 Ryan Phooun - TBD
 Sandy Phuong - University of Pennsylvania
 Marek Piatrouski - CCP
 Eleni Pieces - University of the Sciences
 Skyla Pietrafitta - Temple University
 Mason Plant - Drexel College of Engineering
 Hannah Poeng - Yale University
 Ryan Pomales - Drexel University
 Martin Ponce-Favila - CCP
 Aaron Porter - Hampton University
 Basim Quadir - Drexel
 William Quan - Abington
 Camryn Quan Chan - Temple
 Annalisa Quinn - Gap Year / Jefferson University
 Abir - Rahman - TBD
 Jeffin Rajan - Drexel University
 Randy Ramcharitar - TBD
 Vjonis Ramizi - West Chester
 Journey Ramos - University of the Sciences
 Nasir Randall - Morgan State University
 Josiah Randleman - Drexel University
 Micah Ravital - Temple
 Jazmynn Ray - Slippery Rock University
 Ashley Ray - University of Pennsylvania
 Gabriel Raytsis - University of Pennsylvania
 Rachel Razler - Temple University
 Shamar Reeder - Allegheny College
 Dy'chae Reese - Howard University
 Sarah Rivera - Drexel University
 Siani Rodriguez - West Chester University
 Jaiden Romero - TBD
 Raja Rothwell - Lincoln University
 Nashid Rountree - California University of Pennsylvania
 Nicholas Rubino - RCSJ Gloucester
 Katelynn Rudolph - Drexel University
 Robert Rue - West Chester University
 Job Samuel - University of Pennsylvania
 Jayson Samuels - CCP
 Jose Sanchez - CCP/Temple
 Amber Sanxhaku - Temple University
 Nico Saputra - Drexel
 Angelina Saunders - Thomas Jefferson University
 Drew Schaffling - University of Louisville
 Blaze Schmidt - Temple University
 Asa Schneeberg - Drexel
 Jane Schrand - Pitt
 Nadja Scipio - CCP
 Jada Scott - Cheyney University
 Sonty Seang - Drexel
 Nicole Selander - Temple
 Roshan Shajee - Thomas Jefferson University
 Kareem Sharaf - Penn State Brandywine
 Dru Shepler - Maryland Institute College of Art
 George Shi - Temple University
 Khay'n Siler - Cosmetology school
 Sanai Simmons - Drexel
 Selma Sinani - Temple
 Mariame Sissoko - Barnard College
 Makenzie Smith - UMiami
 Asia Smith-Israel - CCP
 Kalliyann Sok - Penn State Abington
 Phuc Son - CCP
 Emily Son - Pennsylvania State University
 Lauren Spratt - Penn State Abington
 Aleem Spriggs - Temple University
 Petro Stetsko - Temple University
 Tianna Stevens - CCP
 Khalil Stroman - Penn State University Park
 Niyah Sudler - Thomas Jefferson University
 Hanif Sumner - Howard University
 Alex Sytsma - Gap year
 Justice Taggart - Studying Abroad, Biochemistry
 Cecilia Tamsjah - Drexel University
 Angela Tan - Temple University
 Wesley Tanh - University of Southern California
 Enoch Tariku - Indiana University of Pennsylvania
 Jemma Teesdale - Millersville University
 Jeremy Tejada - Culinary Institute of America
 Lariana Teran - Penn State
 Leah Terreforte - Lock Haven University
 Siah Thach - Temple University

