



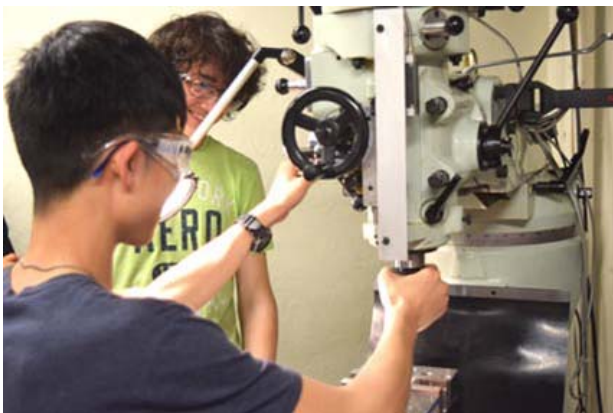
### 224WARD CLASS GIFT: A LEGACY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

The seed that became 224ward, the commitment to giving back to the place that gave us so much, was planted during our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend. A tour of our alma mater left those who attended with assurance that Central continues to be an example of excellence in education in spite of the economic limitations that beset even the finest public schools. Thanks to those who contributed, and the diligence of those who contacted classmates, the initial goal of \$224,000 was met.

The 224 Class Gift Committee was formed to administer the fund, following protocols developed to ensure accountability and transparency as well as addressing legal and fiduciary responsibilities. Guidelines for faculty and student applications were drawn up, with strict adherence a prerequisite for any funds to be disbursed. Four years in, a great deal has been accomplished to enrich the educational experience at Central through grants awarded in two distinct categories.

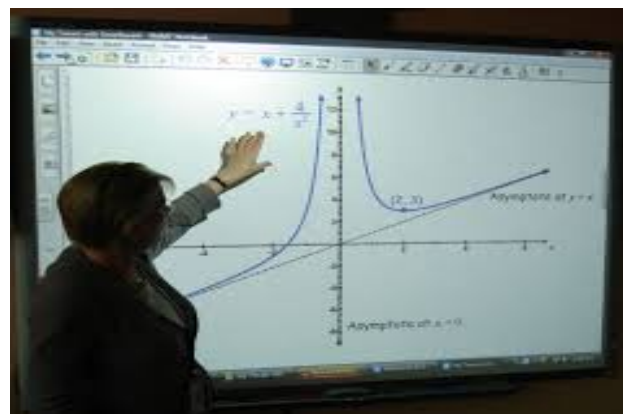
#### Major Grants (\$88,283)

Substantial amounts have been allocated for programs and materials that will benefit more students over a longer period of time.



1. **Robotics** was given \$47,404 to purchase and install a high-tech milling machine and lathe which will enable faster development of prototypes for competitions.
2. **ViziTech Dissection** table, \$4,145, recently delivered.
3. **Smart Whiteboards**, five of which have been installed, and faculty trained in their usage, for \$31,143.

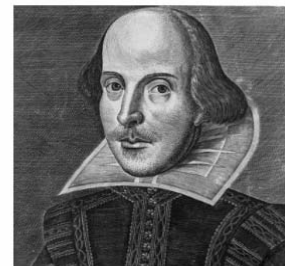
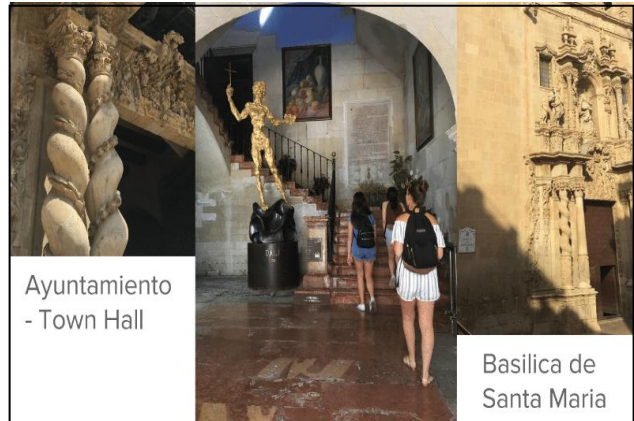
4. **Bio-Engineering** kits, a reusable resource that will serve 600 students a year in the extraction and analysis of data, at a cost of \$5,591. They will be used by faculty members who attended the Bio Builder Workshop at Penn State (see below) to introduce cutting edge biotech and genetic engineering in regular and AP biology classes.



## STEAM Innovation Grants (\$28,813)

A series of mini-grants to supplement studies and activities in science, technology, the arts, engineering and math was nominally capped at \$1,000 each, which could be exceeded in cases where multiple participants would benefit. Some, as noted below, have been renewed annually to support ongoing activities.

