



Superintendent Monthly Update

The Changing Colors of COVID

How to Decide When to Adjust to a Pandemic

by **Jon Rother**. November 2020

I'm going to take a little break from talking about school budget and finance and speak about our current situation in regards to COVID. I have been asked about the protocols JCC developed, the risk level color codes and how the decisions are made to move from one protocol level to the other, and potentially back again.

Along with the help of Dr. Nicole Turner and Lisa Kuhl, RN for Johnson County Central, and looking at models developed by other school districts and the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, we developed four levels of operating protocol for the 2020-2021 school year; green (low risk), yellow (moderate risk), orange (high risk), red (severe risk). The "risk" refers to the threat of spread both in our communities and within the school. Within these protocols we determined what would be safe and reasonable measures to offer education and activities to our students.

What guides the decision to move from one color to another? There is not a single number of cases that causes the dial to move or for us to change colors for protocol. It is a combination of factors developed by Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD):

- Total positive cases overall.
- Total positive cases weekly.
- 14 case trajectory.
- Hospital availability region-wide.
- Percent of cases that are community transmission.
- Ability to do contact tracing within 24 hours.
- Calculations of a 3 week moving average of cases.

These factors guide SEDHD's threat dials for the region and for each county within the region. From here, a discussion takes place about the number of cases the school is experiencing and whether or not they can be traced to outside the school or within the school. Where COVID spreads makes a big difference.

Clear as mud, right? From last March until now everything has become much more complicated. It will be what we make of it. A question I was recently asked: Do you consider how all the decisions and changes affect the kids? EVERY. SINGLE. MOMENT. I think about the people I serve constantly. Through it all, I have been afforded a very supportive environment. Thank you! Sincerely, I am thankful for the people of Johnson County Central.



**JCC Mission Statement:
Journey together...
Creating opportunities...
Committed to excellence!**

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Johnson County Central

Return to School Plan

(Southeast District Health Department will be the primary resource for aiding JCC in any COVID related decisions.)

	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
Transportation	Temperatures will be taken prior to boarding school vehicles. Students with temperatures of 100 degrees or greater must stay home. Parents will be notified immediately to make arrangements.		All students will participate in remote learning from their homes. All activities will be suspended.	
	Masks will be required when social distancing on school vehicles cannot be maintained.	Masks will be required at all times on school vehicles.		
	Masks will be provided upon entry of the school vehicle should the student not have a mask/face covering. School masks will be collected by the vehicle driver when students exit at the end of the day.			
	Students will have assigned seats. When possible, students of the same household will be seated together.			
	Students will have a designated entry and exit order.			
	All school vehicles will be sanitized/disinfected after each use.			
		Additional shuttles will be utilized to maintain distancing of students.		
School Arrival	Students awaiting entry onto buses or the school will have temperatures taken and will have designated areas to congregate. Social distancing practices will be enforced and face masks/coverings will be in use where social distancing cannot be maintained.		Tecumseh Site Elementary students will have temperatures taken and will be sent in to their classroom. Cook Site Elementary and Middle School students will have temperatures taken and will wait for buses in designated areas.	
	Students will have designated entries to the buildings based on grade level and/ or teacher. Entry will be staggered by grade and classroom.			
Breakfast	Students will be served in the cafeteria. Social distancing practices will be observed.		Students will receive a bagged breakfast to be eaten in the classroom.	
Classrooms	Students will maintain social distancing with barriers in place where distancing cannot be maintained. Where distancing and barriers cannot be maintained or are not feasible, face masks/coverings will be utilized. <i>*In circumstances of higher risk, some classrooms will require masks at all times.</i>		In addition to distancing and barriers, face masks/coverings will be used to the extent practical. Additional spaces will be used for learning to limit the number of students in one space.	
Lunch	Additional spaces (gyms, commons, etc.) and classrooms will be utilized to distance students during lunch periods.			
	Elementary lunches will be delivered to their classrooms.			
Recess	Students will take recess with their classroom cohorts.		Recesses will remain separate and staggered, however due to space restrictions activities may be limited and face masks/coverings may be in use.	
	Multiple play areas will be designated and used in rotation.			
	Playground equipment will be sanitized after use.			
	Recess times may be staggered to allow for space.			
Dismissal	Students will be dismissed by grade levels with staggered dismissals through designated exits.			
Bus Room	Students will sit with social distancing in practice in assigned seats.		Students will wait in their classrooms for the arrival of buses.	
Activities	JCC activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The health of our students and staff, along with the health conditions of any participating schools, will be considered when making a decision about JCC's participation.			