Christian Thomas - Temple University
 Rhea Thomas - Temple University
 Joachim Thomas - Temple/UPenn
 Lambert Thomas - Widener University
 Aiswariya Thomas - Thomas Jefferson University
 Myles Thomas - Penn State University Park
 Istneydina Thomas - Penn state
 Dacian Thompson - Temple
 Nikira Thompson - West Chester University
 Alyssa Tohn - TBD
 Kaleigh Tomichek - Penn state Abington
 Anna Topolyanskiy - CCP / Israel
 Natasha Torres - Gwynedd Mercy University
 Henry Tran - Drexel University
 Michelle Tran - Usciences
 Judy Tran - Temple University
 Vivianh Tran - CCP
 Tiffany Tran - Temple University
 Cindy Tran - Lehigh University
 Tifany N Tran - Thomas Jefferson University
 Victor Tran - Temple University
 Hafsa Traore - Villanova University
 Robert Trojan - TBD
 Khanh Truong - Penn state
 Natasha Tse - Drexel
 Jeremy Tse - Drexel U
 Tamika Tukes - Drexel university
 Aniyah Turner - Samuels Cabrini University
 Victor Ung - Drexel U
 Medina Usupova - Temple University
 Rashad Utqi - Temple University
 Doreen Valmyr - Carnegie Mellon University
 Tommy Vo - Drexel University
 Derek Vu-Le - Drexel University
 Oscar Wahl - Fashion Institute of Technology
 Brianna Wahyudi - Drexel University
 Eddie Wang - Drexel University
 Wendy Wang - Drexel University
 Jackson Wang - TBD
 Steven Wang - Harvard
 Andy Wang - Penn State
 Kidane Watts - CCP
 Weijie Wei - Temple
 Ivy Wen - University of Pennsylvania
 Shanice Whittock - Drexel University
 Tahjze Wiggins - West Chester University
 Maya Williams - CCP
 Aaron Wilson - St. John's University
 Luke Winarko - Drexel
 Joy Wong - Drexel University
 Justin Wooten - Drexel university.
 Chloe Wright - Howard University
 Amy Wu - Drexel
 Simon Wu - Drexel
 Krista Xhoxhi - NYU
 Jiawen Xu - Temple University
 Liang Xu - Drexel University
 Luxin Xue - Drexel University
 Anson Yan - University of Pennsylvania
 Vincent Yang - Penn State University Park
 Jeffrey Yang - University of Pennsylvania
 Richard Yang - Drexel University
 Kevaan Young - TBD
 Jamie Yuen - University of Pennsylvania
 Richard Yuen - TBD
 John Yuhas - School of Visual Arts
 Amaliya Yunusova - University of Pennsylvania
 Felicity Zacarias - Drexel University
 Kesia Zachariah - Drexel University
 Naomi Zamot - University of the Sciences
 Joe Zeng - Drexel
 Qiang Zeng - Drexel University
 Austin Zeng - University of Pittsburgh
 Xiaoqing Zhan - Penn State University
 Nicky Zhang - Temple University
 Rujia Zhang - Arcadia University
 Tyrone Zhang - Temple University
 Annie Zhang - Drexel
 Jay Zhao - University of Pennsylvania
 Zi-Long Zhao - TBD
 Jenny Zheng - University of the Sciences
 Joan Zheng - Penn State Abington
 Andy Zheng - Temple
 Kevin Zheng - Temple University
 Shi Yang Zheng - University of Pennsylvania
 Darren Zheng - Temple
 Nina Zheng - TBD
 Andrew Zhu - Drexel
 Tiffany Zhu -University of Pittsburgh
 Andy Zhuo - Harvard University
 Lena Zou - Drexel University

Destination Statistics

UPenn: 33 **Gap year:** 12
Temple: 91 **International Destinations:**
Drexel: 102 Canada, Italy, Japan
HBCUs: 24 **Ivy League Universities:** UPenn,
Penn State: 44 Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth
CCP: 43

Students' Perspective of their Senior Year

Jordan Carrier (280)
Sports Editor

Two of Central's seniors, Zoe Bailkin and Amaliya Yunusova, offer perspectives about their last year of high school being cut short and advice to younger students who may be taking their time for granted.

Zoe Balkin



How do you feel about missing the end of your senior year of high school?

It's frustrating because all students were put in a situation that they had no control over. Like most students, there are some days that I would wake up on a weekday and say that I didn't feel like going to school. However, I would have never wished for my senior year to be taken away.

Are you missing any major sports, clubs, or events?

I lost my whole senior varsity softball season. I was excited to step up and be a leader, working hard for something that I had been practicing for both in and out of school. Last year, our team won the Public League Championship, so the goal was to keep that same energy this year, which we cannot do this year.

Also, I am disappointed about missing our senior prom. School events are so important, especially as seniors. They're a way to celebrate with friends. It is moments like these where we learn to truly appreciate everything, from obstacles we have battled and overcome to the genuine relationships we have formed, before we go off to college.

Will the money towards your dues be returned?

I'm not sure yet. Dues cover every activity from freshman year up until now. If our graduation ceremony was still on track, we would have to pay for a cap and gown.

