



Superintendent Monthly Update

Snow Days & County Fairs

Decisions about snow days and creating the calendar.

by **Jon Rother**. March 2021

Making decisions about snow days and creating the school calendar has not yet been made an “exact science” yet. There still remains a certain degree of subjective decision making in the process. As much as I can, I prefer to keep decision making as objective as possible; examining as many facts as possible to lead me to as good of a decision as can be made.

Snow Days & Late Starts

When it comes to the weather, I tend to use multiple resources:

- Weather app – AccuWeather
- Online weather sites – Weather.com, JournalStar.com
- National Weather Service Webinars
- Communication with the Johnson County Highway Superintendent
- Communication with JCC’s local snow removal contractor
- Communication with JCC’s transportation team
- Communication with area school superintendents
- Driving the roads to get a first-hand look at the roads and highways

Safety of our students, staff and stakeholders is of the utmost importance when making a weather related decision. Some of the factors that go into the final decision:

- Real feel temperature - humidity, cloud cover, winds, sun intensity and angle of the sun
- Road conditions – both county and highways

Being a former bus route driver (and still maintaining my bus driver’s license) I know all too well the risks of driving on icy or snow drifted roads. Getting a bus stuck, or worse, is always a concern. Also a concern is the fact that diesel fueled buses can “gel” when temperatures drop low enough, causing the bus to shut down. Compounding bus concerns are the number of people (adults and students) driving to school during times of low light. When we put hundreds of vehicles out on the roads during the same time as snow plows, there is a greater potential for an accident. I feel it is better to give the plows



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

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 7

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time to do their job, allow the sun to come up and provide warmth and visibility, before asking people to get on the roads. Furthermore, we do still have a good number of students who rely on their own two feet to get them to school. A late start, at least, gives plows and snow removal crews the time needed to prep roadways and walkways for travel.

The activities schedule does not really play much of a role in deciding a late start, or whether or not to have school. There are times when it is possible to still have activities while cancelling school. Most often than not, the activity involves far fewer people. However, all the same factors on making a decision about the school day go into deciding about an activity. Typically, activities are after school. This means road crews have been out and maybe the sun has been out. However, the continued presence of new moisture and road conditions must be considered. The decision for activities or not is usually a joint decision between the participating schools.

The School Calendar

Creating the school calendar will be a fairly new experience for me this year. At JCC, we have a Calendar Committee made up of school administration and teachers. We set a start date, figure out holiday breaks, conferences and determine an end date. Here are a few of the factors:

- Teacher's Contract – the teacher contract calls for 185 work days. This typically is part of determining the beginning and end dates.
- Required Student Hours – the school calendar must allow for at least 1,080 hours of school time for secondary students, 1,032 hours for elementary students and 400 hours for kindergarten.
- The Johnson County Fair – we have worked hard over the years to allow students and staff to be a part of a local celebration.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – traditionally we have one conference in the 1st semester and one in the 2nd semester. Different formats have been experimented with to achieve maximal attendance.
- Staff Development Days – these are entered into the calendar to allow for training of staff.
- Teacher Work Days – allows teachers work time to prepare, plan and meet collectively.

There are some other elements that can have an effect on the school year after the year has started:

- Snow days.
- Student & staff illness.
- District Assignments for NSAA (Nebraska School Activities Association Events – school districts apply to host these events and they are awarded during the school year (i.e. district track, district wrestling, district one-act, district music, etc.).

As we close in on the end of winter, look for an updated 2020-2021 calendar designating the last day of school for our students.

Congratulations K-3 January Thunderbirds of the Month

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>1st Grade</u>	<u>2nd Grade</u>	<u>3rd Grade</u>
Ethan Barnes	Alivia Gottula	Audric Gradwohl	Emma Othmer
Baylee Shirley	Selena Cabrales	Jude Fricke	Samantha Cottrell
Raytin Wagner	Quinlynn Beethe	Carter Allen	Hudson Harrifeld
Brylee Cropp	Axel Prado	Mason Bowman	Brynn Weber
Torin DeBoer	Harley Savago	Ian Robeson	Natalya Kirkendall
Raeleigh Barbour	Nora Britt	Keygan Bailey	Zander Koenen
Kaylen Najera	Gabriella Brown	Presley Juilfs	Lila Britt
	Nathaly Hurtado- Arellano	Preston Hartman	Jamison Bacon
	Kaimen Lewis	Kelly Kongmanyvong	

ECNC Art Show

We'd like to congratulate and recognize the following students whose artwork has been chosen to go onto the East Central Nebraska Conference Art Show: Ashlei McDonald, Saylor Rother, Miguel Orozco, Emma Straka, Abbigail Jamison, Sunnie Rother, Fransisco Xayaphonesongkham.

