

111th Graduating Class Receives Diplomas at River Center

# Central High Class of 2023

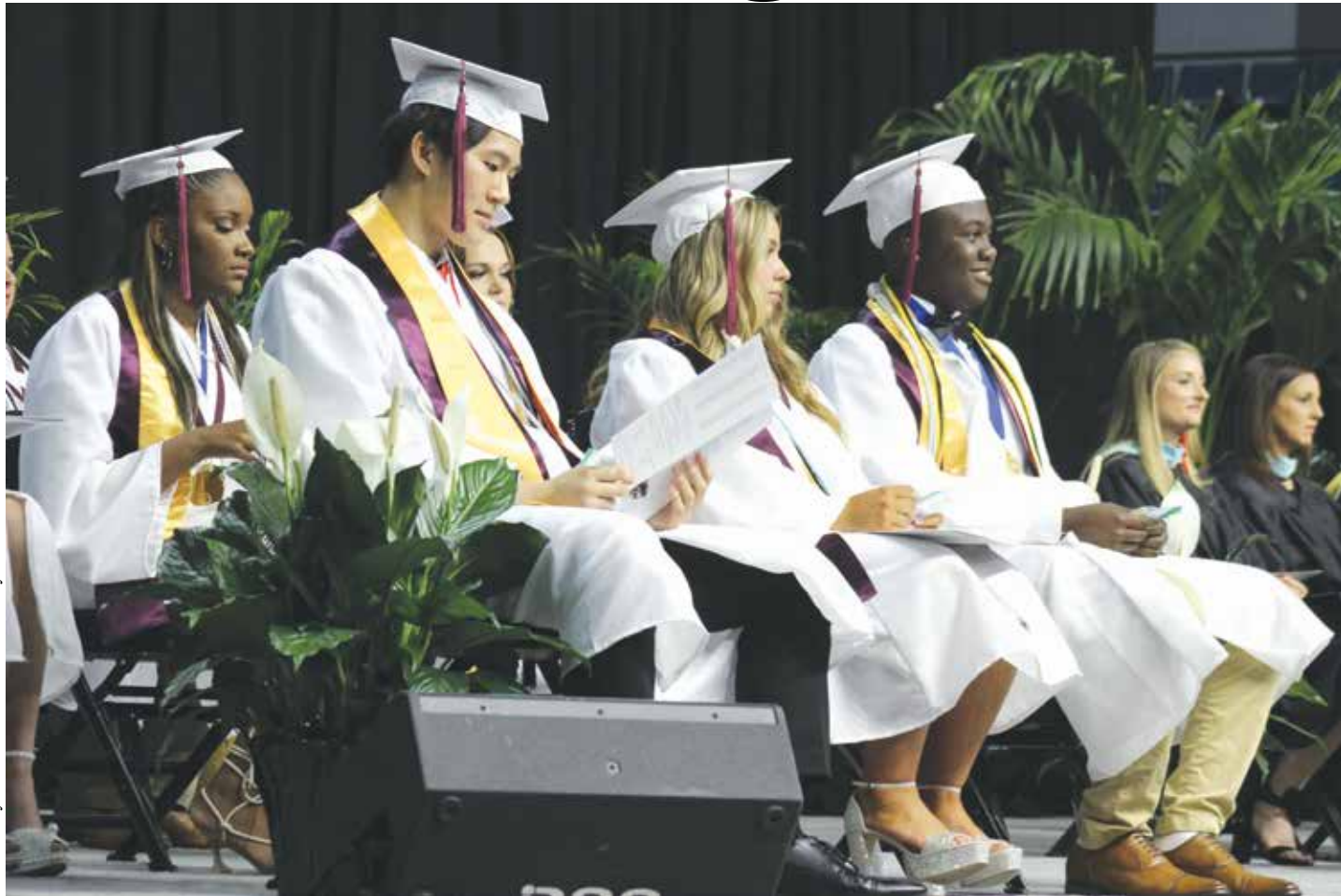


Photo by Jolice Provost of Central City News

**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** — Student Minority Representative Jaelyn LaCour, Valedictorian Andrew Dang, Salutatorian Allie McCauley, and Senior Class President Marcus Shorts during graduation ceremonies at the River Center in Baton Rouge.