Because that is not the case anymore, hopefully we'll get some of our dues back.

What is some advice that you have for those in younger grades than yourself?

Appreciate Central (or your high school) even on days when you wake up and say that you don't want to go to school. Take advantage of all of the opportunities, clubs, sports, and dances, because you never know how much you have until it's gone.

What are some programs that will help younger students that are interested in going to college?

I know that there are a lot of programs such as SAT/ACT prep, college courses as a high school student, and ones that help you apply to college and find scholarships. I used an SAT tutor which was extremely helpful.

What colleges have you applied/gotten accepted to?

I applied to many schools. I will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall on the pre-physical therapy track with a potential major in rehabilitation science.

Any other thoughts?

To think that we may not even have a graduation ceremony is disheartening. I know that my family is proud of me, and I'm proud of my friends. Everyone just wants to see each other while celebrating everything that they have accomplished. The fact that we will not go to high school anymore has taken away the absolute best part of senior year.

Amaliya Yunusova: Central High School



How do you feel about missing the end of your senior year of high school?

I've been really upset about it lately. In terms of school, it's hard to accept that the part of school I've been looking forward to the most (end of senior year) has been cancelled, despite my hard work for the past four years. Also, College Board is being unfair with its assigned online testing. Having classes

without the social aspect of school leaves me with no motivation to study for the online exams.

Are you missing any major sports, clubs, or events?

I was looking forward to this season of lacrosse. I thought that I'd get a chance to show the team how much I've improved and to win the Public League Championship with such an amazing group of girls.

Will the money towards your dues be returned?

We're not sure yet because the dues go towards graduation and yearbooks. I think that we're still getting yearbooks so we will probably receive a partial refund.

What is some advice that you have for those in younger grades than yourself?

People always say to live in the moment. For a second, I almost lost myself in that moment because I spent so much time working towards college. As a result, I missed out on a lot of fun events and activities. I would say to not just live in the moment, but maintain a healthy balance of work and fun, because the work will eventually pay off. Work hard, play hard!

What are some programs that will help younger students that are interested in going to college?

There are plenty of programs that can help. For first generation, low-income students, I recommend looking into Philadelphia Futures and Rise First, as well as Questbridge. All three played a part in me getting to where I am today. Philadelphia Futures had the biggest impact on me throughout high school.

What colleges have you applied/gotten accepted to?

I'm attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, and am extremely excited to start. I recommend that all high schoolers start looking into colleges as soon as possible. There are schools all across the country with different niche qualities that might fit you. Please put as much time as you can into figuring out what school is perfect for you!

Any other thoughts?

At the end of the day, however, I feel blessed and am grateful to be so comfortable right now. I have college figured out and my family is managing really well even without my mom working. I worry more about the people who just had their lives turned upside down, especially if they haven't figured out their post-graduation life or are low-income, struggling to stay afloat.

Central THON: Helping Kids be Kids

Milana Korobko (279)
Staff Writer

Central THON is a service organization at Central High School, which works with the Child Life program of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to raise funds and collect donations for CHOP, as well as its collaborative pediatric clinic in the Dominican Republic called Niños Primeros en Salud. Every year, with the work of our dedicated committee, volunteers, and sponsor, Dr. Elliott Drago, we are able to host various great events in support of the hospital and the clinic.

Our organization was founded by alum, Emily Eiler (277), along with a group of other leading and caring students in the class of 277, who were willing to raise money for a worthy cause. Under the supervision of Dr. Drago, the students were able to create a charitable event to spread awareness for and support CHOP.

Initially THON was an annual dance-a-thon held at Central in the springtime. With each year the organization grew, and developed more involvement of Central's staff and students to serve their community. As interest expanded, so did THON's activities. The organization soon created drives to raise toys and books for CHOP patients.

The 277 students organized an event that would create a legacy for all the following years to come. Today, one of the major events

on the THON calendar is the annual Holiday Toy Drive. From late November until mid-December, with the help of the National Honors Society, our organization collects new and unwrapped toys to donate to the Children's Hospital. Gathering dolls, puzzles, board games, and more, we aim to put a smile on the faces of patients as they receive their gifts for the holidays. For the 2019 Toy Drive, we are proud to say we set a record of 663 books with the cooperation of student and faculty donors at Central High!