The JCC Website has the entries that will be displayed for the ECNC Art Show if you are unable to make it to the Wells Fargo Lobby.

The ECNC Art Show will be hosted in the Wells Fargo lobby in downtown Lincoln from February 26th through March 23rd. Be sure to check it out!

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Cold – Cold – Cold...but the good news is the ground hog didn't see his shadow therefore we should have an early spring!! At JCC spring means PROM – which is just around the corner. Prom is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2021 at Hartman's Cattle Company. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m. parents are welcome to take pictures until 8:45 p.m. The dance will be held from 8:45 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Post prom is still discussing options and when they decide what post prom will entail we will get this info out asap.

With the pandemic still over our heads we will adhere to all COVID-19 health restrictions for our JCC 2021 Prom. We will do our best to make this a memorable night for our students but there may be some stipulations we may have to follow. Since health restrictions change weekly we will keep our students/parents informed the closer we get to Prom night.

To help ensure that we have a safe, drug and alcohol free Prom and Post-Prom, the Johnson County Sheriff's department will be administering breathalyzer tests before Prom and before students attend Post-prom. Prom participants will also have a ticket of admission form to sign as well as their parents to give them access for the dance and Post-Prom activities.

A very important date you need to mark on your calendar is Tuesday, March 23, 2021. All juniors in the State of Nebraska will be required to take the ACT test on this date. Our JCC juniors will test at the high school and around the first week of March, high school counselor Mrs. Reuter, will be mailing out a letter with the agenda for this day to all juniors. On this day we do have plans for the rest of the high school students - our freshmen and sophomores will be taking the Pre-ACT test, and our seniors will be participating in the Senca SMART Program. These students and parents will also receive a letter with the agenda for this day.



Go Thunderbirds!

NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Ms. Olivia Reuter

ACT Test Prep Sessions

ACT Prep sessions will be offered to all high school students. High school students should sign up by using the Google form shared with them or by going to Mrs. Reuter's office and signing up there. 7th and 8th graders are also welcome; they sign up with Mrs. Bacon at the middle school. These sessions will be taught by JCC high school teachers. Students who want to attend MUST SIGN UP AT LEAST 3 SCHOOL DAYS BEFORE THE SESSION THEY WANT TO ATTEND!!! This is important so the teacher teaching each session has enough materials and we have enough snacks/water, etc. We will have pizza in the cafeteria from 5:30- 6:00 before the March 2nd, March 10th, and March 17th sessions. All students signed up for sessions those evenings are welcome to come have pizza before their session.

Here are the dates and times of the session and which subjects will be offered. Students will choose one session to attend of the two offered each evening.

- ◇ March 2- 6:00- 8:00 PM- Math with Mr. Faris or Reading with Mr. Hedger
- ◇ March 8- 6:00- 8:00 PM- English with Mrs. Little or Science with Mrs. Roesener/Dr. Boone
- ◇ March 10- 6:00- 8:00 PM- Reading with Mr. Hedger or Math with Mr. Faris
- ◇ March 16- 6:00- 8:00 PM- Science with Mrs. Roesener/Dr. Boone or English with Mrs. Little
- ◇ March 17- 6:00- 8:00 PM- Reading with Mr. Hedger or Science with Mrs. Roesener/Dr. Boone
- ◇ March 18- 6:00- 8:00 PM- Math with Mrs. Richardson or English with Mrs. Little

Upcoming ACT and Pre-ACT Testing

On March 23rd, all juniors will be taking the ACT test as a part of Nebraska statewide testing. All sophomores will take the Pre-ACT, and all freshmen will take the Pre-ACT 8/9. This testing is free of charge and will take place at our school. While, the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are testing, the seniors will participate in the SENCA Smart Financial Literacy program. All high school students will be dismissed at 1:00 PM after testing and the financial literacy program are done. It is very important for all high school students to be in school that day!