4,000+ Pack Arena; Seniors Honored for Accomplishments, Commence New Life

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**CENTRAL** — More than 340 Central High School seniors received their diplomas Wednesday, May 16 during commencement ceremonies at the River Center in Downtown Baton Rouge. More than 4,000 graduates, teachers, staff, family, and friends attended the event which was marked by speeches, honors, recognition, and traditional celebrations.

Central High principal Brandon LaGroue told the graduates they had been tested by the pandemic, quarantines, and construction of the new school but had overcome all adversities. “We have been in the trenches together, and nothing has phased you,” he said. “This school is better today than yesterday because of you.”

When LaGroue invited the seniors seated on the floor of the arena to lock eyes with their family and friends in the bleachers and shout, “Thank you! I love you!” the crowd responded with a prolonged demonstration of affection.

See **CENTRAL PACKS** on Page 2

Click QR Code  
Watch Central  
High Graduation  
May 17, 2023  
By Central City News



## Growing Impact of Private Education

**CENTRAL** — Most students in Central attend one of the five public schools in the Central Community School System and graduate from Central High School. However, a large number attend private schools in and around Central or participate in home school programs taught by their parents or others. An estimated 20 percent

of Central students are outside the public school system.

The largest private school in Central is Central Private, which graduated 31 students this year. The school is bursting at the seams and has a waiting list for admission.

Carney Christian in Central had one graduate this year.

Several Central residents gradu-

ated from private schools outside Central: St. Michael’s, 13, Catholic High, 8, Zachary Christian and St. Joseph’s Academy, 5 each, and Parkview, 2. Roughly 20 homeschoolers in Central are completing their studies and graduating from high school.

St. Alphonsus and Victory Academy offer K to 8th grade.

## Key Conservative Bills Pending in Legislature

### Bills Sailing Through House, But Governor’s Vetoes Loom Large

**BATON ROUGE** — Here is the status of some of the major bills that are under consideration in the current regular session of the Louisiana Legislature. The list has been updated through Wednesday night, May 24, 2023. The recommendation of YES or NO is the recommendation of the *Central City News*. Details about all bills, including the text, authors, fiscal notes, votes cast, and videos of debate on the bill in committee and on the House or Senate floor can be found at [www.legis.la.gov](http://www.legis.la.gov).

**RIGHT TO LIFE**

**HB346 by Rep. Boyd** - NO - Provides for exceptions to the abortion laws of this state relative to rape and incest. Reported unfavorably 5 to 10. *Dead for session.*

**HB461 by Rep. Dubuisson** - NO - Exceptions to right to life. Deferred 9-0. *Dead for session*

**HB522 by Rep. Freeman** - NO - Redefines abortion, imposes fines in place of imprisonment when an abortion has been performed. Deferred 8-0-1. *Dead for session*

**HEALTH FREEDOM**

**HB182 by Rep. Edmonston** - YES - Provides that no person shall be required to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of enrollment or attendance at any public or nonpublic school. Passed House 64-28. *Pending in Senate Education Committee.*

**HB399 by Rep. Edmonston** - YES -

Requires that communication with parents about immunization requirements include that they have right to decline vaccine. Passed House 85-6. *Pending in Senate Education Committee.*

**HB648 by Rep. Firment** - YES - Prohibits procedures to alter the sex of a minor child - Save Adolescents From Experimentation Act - Passed House 71-24. Failed in Senate Health & Welfare 4-5. *The bill is likely dead but the Senate could vote to require the committee to report the bill and then pass it..*

**HB291 by Rep. Owen** - YES - Protects right of family to visit patient in health care facilities. No One Should Die Alone Act. Passed House 100-0. Passed Senate committee. *Pending on Senate floor.*

**HB372 by Rep. Edmonston** - YES - Provides mandates of World Health Organization will have no effect in Louisiana

and mandates of CDC will be advisory only. Failed House Welfare Committee 4-7. Reconsidered and failed again 6-8. *Dead for session.*

**HB471 by Rep. Freiberg** - NO - Authorizes pharmacy interns to administer certain vaccines; decreases the age threshold above which a person may receive a vaccine. Passed House floor 58-43. *Pending in Senate.*

**HB648 by Rep. Rep. Crews** - YES - Disclosure by healthcare facilities to patients of prices for certain items and services. Passed House floor 71-24. *Pending in Senate.*

**HR106 by Rep. Newell** - NO - Declares racism a public health crisis and urges certain actions by the governor and specific state entities. *Pending in House*

See **KEY BILLS** on Page 12