Beginning in early January, our organization works on the annual Book Drive, collecting book donations to give to CHOP's patients. This school year, THON was able to set yet another record, receiving around 1,082 books from students and staff.

All of the committee's hard work throughout the year builds to the annual dance marathon.

At the end of the day, Central THON is about helping kids be kids. It encourages the students at Central High to come together in order to provide care and comfort to patients and impacted families. "Participating in THON means being a part of something bigger than yourself," says Central THON Director Hannah Poeng (279).

This year, the THON committee visited their second annual Dance Leadership Summit to meet with other school committees who are raising money for CHOP. Through discussion of fundraising



Jessica Lip (279) and Hannah Poeng (279) pose with the collected books at CHOP.

efforts, networking opportunities, and leadership training, the members were inspired to continue working for and helping the cause. "Personally seeing where and who the THON committee members and I would help through our service was an eye-opening experience. It fueled my aspirations to do what I could to help the children in need in my community," says Finance Chair Cindy Sako (280). Indeed, the students' year-long planning of dance marathons and fundraising events is done to positively affect the impacted lives at CHOP.

Following Central's mantra of *coming to learn, leaving to serve*, Co-director Alesha Philip (279) states "Central THON really encourages students to grow in altruism and be active humanitarians." The committee and volunteers continue to work diligently in order to extend their efforts and help their community. They have become the engaged leaders and philanthropists that Central has proudly groomed them to be.

A Discussion of Race at Central

Transcribed by Kate Ratner (280)
Op-Ed Editor

This is only a portion of the larger discussion, to view the transcript of the whole symposium go to our website.

I can see the havoc and pain caused by the unlawful and senseless murders of Ahmad Aubrey, George Floyd, and Breanna Taylor. These are just a few on a list of many. My name is Youma Diabira. I'm president of the African American Student Union and a rising senior of the 280th class at Central High School. As Central students, many of us are advocates and have even been on the front lines of the recent protests with the intent to finally make change. After many seminars and discussions, the anti-black culture of Central was continuously mentioned. A group of seven students, including myself, were able to meet with President McKenna, Miss Vanbuskirk, Dr. Scott, Ms. Harrington, and support staff from the school district on Friday, February 28 to formally address the issues that black students face behind Central's walls. After expressing our feelings and giving us suggestions on how to improve black student life, we made a plan to meet monthly to begin tackling these issues. Due to Corona, a lot of these plans got shifted. We have

crafted this seminar as a way to follow up on the conversation previously held. With the support of the African American Student Union, the Black Youth Coalition, and the United Pan-African Organization. We have crafted a host of testimonials to express our shared sentiments of Central's anti-black culture. Following these expressions, we have drafted nine demands and solutions for the improvement of black student life essentials at Central High School. The optimization of Central High School is a community effort and will require project adjustments from both the student body as well as the faculty. Ignorance is bliss. Please allow this symposium to inform and express the struggle of being a black student at Central. We ask that all come with open ears and adaptable minds, thank you.

Youma Diabira (280)

I'm Mariame Sissoko and I would just like to say that these eight testimonies of alumni and current students are a microcosm for the wider experiences of the black student body at Central. The common misconception of racism is that it must be over when in reality, racism is covert. Racism hides in the rearview, festering in every single one of us like cancer... poisoning society until we no longer can breathe. Racism is like the tiny

comments, interactions and microaggressions...that might not seem like a big deal but accumulate over time, eventually paring down your sense of self. In the past, Central has taken a rather reactive approach to racial incidents that don't address the deeper wounds at hand. With these nine demands, we urge Central to live up to its mission, preparing students to be thoughtful leaders in a heterogeneous world. As a school community, we cannot hope to address the larger inequities of society without first reflecting on ourselves. We are the second oldest public high school in the entire nation. The students who came back to speak are here because we love our alma mater and we wish to see changes implemented because Central does not seem to love us back. It is clear that is no longer enough for Central to say it's not a racist institution, or stay complacent, hiding behind its dwindling diversity. Anti-black racism is woven into the fabric of our societal institutions. Through the implementation of these demands, Central takes one step toward forward towards progress in creating a true anti-racist environment. Thank you all for showing up listening and hopefully, contemplating how you can contribute to building a better Central.

Mariame Sissoko (279)