Seniors: Now Is the Time to Start Applying for Scholarships

All seniors have been emailed the information and applications for many scholarships, including local ones, over the past three months. The deadlines for these scholarships are now getting closer. It's important to keep those deadlines in mind and give yourself plenty of time to complete all of the steps for applying for each scholarship. The earlier you start applying, the better, don't wait until the week of or the day of the deadline to start applying. Additional scholarship information will be emailed to seniors as soon as it is received. If any senior parents would like to be added to my scholarship list, please let me know. I'll gladly send you the scholarship information that I send seniors.

Seniors: If You Haven't Already and You Are Planning to Attend College, Complete the FAFSA

- First, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need it to access and sign the FAFSA. Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov. For free help with the FAFSA, see FAFSA Tools at EducationQuest.org or call EducationQuest to make an appointment: Omaha – (888) 357-6300 or Lincoln – (800) 303-3745

Meet the JCC Class of 2021

Here are two more senior profiles of the JCC class of 2021.

Cheshire Burger

Cheshire Rose Burger lives in Tecumseh. She is the daughter of Jodi Doiel and Steven Burger. She has three siblings, Gunnar Burger (20), Collin Doiel (20), and Theresa Doiel (13). Cheshire has been involved in FFA, bowling, FBLA, Academic Decathlon, and Choir during her high school years. Her favorite class at JCC was Food Science taught by Mrs. Hodges and her most difficult class was Chemistry. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. According to Cheshire, the best thing about being a senior is “Watching all of the underclassmen grow into young adults and mature and knowing that her class is almost finished with high school after four short years.” Cheshire’s advice to freshmen is, “Do your homework. Don’t procrastinate. High school flies by faster than you think it does.” Outside of school, Cheshire likes to ride in the tractor in the field and play softball. After she graduates from high school, Cheshire plans to attend Southeast Community College in Beatrice to study Agricultural Business. In ten years, Cheshire sees herself working in a job where she sells clothing for farmers. She also hopes to be married with one or two kids.



Miguel Orozco



Miguel A. Orozco is the son of Miguel Sr. and Sandra Orozco of Tecumseh. He has three siblings, Kimberly (15), Anthony (10), and Elizabeth (3). During high school, Miguel has been involved in FBLA, bowling, Striv, FFA, Academic Decathlon, and Choir. Miguel’s favorite high school classes have been Coding and Food Science. His most challenging class was Chemistry. Outside of school, Miguel likes video games and drawing. Miguel’s favorite school lunch has been Stromboli. According to Miguel the best thing about being a senior is, “I’m graduating this year.” His advice to freshmen is, “Don’t give up too early and stay diligent with your work.” After he graduates, Miguel plans to start at a two-year college and then transfer to a four-year college. He wants to major in cyber security or a related field. In ten years, Miguel sees himself working in cyber security/server management wherever his work takes him. He also hopes to be married with kids by this time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & ATHLETIC NEWS

BY RICH BACON

Students who made the 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester Honor Roll were recognized at a school assembly in February. JCC teachers challenge their students on a daily basis with high expectations and challenging curriculum and these students excelled in the classroom during the 1st semester. These students worked hard, turned in assignments, studied for tests, and met each of their individual teachers' classroom expectations. The following students received special recognition for earning straight A's for the 1st Quarter, 2nd Quarter, and 1st Semester: 8th Grade: Salena Conley, Alex Cruz; Keegan Jones, Lydia Mejia; 7th Grade: Ashley Beethe, Elizabeth Bstandig-Rowland, Danny Kongmanyvong, Levi Othmer, Brianna Robeson, Saige Rother, Wes Swanson, Jack Waring, Owen Weber; 6th Grade: Harrison Bacon, Amelia Britt, Mario Lara Jr., & Molly Weber The following 4th & 5th grade students were recognized for modeling citizenship at a high level: 4th Grade- Kenna Thomas, Elliott Brommer, Reese McDonald, Hadley Hartman, Jackson Gottula, Jamy Rentas; 5th Grade- Wes Schmid, Tony Orozco, Stefani Peters, Yaretsy Ortiz, Angel Buchanan, Riley Wellensiek. These students have gone demonstrated positive leadership, work ethic, & manners in dealing with their teachers and peers and have demonstrated the 4 core values of the Thunderbird Way – Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe and Be a Learner – in a consistent manner. Congratulations to all students who were recognized at the assembly.

