



Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Dear Centennial Family,

I am excited to share that yesterday, the Arizona State Board of Education assigned Centennial High School an “A” Letter Grade. While state labels cannot measure all the aspects that define a strong community like ours, this “A” recognizes a wide range of achievements that our students, staff, and families collaborate to realize. I’m writing to share some information about how our letter grade is determined.

Academic Proficiency and Growth (35.5 of 50%)

First, students at “A” schools achieve above-average proficiency and growth on statewide assessments. Peoria Unified’s high schools rely on junior ACT and freshman ACT Aspire results to determine student academic proficiency and growth. The Centennial community will continue to prioritize ACT preparedness by teaching students and families about the test, providing in-class practice opportunities, and promoting preparedness through weekend and after-school test preparation activities. We hope to see our sophomore and junior parents at ACT Information Night on February 8th, and we thank all our students, teachers, and parents who commit to success on this important test.

College and Career Readiness (20 of 20%)

Our state also measures the extent to which students meet college and career readiness benchmarks. For example, when students complete work-based learning internships, earn industry credentials, or pass three Career and Technical Education courses in a single subject area, our school’s College and Career Readiness scores climb. Likewise, students who pass Advanced Placement exams, dual enrollment courses, or multiple foreign language classes show greater college and career readiness. Any student or family who completes FAFSA bolsters their college-readiness too. Students who meet benchmarks for military readiness on the ASVAB test help our school’s score as well. If your student or family is working toward any of these indicators, you’re building career readiness and helping to keep CeHS an “A” School.

English Learner Achievement, Graduation Rate (30 of 30%) and Bonus Points

Centennial earned 20/20 points for its high graduation rate and 10/10 points for its English learners’ growth and proficiency on the AZELLA test. Finally, the state awarded our school six bonus points related to our special education enrollment (1.5), our above-average state science test results (1.5), and our greater-than 95% participation level in the 2021 freshman ACT Aspire test (3).

An “A” School (91.5 out of 100)

As a result, Centennial achieved an “A” grade of 91.5 out of 100. For more detailed information on Arizona’s A-F Accountability System, please visit www.peoriaunified.org/lettergrades. This week’s letter grades are the first announced since 2019, prior to the pandemic. Centennial improved significantly upon its 2019 “A” score. Likewise, our District’s overall results show excellent growth, with 10 schools moving up one letter grade and a total of 37 schools earning “A” or “B” labels. Our school is proud to be part of the Peoria Unified School District.

Many Measures of Progress

While our state's formula uses a wide range of academic measures, the A-F accountability system is just one of the tools schools use to measure progress. As you know, classwork, homework, unit and course assessments, projects and other activities also demonstrate student achievement and growth. Our teachers remain vital resources for information about individual and overall academic progress.

We'll continue to commit to the Coyote Pride values of Honor, Integrity, and Excellence so that in addition to being an "A" school, we remain a welcoming, safe, and spirited community. And we'll prioritize student opportunity as a primary measure of school progress. Centennial clubs, athletics, arts, dual enrollment classes, Advanced Placement courses, Career and Technical Education electives, and work-based learning opportunities are among the many arenas for achievement we'll prioritize alongside traditional core academic options.

Congratulations to our students, staff, and families, and thanks for your partnership in making Centennial an "A" School. I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming November and December events.

Mr. Hollabaugh
Principal