**These protocols are subject to change in response to ongoing health regulations and the wellness of students at Johnson County Central.*

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Fall is officially here and with that comes the end of our fall sports and the end of the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. The high school students received their first quarter report cards on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 from **Mr. Lester. Please feel free to call or email your student's teachers if you have any questions or concerns about your student's academic standing. I encourage every parent to be involved and show interest in their student's academic progress. I know we are all busy, but your student's academic success is linked to your interest. It is a proven fact that the more interest a parent shows in their student's academics, the better the student's desire to succeed. You can ask your student about their classes, or a specific project. Help them set aside a specific time or place to study. Listen to their concerns and praise their successes as well as encourage their struggles. You would be amazed how these small gestures will help your student to improve in the classroom. As always, if you have questions please call, and have an awesome Thanksgiving break with your family and friends.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL & ATHLETIC NEWS

BY RICH BACON

The first quarter ended on Thursday, October 8th and report cards should be in parents' hands by the time this newsletter is printed. The end of the quarter is an excellent time for parents to sit down with their children and discuss grades and homework. If your child did well during the 1st quarter, make sure you acknowledge this and let them know you are proud of them. If your child didn't perform to your expectations or struggled in a class, parents and their children need to sit down and talk things through. Help your children set goals to improve their academic performance. If your child isn't earning the grades they are capable of, the best solution is usually good old fashioned hard work. Successful students pay attention in class and ask questions when they don't understand. Successful students use their class time wisely. Successful students take homework home and actually study without having distractions in the room. Future academic success is dependent on students mastering the work at their current grade level. Usually, there are no quick fixes to solving academic shortcomings, but students who approach their school work with clear cut goals and objectives in mind, generally see improvement in their school work. If the report card hasn't made it home yet, talk to your child. If that doesn't produce the report card, you may contact the school. Please take an interest in your child's academic performance on a daily basis, talk to your child about school, and praise your child when they do well on a particular academic task. Sometimes this small effort will make a huge difference in a child's academic success. Parental involvement is one of the main ingredients to a child's success.

The Junior High volleyball, football and cross country teams have concluded their seasons. The Jr High football team finished undefeated with a record of 5-0. The volleyball A-team finished with a 6-8 record and the B-team finished with a --4-7 record. With Cross Country led by Logan Topp's 5th place finish and Trevin Huskey's 10th place finish, the boys' cross country team finished 3rd in the ECNC meet. The football, volleyball and cross country teams all worked hard and had competitive seasons. Congratulations to the boys and girls who competed for the Thunderbirds this fall and their coaches Mr. Jones, Mr. Damme, Mr. West, Mrs. Hunzeker, Ms. Sisco, Mr. Weber and Mrs. Huskey.

Congratulations to our Middle School Leadership Team recently selected by their peers:

8th grade – Madison Jansen, Lydia Mejia;

7th Grade – Ashley Beethe, Brianna Robeson, Saige Rother;

6th Grade – Harrison Bacon, Addison Borrenpohl, Ameila Britt,
Regan Campbell-Thies and Molly Weber.

Go Thunderbirds!

Dear Prospective Sponsor

The Johnson County Central Athletic Booster Club supports student athletes and all sports programs at JCC High School and Middle School. Funds are raised through various fundraising activities, and through the generous donations from our sponsors. These contributions are used to enhance the sports programs at JCC. Recent purchases include a sponsorship for the Video Board, weight room equipment, and wrestling uniforms.

Our Club is organized and run by volunteers who coordinate with the Activities Director and JCC coaches to determine the needs of each program. We are always searching for more volunteers! JCC Athletic Booster Club is a great way to support student athletes. Please contact us with any interest or questions.