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held in the middle of the quarter this year on February 11th. Thank you to all parents who braved the cold weather to attend conferences. Parents who were unable to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences are encourage to make contact with their child's teachers to get clarification on how their student is doing in all areas of their education, not just grades. This important interaction between teacher and parent can benefit the student immensely when utilized.

On Tuesday, February 9th the Johnson County Spelling Bee was held at Johnson County Central Schools, with the following students participating: Elliott Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Jamy Rentas, Lucy Hippen, Reese McDonald, Stefani Peters, Tony Orozco, Kael Fricke, Trace Houseman, Alex Thippavong, Jesus Hurtado, Amelia Britt, Molly Weber, Harley Reyes, Erik Prado, Calyssta Frampton, Jillian Cropp, Danny Kongmanyvong, Shelbi Peters, Briana Robeson, Marisol Mandl, Ellie Bstandig-Rowland, Lydia Mejia, Keegan Jones, Hailey Stafford-Thompson and Alex Cruz. Our top 3 finishers were Champion-Lydia Mejia, 2nd Place-Marisol Mandl & 3rd Place-Molly Weber. Congratulations to our winners and all students who participated in this event.

Students will be taking the state accountability tests, officially called Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Summative assessments, starting in late March through the last week of April. These assessments are very important for our students and the district. Results from these assessments provide data which help guide curriculum decisions for our district.

Congratulations to Ashley Beethe for being selected to participate in the Class C All-State Band in Kearney! The Junior High Wrestling season got underway with a triangular with between JCC, Syracuse, and Ashland-Greenwood on February 16th. Johnson County Central has 14 wrestlers competing this year. The wrestlers will have meets at Falls City on February 25th, Weeping Water on February 26th, Auburn on March 4th, Norris on March 6th, Nebraska City on March 11th and finish their season at the ECNC Championships at Freeman on March 16th. Good luck to the wrestlers as they finish their season. GO THUNDERBIRDS!

As a yearly reminder, Johnson County Central utilizes an activity scheduler called rSchoolToday. Through rSchoolToday, a conference website has been created which provides links to school calendars and school websites of all the conference schools. Since this is a web-based calendar it will provide the user with instant access to the most up-to-date activity information at all times. Users can set themselves up for automatic email reminders or text messages to your cell phone or other mobile device and be instantly notified of any changes to any schedules. This is especially handy when games are postponed due to weather or if the start time for an event has been adjusted. You can access this website by clicking on the "Sports Calendar" link on the school website or going to www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org. For help navigating the calendar you can click on "Parent Guide" and it will provide brief instructions on how to get started. You can also access the Johnson County Central calendar by simply clicking on the "Sports Calendar" on the school website. This is a great way to keep informed of any last minute changes to our sports schedule.

Greetings Thunderbird family!

The winter sports are coming to an end with the state championships coming up. There are a few changes the NSAA has implemented this year.

State wrestling took place for four days at the CHI Center in Omaha. Classes A and D wrestled on Wednesday, February 17th, and Thursday, February 18th. While Classes B and C wrestled on Friday, February 19th, and Saturday, February 20th.

State basketball is going to a 5-day format in Lincoln this year. The girls' tournament will be held March 2nd-6th and the boys' tournament will take place March 9th-March 13th.

Here are the NSAA Winter Postseason Protocols:

The NSAA is implementing the following requirements for host schools of all NSAA winter sub-district and district contests:

- Active participants are permitted to wear face coverings during competition, but not required.
- Coaches and non-active participants are required to wear face coverings.
- Spectators are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Attendance is restricted to 75% of occupancy unless local health departments or host schools are more restrictive.
- The host school may establish additional requirements. Any additional requirements implemented by the host school must be the same for all participants, officials, and spectators.

After the winter sports draw to a close we look forward to the spring season. JCC will have athletes participating in Track and Field, Boys Golf, and Soccer. Spring practices are set to begin on Monday, March 1st.

