

## **School / District / Community Profile**

Central Community High School District #71 is a high school district serving students in grades 9-12. In 1971, the communities of Aviston and Breese consolidated their high schools to form Central Community High School. The school itself is located approximately between Breese and Aviston on Old U.S. Highway 50, but it serves eight communities in Central Clinton County. Students from Albers, Aviston, Bartelso, Beckemeyer, Breese, Damiansville, Germantown, and St. Rose attend Central Community High School. The district covers 205 square miles.

Each of the eight communities shares certain characteristics while maintaining their individuality. These small communities range in approximate population as follows: Damiansville – 368, Bartelso – 593, Albers – 878, Beckemeyer – 1043, Germantown – 1118, Aviston – 1231, St. Rose – 1319, and Breese - 4048. The communities continue to be heavily influenced by agriculture, a very strong tradition in Clinton County, but they also boast some light industry as well. Since Clinton County is only forty-five minutes from St. Louis, many people in C.C.H.S. district commute to St. Louis or the Metro-East to work. This diversity of population leads to a mix of technical and professional employees and a wide variety of income ranges in the families of the district.

There are two unique aspects in Central Community High School District #71. The first is that C.C.H.S. is one of the few remaining high school districts in central/southern Illinois. The district enrolls students from eight surrounding elementary districts all with separate characteristics. Second, there is both a parochial high school and grade school located in Breese. Both schools have a significant enrollment of students. The combination of these two factors creates a dual administrative school district system and a district that coexists with a neighboring private high school and elementary system. These factors create a high school with characteristics that require efforts to assimilate students and maintain competitive academic and extracurricular programs.

The enrollment at C.C.H.S. has grown over the past ten years from 450 students to approximately 570 students. Some of this increase has resulted from growing community populations while some has developed from increasing percentages of students attending the public high school. Clinton County was recently noted as the thirteenth fastest growing county in the state of Illinois. The communities surrounding Central continue to see population increases, and new home construction continues to grace the district. C.C.H.S. receives a relatively small amount of its funding from state aid and thus the district relies heavily on personal property tax support. Due to the growth in the surrounding communities, growth continues to occur in Central's Equalized Assessed Valuation.

Central Community High School employs two administrators: a principal and superintendent. The school also employs forty-two certified teachers with an overall average of 13.5 years of teaching experience. Over fifty percent of the certified staff

members have earned their Master's Degrees, and several have continued in degree programs beyond the Master's level. All faculty members at Central meet the requirements of being highly qualified teachers according to the No Child Left Behind Guidelines. There are also twenty-eight other additional non-certified employees including administrative assistants, teacher aides, maintenance and custodial workers, and extra-duty employees coaching various athletic activities.

Central's student population models the ethnically homogenous make-up of the communities it serves. Over 96 percent of the students at C.C.H.S. are of Caucasian background and 3.2 percent are Hispanic. Central's population has a 20% low-income rate, a mobility rate of 7.4%, and an attendance rate of over 96%. The average class size at C.C.H.S. is 17.3 students per class. All of these figures can be found in the school report card at [www.centralcougars.org](http://www.centralcougars.org).

Central offers four curriculum levels for its students. The honors level contains courses that are designed for college prep students. These courses challenge students to work at an accelerated pace as they prepare themselves for college. Some of the honors classes are grade weighted. The general levels of classes are geared toward students who have attained basic skills and are working for higher competencies. The vocational program is a sequence of classes designed to prepare students for vocational or technical careers. Students who participate in this sequence are also offered the opportunity to participate in job shadowing and apprenticeship activities. The remedial level assists students who are one or more grade levels below their age appropriate grade level. These courses are designed to close the gap and solidify the students' skills.

To graduate from Central, students must earn twenty credits and participate in physical education each year of high school. Students must successfully complete four credits in English, 2.5 credits in Social Studies (including a semester of American Government and a year of American History), three credits in Math, two credits in science, one half credit in keyboarding, one half credit in health, one half credit in either Management of Resources or Economics, and one credit in Fine Arts. To encourage students to be well-rounded young people, Central also offers a variety of sports teams, musical activities, and extra-curricular clubs in which students may participate.

Central offers a challenging and rewarding educational experience for its students. The school, community, and district emphasize the importance of education and continually strive to make Central a more effective school.