We are currently looking for sponsors for the 2020-2021 sports season! Sponsors will be able to purchase an ad for their business or have their names listed in all home game sports programs. All donations are tax deductible.

Sponsorship Levels for Individuals and Businesses

Thunderbird \$250
Gold \$100
Red \$50
Black \$25

This year we would like to focus on the following areas. Please designate your preferred area of donation.

New speaker system for the Football/Track stadium \$ _____

New Junior High uniforms \$ _____

New weight room equipment \$ _____

General donation \$ _____

Please Print:

Name _____

Address _____



Please mail checks and return this form to:
JCC Booster Club
PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

#GoJCC



K-3 September Thunderbirds of the Month

Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade
Ethan Barnes	Alivia Gottula	Lucy Rademacher	Brynn Weber
Aires Savago	Everest Droge	Isaac Buchanan	Haley Dixon
Raytin Wagner	Quinlynn Beethe	Audrey Rodriguez	Kaitlyn Clements
Baylee Shirley	Josephine Burki	John Golden	Emma Othmer
Garrett Burgett	Nora Britt	Hallie Frerichs	Jamison Bacon
Bristol Meints	Gabriella Brown	Kelly Kongmanyvong	Courtney Oltrogge
Eliot Schultz	Nathaly Hurtado Arellano	Mackenzie Sell	Sophie Kirkland
Hank Smith	Genesis Reyes		Natalya Kirkendall
Stetson Miller			



**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
First Quarter 2020-2021**

Grade 8

Kayden Badertscher
Gabriel Burki
Salena Conley (All A's)
Alexander Cruz (All A's)
Kali Drake
Jersey Graham
***Juanita Grobler**
Jackson Haughton (All A's)
Madison Jansen
Keegan Jones (All A's)
Lydia Mejia (All A's)
***Logan Topp**
Nolan Wellensiek

Grade 7

Ashley Beethe (All A's)
Elizabeth Bstandig-Rowland (All A's)
Wyatt Case
Ricardo Castor
Ezra Davis
Jocelyn Duarte
***Trevin Huskey**
ChanhviLay Kongmanyvong (All A's)
Harley Lubben
***Marisol Mandl**
Levi Othmer (All A's)
Briana Robeson (All A's)
Saige Rother (All A's)
Wesley Swanson (All A's)
Jack Waring (All A's)
Owen Weber (All A's)
Catherine Wendt
***Cameron Werner**

Grade 6

Harrison Bacon (All A's)
***Bryce Beckman**
Brayden Beethe
Addison Borrenpohl
Amelia Britt (All A's)
Zoey Bryant
***Regan Campbell-Thies**
***Anthony Campos**
Jillian Cropp (All A's)
Jonathan DeFreece
Monica Jimenez
Mario Lara Jr. (All A's)
Erik Prado
William Rademacher
Andre Rautenbach
Harley Reyes
Haylee Trew
Molly Weber (All A's)

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B.
***Honor Roll with distinction is based on student's having all A's with only one B**



Johnson County Central FFA Chapter competes in the Southeast Nebraska District Land Judging Contest

On October 7th eight Johnson County Central FFA members competed in the Southeast Nebraska District Land Judging contest. The two teams traveled east of Auburn to compete in field owned by Lynn and Jana Rogge. It was a beautiful day to judge soil! The team of Dalton Berkebile, Eli Dorn, Emma Swanda, and Kenzie Gordon placed 5th among the 13 schools that competed. Top 4 schools advance to the State competition. "It is definitely a disappointment to know we missed going to State by a few points. We have a young team and I am confident that next year we will be even more competitive!"

A total of 208 students participated and our students did very well respectively. Dalton Berkebile and Eli Dorn tied for 13th, Emma Swanda earned 19th, and Kinze Gordon tied for 39th. Other Johnson County Central FFA students competing were Lane Othmer, Jack Leuenberger, Dani Lueders, and Brett Bohling.

A sincere "Thank You" goes to the Nemaha NRD here in Tecumseh for making this contest possible amidst a pandemic.