Recently, our very own Saylor Rother won the statewide award of the NSAA Believers and Achievers. Saylor was one of 48 individuals in the state of Nebraska that were recognized. This award is given to student-athletes who uphold certain academic standards along with being involved in NSAA activities all four years of high school and are involved with their community. This is a huge accomplishment! **Good job Saylor!**



Photo Credit: Marcus Scheer

Garrett Collin

Johnson County Spelling Bee Held on Tuesday, February 9th

The Johnson County Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, February 9th at Johnson County Central Schools in Cook. This year, the spelling bee followed a virtual format. All students participated in the Scripps Spelling Bee using the online platform at school. In total, JCC had 26 students representing grades 4-8 that participated in the spelling bee. There were three rounds of 25 words each, to determine a winner. The Johnson County Spelling Bee Champion for the 2020-2021 school year is Lydia Mejia, an eighth grade student at Johnson County Central. She will move on to participate in the Omaha World Herald Midwest Spelling Bee, which will also utilize the online platform. Earning second place in the spelling bee was Marisol Mandl, a 7th grade student, followed by Molly Weber, a 6th grade student.



Johnson County Scripps Spelling Bee Finalists from left to right: Molly Weber (3rd), Lydia Mejia (1st) and Marisol Mandl (2nd).

Students in grades 4-8 participated in the Johnson County Spelling Bee.

Fourth Grade participants include: Jamy Rentas, Elliott Brommer, Lucy Hippen, Reese McDonald and Jackson Gottula.



Fifth Grade participants include: Stefani Peters, Anthony Orozco, Kael Fricke, Alex Thippavong, Trace Houseman and Jesus Hurtado.



Participants in grades sixth through eighth include front row: Amelia Britt, Molly Weber, Harley Reyes, Erik Prado, Jillian Cropp and Calyssta Frampton from the sixth grade.

Second row: Danny Kongmanyvong, Marisol Mandl, Brianna Robeson and Shelbi Peters (not pictured Elizabeth Bstandig-Rowland) from the seventh grade.

Top row: Keegan Jones, Alex Cruz, Lydia Mejia and Hailey Stafford-Thompson from the eighth grade.



Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten News

The 15 students in Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten Class have been very busy in the beginning of the 2021 school year. We celebrated the 100th day of school on January 22nd, 2021. The students decorated a cape that they wore with 100 items of anything they chose. The children also counted and wrote their numbers to 100.

We went on a scavenger hunt in our classroom to find 100 chocolate kisses with the numbers on them. We collected them all!



(Not pictured: Jacob Griess & Eli Turner)

Vocal Music - Mr. Doran

28th Annual Freshmore Clinic

The Annual Freshmore Clinic will take place in Tecumseh on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. This is a clinic Mr. Doran started in 1994 to help strengthen the younger voices (Freshmen and Sophomores) for choirs from area schools. We'll rehearse all day in the High School Gym observing proper distancing and mask wearing. A 5:00 PM concert will be presented on Striv only (due to Covid there will be no live audience)! This year's clinician is David von Behren who is the Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster of the Memorial Church at Harvard University. David has degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Yale School of Music. He is a graduate of Falls City High School and a former Freshmore Clinic attendee. Our accompanist is Alisha Sutton who is the vocal music director at Falls City High School.

Here are some interesting facts about Freshmore:

- There have been 45 schools participating (some of which are no longer around): Adams; Ashland-Greenwood; Auburn; Beatrice; Columbus; Conestoga; Crete; Cross County; Dawson Verdon; Diller-Odell; Doniphan-Trumbull; Fairbury; Falls City; Falls City Sacred Heart; Freeman; Gretna; Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinhauer, Johnson-Brock; Johnson County Central; Lewiston; Lincoln Christian; Lincoln Lutheran; Lincoln Northeast; Lincoln Southeast; Louisville; Lourdes Central Catholic; Malcolm; Mead; Meridian; Nebraska City; Nemaha Valley; Palmyra; Parkview Christian; Pawnee City; Plattsmouth; Southeast Consolidated; Syracuse; Table Rock-Steinhauer; Tecumseh; Tri-County; Wahoo; Waterloo; Waverly; Weeping Water & Yutan.
- There have been a total of 65 different directors who have brought students from those 45 schools.
- A total of 4040 singers have performed (not including guest show choirs) which averages to 155 a year. The high participation was 260 the low was 75. We have had only one cancellation due to weather.
- Four have been held on March 4, three each March 7 & March 8, and two on March 5 (my birthday). While the others have been spread around the months of February & March with 1 in April.
- 86 different songs have been performed.
- 2 of those songs have been written for us.

