Welcome Back
Centralia Schools
2026-2027 School Year

Dear Panther Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Panthers Are Made For More school year! I hope your family has enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with time to relax, recharge, and make lasting memories.

As we begin another school year, our theme is **"Panthers Are Made for More."** We believe every child has been created with unique gifts, talents, and purpose. It is our goal as educators to help students discover those gifts, challenge them to grow, and prepare them for whatever opportunities lie ahead.

We also know that educating children is a partnership. Parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and when schools and families work together, students thrive. This year, I encourage each of us to embrace a "Made for More" mindset by expecting our students to work hard, show kindness, demonstrate responsibility, and never settle for less than their best. Together, we can help every Panther discover that they are capable of far more than they may realize.

Introducing PROWL Time

For me, one of the most exciting additions to our school day this year is **PROWL Time**, which will take place during the first **15 minutes of each morning with the focus being on our 6-12 students.**

As I reflected on ways we could better support our students, I kept coming back to one simple idea: **how we start our day often determines how successful the rest of the day becomes.** This idea helped shape the PROWL acronym. Prepare, Recognize Your Worth, Own Your Growth, Work with Discipline, Live for More! The goal of PROWL Time will be to provide a consistent structure focused on organization, academic readiness, character development, goal setting, future planning, and reflection. It will also provide opportunities for teachers to build relationships with students, celebrate successes, address concerns, and ensure every student begins the day feeling connected, supported, and prepared to learn. Our goal is simple—to help students develop habits that lead to success in the classroom and throughout life. We believe these intentional 15 minutes each morning will strengthen our school culture while helping every Panther become the very best version of themselves.



Summer Improvements

Our maintenance and custodial teams have worked incredibly hard throughout the summer to make our hallways shine and prepare our classrooms for another successful school year. We appreciate their dedication. Here is a list of projects that took place over the summer:

- **Playground Improvements:** Sod was installed between the basketball court and the rock ledge to help prevent drainage issues following this summer's heavy rains.
- **New Sidewalk:** The concrete sidewalk between the elementary classroom buildings has been poured.
- **Classroom Updates:** Mrs. Holthaus' classroom received new carpet, and our kindergarten classroom received a new countertop and sink.
- **Gym Wall Mats:** Installation is nearly complete. We are waiting on the company to finish wrapping the I-beams before the project is finalized.
- **New Football Scoreboards:** Our entire school community will enjoy our brand-new football scoreboards this fall. We are gathering volunteers to complete this project hopefully next week.
- **Redone the roof above the kitchen.**

Welcome to Our New Staff

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of our Panther family.We are excited to have each of them join our team and know they will make a positive impact on our students and school community.

- **James Beau Gadwood** – Math and Weights Educator
- **Carolyn Hawkins** –Gifted Educator
- **Kade Olberding** – Full-Time Bus Driver
- **Brian Olberding** – Substitute Bus Driver

ParentSquare – Our New Communication Platform

This year, USD 380 Schools will begin using **ParentSquare** as our primary communication platform. ParentSquare allows families to receive school announcements, classroom updates, reminders, forms, and emergency notifications all in one convenient place through email, text, or the mobile app.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to create your account and download the ParentSquare app. Here is the ParentSquare link to create your account. This is all brand new to our staff as well so it is going to take some time to implement. Over the next several weeks, we will continue sharing setup instructions, online guides, and tips so every family and staff member can confidently use the platform.

Important Back-to-School Information

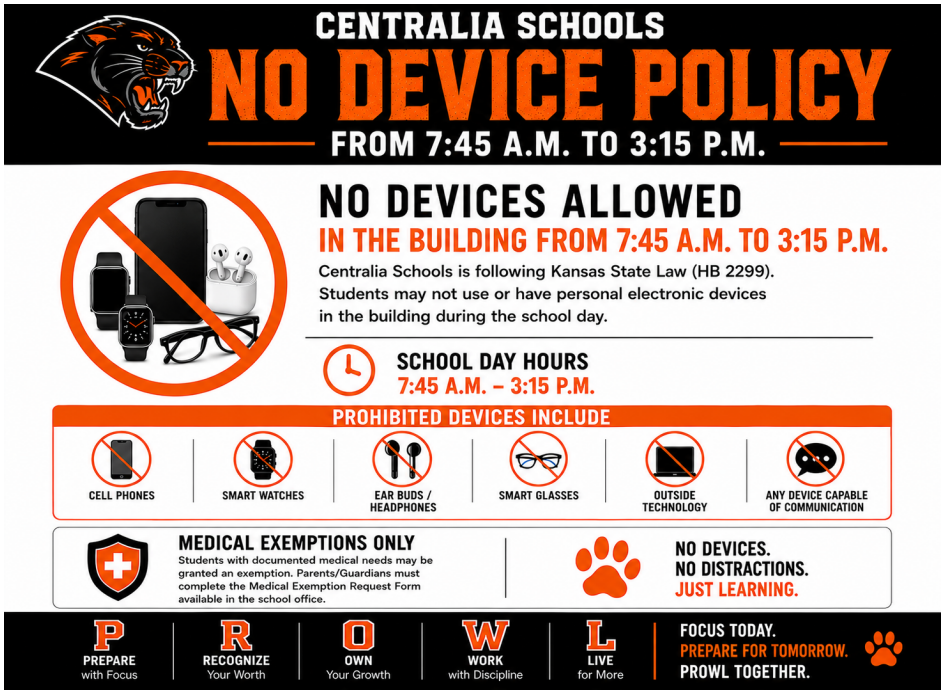
First Day of School: Thursday, August 13

- School begins at **8:00 a.m.**
- School doors will open at **7:45 a.m.**
- Breakfast will be served beginning at **7:45 a.m.**
- Families whose students ride the bus will receive pickup and drop-off times directly from their bus drivers before school begins.

New Kansas Cell Phone Law

Beginning this school year, Kansas schools are implementing a new statewide law regarding student cell phone use during the school day. As a result, students may not bring cell phones or other personal communication devices into the school building. We appreciate your support in helping your child understand this new expectation before the first day of school.

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the school office at **785-857-3324**. If the matter is an emergency, we will have your student removed from class immediately. For non-emergency messages, our office staff will deliver the message to your student between class periods whenever possible.



If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, a school telephone is available for student use in the office.

Thoughts for the Upcoming School Year!

The beginning of a new school year always brings new opportunities, and new challenges. Together, we have the opportunity to help our students grow academically, build strong character, and discover the many possibilities that lie ahead. When school and families work together, incredible things happen.

Thank you for your continued support of Centralia Schools. Once again I will rely on our Senior Class to help lead our school through both successes and failures. Success is something we all strive for, but I've learned that overcoming challenges often teaches us more than success ever could. My experiences have shown me that sometimes life can send us on an expensive Helicopter ride, but it might just be the ride that a person needs in order to live for more! I look forward to another great year as we show our students how to live with a **Panthers Are Made for More** attitude—AND AS ALWAYS—It's a great day to be alive and to be a Panther! We are excited to welcome our Panthers back on **Thursday, August 13**, and look forward to an outstanding year together.

Sincerely,

Wade Talley
Principal
Centralia Schools