Elementary Guidance

By: Marsha Bacon

What does it mean to be a Thunderbird? Our students have great pride in being Thunderbirds. To begin each year, we review and practice the Thunderbird Way: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Learner. We also talk about what it means to be a good Thunderbird and citizens in our communities.

Bullying Prevention Unit

In the month of November, students in the elementary will begin their Bullying Prevention Unit, a prosocial/emotional program created by Second Step. Weekly, students will watch short videos that we will discuss to learn more about: What is Bullying? How can one Prevent Bullying? What should a person do if they are bullied?

Bullying is a very strong word. It is important that students and their families understand what bullying is and what to do if their student is having issues at school. Through lessons, students learn that bullying is a negative behavior that happens over and over, is done on purpose, is something they have not been able to get to stop, and is unfair and one-sided. A focus of The Thunderbird Way is to teach and reinforce Safe and Respectful behaviors among our students, which are also concepts reinforced through the bullying prevention unit. The expectations of respect and safety with our students helps to create a learning atmosphere for all students at JCC. Visit with your student about your expectations of respect and safety as well. Together we have the power to prevent bullying with kind words and actions. For more information and bullying prevention resources you can visit the national bullying prevention website at: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/> or to learn more about the Second Step bullying prevention curriculum visit: <http://www.cfchildren.org/>.





November 2020

Johnson County Central School Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Cheese Sticks / Marinara Sauce Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	Sloppy Joe /WG Bun Potatoes Fruit Milk	Ham & Scalloped Potatoes Dinner Roll Fruit Milk	Br Pork Patty /WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Corn Chip Milk	6 National Nacho Day Super Nachos Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Beef Fingers Mashed Potato Casserole Fruit WG Bread Milk	Cheeseburger Potatoes Fruit Milk	Chicken Tenders Baked Beans Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Veggie Fruit Garlic Bread Milk	Quesadilla Fruit & Veggies Milk	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Chicken Nuggets Potatoes Fruit Bread Stick Milk	Mini Meatball Sub / WG Bun Sun Chips Fruit & Veggies Milk	Sliced Turkey Mashed Potato & Gravy Corn Dinner Roll Dessert Milk	Riblet WG Bun Cole Slaw Fruit Milk	Pizza Fruit Lettuce Salad Cookie Milk	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Corn Dog Mac & Cheese Fruit & Veggie Milk	Chicken Patty / WG Bun Potatoes Fruit Milk	NO SCHOOL November 25 –27 Thanksgiving Break			
29	30	Menu is Subject to change without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"				
	MS & HS Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers Tec Elem Grilled Cheese Carrots & Fruits Milk					

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME! FALL BACK 1 HOUR	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4 FFA District Livestock Judging @ SCC 8:am	5 VB Varsity State Tournament-TBD K-12 Wrestling Dessert Potluck, Speaker & Meeting @ JCC High School 6:30 pm	6 VB Varsity State Tournament-TBD	7 VB Varsity State Tournament-TBD
8	9	10 ECNC Honors Choir - <i>POSTPONED</i> until Spring	11  JCC School Board Meeting @ JCC Middle School-Cook Site Media Center 6:30 pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 BB Boys Jr High vs Pawnee City @ Pawnee City 4:00 pm	25	26  November 25, 26 & 27 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	27	28
29	30 BB Varsity Boy's/Girls Jamboree @ Nebraska City High School-5:30 pm					

Johnson County Central Public Schools

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This newsletter is produced monthly to inform parents, district patrons and others about school events, classroom events, and student achievements in the classroom and extra curricular activities. This information is submitted by faculty and staff members. Information may be submitted to offices at Tecumseh and Cook.

The school reserves the right to edit information in the interest of space and content.

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Non-Discrimination

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Child find

Children that are birth to 5 years old who are experiencing problems with speech language, cognitive, emotional and/or physical development or have a disability can receive services through Early Childhood Education Services. If interested or in need of more information please contact Rebecca Kling, Special Education Coordinator or Jon Rother, Superintendent at 402-335-3320.