Conference Honor Choir

The conference honor choir has been rescheduled to Monday, March 15, 2021 and will be held in Malcolm. With Covid restrictions, each school may only select 8 students for the high school ensemble and 6 students for the middle school ensemble. Also, each student will only be allowed to have 2 audience members attend the concert. Students selected for our ECNC honor choir (East Central Nebraska Conference):

High school:

Soprano – Ava Berkebile & Chayce Oenbring;

Alto - Hayley Neemann & Emma Straka;

Tenor – Cameron Daniels & Hayden Huskey;

Bass – Uriel Cabrales & Tanner Woods.

Alternates: Soprano – Gina Golden; Alto – Emma Walters:

Middle school:

Soprano – Kali Drake & Marisol Mandl;

Alto –Elie Bstandig-Rowland & Lydia Mejia;

Baritone –Trevin Huskey & Cameron Werner.

Alternates: Soprano – Jennifer Hernandez; Alto – Abby Mejia;

Baritone – Zeke Burki & Wyatt Case

Music Calendar (March & April)

Spring performances will include the following (all subject to change):

- 28th Annual Freshmore Clinic – Tuesday, March 9, Tecumseh
- ECNC Honor Choir – Monday, March 15, Malcolm
- Middle School Contest Recital – Thursday, March 18, Cook
- Class C All State Band – Saturday, March 20
- High School MUDECAS Music Contest (solo & small groups only) – Thursday, March 25, Pawnee City
- Middle School Instrumental Music Contest – Friday, March 26, Humboldt
- High School Contest Recital – Monday, April 12, Tecumseh
- High School District Music Contest (solo & small groups only) – Thursday, April 22, Tecumseh



School Improvement Newsletter Article

March 2021

“All students will improve in reading comprehension.”

After analyzing student data, the faculty, staff, and administration determined that our school improvement efforts should focus on the improvement of reading comprehension for all students. This school improvement goal was selected and then implemented during the 2016-2017 school year and has continued to be the focus of student learning and achievement in our district.

Over the past five years, JCC administration and faculty have focused on reading comprehension by implementing the use of graphic organizers throughout the curriculum and all grade levels. The attention has been on identifying important information and organizing the information in a visual way. Having a visual is useful for many students to make connections between what they know and the new information they are learning. It also keeps students engaged in active learning as they are recording the information while listening and discussing the lesson, story, chapter, unit, or activity.

The measurable goal for our students is as follows:

For those are meeting Mean RIT and Above:

- All students who score At or Above the Mean RIT score on their fall MAP test will maintain or improve their score on the spring MAP test **and** remain at or above the mean RIT score in the spring.*

For those Below Mean RIT:

- Kindergarten through 4th grade students will increase their RIT score by **5 Rasch units** from the fall testing to the spring testing on MAP tests **OR** score at or above the mean RIT on the spring test.*
- Fifth through eleventh grade students will increase their RIT score by **3 Rasch units** from the fall testing to the spring testing on MAP tests **OR** score at or above the mean RIT on the spring test.*

*Due to the Coronavirus school shutdown, our goal changed from measuring improvement from the fall MAP to the spring MAP. Instead we are now measuring the growth from fall from one year to fall of the next year.

MAP, which stands for Measures of Academic Progress, is an assessment used school-wide in the fall, winter (for some grades), and spring to gauge student progress. According to the Northwest Evaluation Association or NWEA, “student MAP testing results are reported in RIT scores (short for Rasch Unit). A RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level and also measures student progress or growth in school.” This information is helpful in making informed decisions about the programs or strategies that help students learn.

As we look through the data from the fall of 2019 to the fall of 2020, we see that our students are making progress in the area of reading comprehension. The following chart shows the percentage of students at each grade level that have met our school improvement measurable goal as stated above.

Current Grade Levels	Percentage that met Goal
Kindergarten	81%
First Grade	88%
Second Grade	88%
Third Grade	97%
Fourth Grade	71%
Fifth Grade	85%
Sixth Grade	55%
Seventh Grade	72%
Eighth Grade	83%
Ninth Grade	79%
Tenth Grade	71%
Eleventh Grade	66%

On March 15, 2021, we will host an External Team. This team consists of administrators and teachers. We will share information about our district - academics, extracurricular activities, facilities, demographics, and data. They will walk through our halls, visit classrooms, talk with our students, and hold interviews with personnel. This External Team will determine our strengths and areas for improvement. This feedback guides our school district on next steps to improve teaching and learning for our students.