1. **Close Up D.C.** (\$1,769) for five seniors to spend a week in the capitol to interact with other students and study our political system first hand through committee hearings and testimony on the floor of the House and Senate.
2. **Debate Team** (\$1,907) for two students and their faculty monitor to represent Central for the first time at the National Catholic Forensic League tournament.
3. **Summer Study in Spain** (\$1,000) to supplement out of pocket expenses for a student as part of the CIEE (Council for International Educational Exchange) program.
4. **AP Government Trip to D.C.** (\$1,200) gave 31 students a chance to see Washington's political process and culture in action by visiting all three branches of government, including House and Senate offices and officials.
5. **Lantern Theater of Philadelphia** (\$1,300) paid for 130 students to see a production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest."



6. **Biology field equipment** (\$1,101) for the AP and International Baccalaureate science classes to collect and analyze field data.

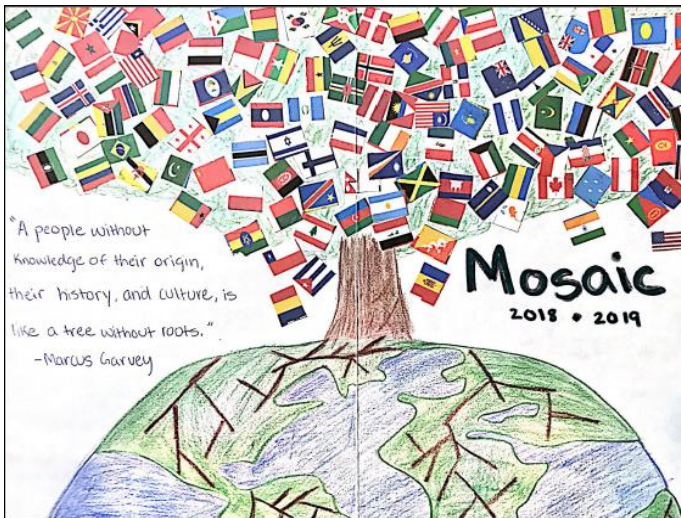
- 7. **Bio Builder Workshop** (\$800) at Penn State’s Hershey Medical Center, where four faculty members received training and implementation of the skills needed for STEM instruction.
- 8. **Arden Theater of Philadelphia** (\$975), a subsidy for 39 students to attend “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”



- 9. **Odyssey of The Mind World Finals** at Iowa State University (\$1,000), where CHS students who had won the Southeast Regional and Pennsylvania state championships employed science, engineering and technology to finish fifth out of forty-three international teams in creative problem-solving challenges.

- 10. Our favorite newspaper, “**The Centralizer**,” was given \$1,450 in renewable grants to put out three editions of a magazine with longer scholarly and literary articles.

- 11. “**Mosaic**”, an outstanding collection of stories, poems and art that reflects the school’s diversity and is published in conjunction with Central’s annual International Day, has been awarded a total of \$2,200 for three annual issues.



- 12. **Central Shakespeare Society** (\$1,000) to see “Othello” in Manhattan.
- 13. **Outward Bound** (\$2,100) allowed twenty students to spend five days developing hands-on natural science skills.



14. A **Diversity Conference**, approved for two years (\$1,948), gave Central students the means to plan, market and stage a forum for open discussion and active engagement in global issues with students from area schools at LaSalle University.

15. **Wetlands Institute of Stone Harbor, NJ**, a renewable grant approved for 2017-19 totaling \$1,962 for students to interact with a coastal environment to support their study of ecology for the International Baccalaureate program.

16. **Model UN** (\$1,275) for sixteen students in consecutive academic years to attend a conference sponsored by the World Affairs Council that simulates NATO forums on Global Economics and the International Student Summit.



17. **Mock Trial** (\$1,500) for two sessions in the fall and spring semesters, with assistance from lawyers of the Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement at Penn.

To date, **\$117,096**, more than half of the total collected, has been disbursed. The committee has voted, for operational and logistical reasons, to de-emphasize mini-grants and

promote applications that seek larger awards which show an efficacious use of the remaining funds. This refocusing will be reinforced with Central's administration, faculty and student body.

We can be justifiably proud of the tangible effects of what our class has accomplished thus far. However, if 224ward is to be a gift that keeps on giving for current and future Centralites, more work needs to be done, which requires additional funding that will be a testament to the spirit of generosity that the 224 has already shown.

Fred Bronenberg, Frank Cipparone, Burt Cohen, Barry Drossner, Benjamin Lipman,

Mark Lipshutz, Michael Rieder, Ron Rosen, Alan Sheinberg,

Jeff Sprowles, Bruce Zoren (In Memoriam)