Kindergarten Round-Up



HOWDY, PARDNER!

WHEN: Thursday, April 15, 2021
9:00-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Johnson County Central Elementary Building in Tecumseh.

WHO: Children residing in the Johnson County Central school district who are, or will be, age 5 on or before July 31, 2021.

Individual letters will be sent in April to the parents of all Kindergarten ready students residing in Johnson County Central's school district. If you do not receive a letter, please call the school and let us know that you will be attending the 2021 Kindergarten Round-Up.

If applying for early registration (child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 15), JCC must have received your written request by March 12, 2021.

JCC Preschool Enrollment Opens February 1, 2021

We know you are your child's first and most important teacher, and we would love to join you in the education of your young learner.

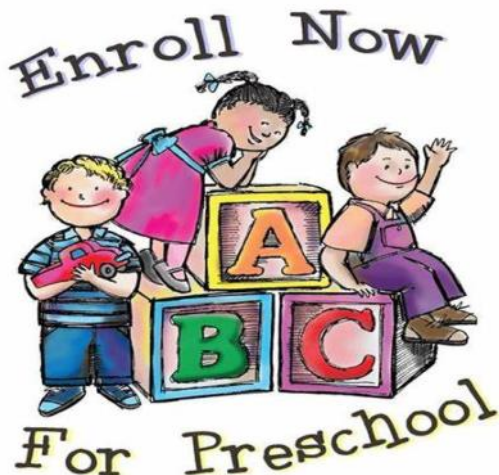
Our focus is to provide learning opportunities for those students who will be entering kindergarten the following year. Therefore, the majority of our enrollment will be filled by prekindergarten students. **Prekindergarten** is defined as a child who will be four years of age on or before July 31, 2021. A **three-year-old** is defined as a child who will be three years of age on or before July 31, 2021. Being potty trained is a requirement of the program. We offer a full-day program for prekindergarten students in Tecumseh and Cook. Three-year-olds will join the morning of the full-day program. Preschool is in session Tuesday through Friday.

The preschool schedule encompasses discovery through active involvement. "The Creative Curriculum" program is implemented. Activities, materials, and equipment reflect and respect the diversity of race and multiculturalism and the physical and mental abilities of all children.

There is no tuition fee for preschool. However, breakfast and/or lunch fees will be charged when applicable. An application for free and reduced meals will be offered at orientation.

Transportation will be provided between sites as well as to and from licensed child care providers within close geographic proximity of the attending site at no cost.

Enrollment will be filled according to the following criteria: Rule 11 guidelines, students currently enrolled in our program, and the date an application is received. If interested in the preschool program, please complete the electronic application which will be available beginning **February 1, 2021** on the school website: www.jccentral.org. If you would prefer a paper application, please contact the elementary office.



Contact will be made by March 20, 2021 regarding enrollment for the 2021-22 school year. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a classroom visit, please call the elementary office: 402-335-3320. Thank you for considering Johnson County Central Preschool.

*All preschool children, regardless of their abilities, disabilities, or the social, linguistic, or economic diversity of the children's families are eligible to be served in our preschool program.

Kid's coloring CONTEST



The City of Tecumseh/Johnson County Public Transit has events planned for Nebraska Public Transit week April 11-17, 2021.

This includes a coloring contest for preschool/kindergarten from JCC (Cook and Tecumseh), St. Andrew's Catholic school and St. John's Lutheran Preschool. The pictures will be handed out to the schools on April 1st and will be picked up from the schools on April 9th. You have to return them to the schools before April 9. You must fill out the attached slip with name, phone number and parent's signature. There will be two ways to vote this year. You can vote in person at City Hall or on Facebook simply by liking your favorite picture or do both! The top two pictures with the most likes (from Facebook and in person voting) will be the winners. Like and follow City of Tecumseh /Johnson County Public Transit Facebook page for more information and upcoming events. The pictures of the winners will be on Facebook and sent to NDOR.

March 2021


Johnson County Central School Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	2 Cheeseburger /WG Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggies Cookie Milk	3 Stuffed Baked Potato PB & Jelly, Tec. Elem & PK'S Fruit & Veggie Milk	4 Meat Loaf Mashed Potato Casserole Fruit & Veggies Dinner Roll Milk	5 Fish Sandwich Sun Chips Fruits & Veggie Milk	6
7	8 Corn Dog Cowboy Beans Fruit & Veggie Milk	9 Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Garlic Bread Milk	10 Breaded Chicken Patty / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	11 Tater Tot casserole Fruit & Veggie Dinner Roll Milk	12 NO SCHOOL Teacher Workday	13
14	15 Creamed Chicken / WG Biscuit Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Milk	16 Breaded Beef Patty Mashed Potato/ Gravy Fruit & Veggie Dinner Roll Milk	17 Shepherd's Pie Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	18 BBQ Riblet / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bug Bites Milk	19 Cheese Quesadilla Salad Fruit & Veggies Milk	20
21	22 Chicken Tender Wrap Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Milk	23 Hot Dog /Chili Dog HS Baked Beans Fruit & Veggies Rice Crispy Bar Milk	24 Walking Taco Fruit & Veggie WG Cookie Milk	25 Meat Ball Sub Potato Fruit & Veggie Milk	26 Grilled Cheese Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Milk	27
28	29 Goulash Fruit & Veggie Garlic Bread Milk	30 Shredded Pork /WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Milk	31 Chef's Choice	<p style="text-align: center;">Menu is Subject to change without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"</p>		

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

March 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Early April dates of interest Friday, April 2nd and Monday, April 5th NO SCHOOL—Easter Break		

1	2	3	4	5	6
SPRING PRACTICE STARTS MARCH 1ST! No School - Teacher Workday Title 1 Annual Meeting—JCC HS—9:00 am ESU #4 High School Quiz Bowl @ JCC HS—4:00 pm	FFA District Career Development Events @ SCC—8:00 am	Parents Informational Meeting for Cheerleaders @ JCC HS—6:30 pm	Wrestling Jr High vs Auburn Tournament @ Auburn—4:30 pm 6th Grade Quiz Bowl @ Freeman - 4:00 pm	NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORKDAY	Wrestling Jr High Norris Invitational @ Norris High School, Fifth — 9:00 am
ECNC Jr & Sr High Quiz Bowl @ Weeping Water—8:30 am	28th Annual Freshmore Clinic @ JCC—9:30 am & Concert via Striv—5:00 pm	JCC School Board Meeting @ JCC High School Cafeteria—6:00 pm	End of 3rd Quarter Wrestling—Jr High Nebraska City Invitational @ Nebraska City HS—4:30 pm	Official Cheerleading Tryout for 2021/2022—3:30 pm	Class C All State Band—Kearney Track—Nebraska Wesleyan Indoor Track Meet—CANCELLED
Daylight Savings Starts  Set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday.	ECNC Vocal Music Clinic @ Malcolm Public School—1:00 pm	Cheerleader Tryout Clinics for 21/22—March 16, 17 & 18—6:30 am Wrestling Jr High ECNC Tournament—TBD @ Freeman High School	Middle School Contest Concert	Middle School Music Contest @ HTRS—8:00 am	Jr/Sr Prom
HOSA State Conference—Virtual—8:00 am	Seniors to attend SENCA Smart Workshop @ JCC HS—8:15 am Freshmen & Sophomores to take Pre-ACT Test @ JCC HS 8:15 am Juniors to take ACT Test @ JCC HS—8:15 am	Mudecas Quiz Bowl @ Falls City High School—9:00 am	Mudecas Music Contest @ Pawnee City High School—time TBD	Middle School Music Contest @ HTRS—8:00 am	Jr/Sr Prom

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.*

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

Phone: 402 335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh
402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
402 864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook
402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook
402 864-4181 MS Office @ Cook
Web Site www.jccentral.org

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

It shall be the policy of Johnson County Central Public Schools to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for discrimination concerns. Inquiries concerning any of the above, or Title IX and Rehabilitation Act Regulations (504) should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68329; (402)335-3320.

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.

No School—Monday.

March 1st

Teacher Workday

Thursday March 11th
END OF 3RD QUARTER

NO School for Students

Friday, March 12th

Teacher In-service



Daylight Savings Begins—March 14th—
Set your clocks 1 hour ahead

SPRING BEGINS—March 20th