

Superintendent Monthly Update

Finishing Strong

Putting the 2020-2021 Year Behind Us

by **Jon Rother**. April 2021

The end to the 2019-2020 school year was interesting to say the least. The 2020-2021 school year has been both unique and difficult. Both are school years that will be talked about well into our futures. Throughout it all, I have been proud of our students, staff and parents. We have many achievements and accomplishments to be proud of! We plan to finish this school year strong, providing as many activities and opportunities for our students as we are able. They still may not look exactly the same as we are used to, but we do plan to have them. Here's what we have planned:

- All track meets (including elementary field days) in person.
- Prom in person.
- Kindergarten Round-Up in person.
- Preschool, Kindergarten and Senior graduations in person.

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A Few Dates to Take Note Of:

Thursday, April 15: Kindergarten Round Up.

NO SCHOOL for preschool and kindergarten students.

Thursday, April 22: NO SCHOOL for Students.

JCC hosts the District Music Competition.

Friday, April 30: Tecumseh Site K-6 Track & Field Day.

Monday, May 3: Tecumseh Site K-3 Spring Concert "Good Thinking".

Monday, May 3: High School Spring Concert & Art Show.

Thursday, May 6: Cook Site 4-8 Spring Concert.

Saturday, May 8: JCC High School Graduation.

Monday, May 10: JCC Kindergarten Graduation.

Tuesday, May 11: JCC Preschool Graduation.

Wednesday, May 12: Last Day for Students, 11 AM dismissal.

Thursday, May 13: JCC hosts the Class C, District C-1 Track Meet.

Is there something you'd like to know more about? Send your questions to:

jon.rother@jcccentral.org



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

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 8

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NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Spring is in full swing and we are winding down our 2020-2021 school year at JCC. As we approach the final weeks of the year I want to congratulate our seniors on all their accomplishments this past year. Success now in academics and extracurricular activities will carry forward to your future endeavors and I wish the senior class much success as you graduate and move on after high school.

I do have a few loose ends to tie up at the end of this year and I first want to remind our seniors and parents of some important dates and events that are heading our way:

- Monday, April 19, 2021 – at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria I will meet with the seniors to handout senior check-out sheets, the seniors will have the remaining two weeks to complete their check-out sheets, which is plenty of time.
- Friday, April 30, 2021 – the last day of school for seniors (this will be a regular full day of school). Exams or unit tests must be done before this date.
- Monday, May 3, 2021 – seniors can start to officially check-out. Mr. Lester will check lockers and collect check-out sheets. This needs to be done before graduation rehearsal.
- Monday, May 3, 2021 – senior grades are due in the computer by 8:00 a.m.
- Monday, May 3, 2021 – I will verify and print senior grades and inform the Salutatorian and Valedictorian of their status.
- Wednesday, May 5, 2021 – seniors will have graduation rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. I will also handout report cards at this time. After rehearsal I will have a senior party/lunch at the fairgrounds.

As our seniors are preparing to graduate, our 8th grade students are looking to transition into the high school. 8th grade orientation will take place on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. These current 8th graders will be divided into small groups and will be escorted on a tour of the high school facilities. They will also visit with the extracurricular activities sponsors and will have an opportunity to ask questions during a refreshment period at the end of the orientation.

Another important event I want to discuss is our JCC Honors Day, which will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. in the high school gym. This program recognizes our student's academic success. All students will be present at this assembly and will be honored for their achievements in the presence of their peers. We invite and encourage all parents to attend this assembly. We understand this is during the work day, but we hope parents will still attempt to be present as their students are being honored. There will be many awards given during this assembly: Honor roll, perfect attendance, classroom awards, military awards and many others. Please come and help recognize these award recipients.

Let's keep up the good work and end our 2020-2021 school year on a high note. Good Luck and congrats to all our seniors and have a safe and exciting graduation!

MIDDLE SCHOOL & ATHLETIC NEWS

BY RICH BACON

The onset of spring brings warmer temperatures (finally!), rain, blooming flowers, and green grass. With the spring season also comes a variety of activities and events that can disrupt the regular school week, such as, Easter, Standardized tests, State Standards and Assessments, quiz bowl competitions, music concerts and competitions, and track meets to name a few. With the busy time of year and the nice, spring weather, many of us anxiously await the end of the school year and summer vacation. It is important to remember that we still have about a month and a half of school left and there is a lot of work that remains. Everyone needs to guard against complacency and try to finish the year strong.

Students will be taking a number of state-mandated assessments (NSCAS) throughout the month 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. Results from these assessments will also be used to help determine a student's academic placement for the next school year. As the testing dates approach there are some test-taking strategies and some things parents can do to help their children be successful on these assessments:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before each test and eats a good breakfast the morning of the tests.
- Have your child dress in layers – studies show children do better on assessments if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
- Encourage your child to take the tests seriously. A lot of important decisions regarding your children and their education are made based on data we receive from these tests. If students don't give their best effort on the standardized tests much of our data will be invalid, making it difficult to make decisions that will be in the best interests of our students.
- Keep a good attitude. Think positively!

The middle school students that made the honor roll for the 3rd quarter and were recognized at a student assembly, and are listed on the next page. To earn a place on the Honor Roll a student can have no grade lower than a B. Names in Bold Print signify a person who earned Honor Roll with Distinction. These students can only have one B and the rest A's. The Asterisk* signifies students who have earned all A's. Congratulations to these students for their hard work!

Congratulations to our Middle School Wrestling team for their 3rd place finish at the ECNC Tournament at Palmyra on March 16. We had seven wrestlers medal at the ECNC Championship. Conference Champions included Levi Mahoney-Boardman, and Jocelyn Duarte. Earning Runner-up medals were Tucker Thomas, Logan Topp and Alejandra Reyes. Greg Golden and Trevor Rinne earned 4th place finishes. Congratulations and thank you to all our wrestlers and their coaches, Gabe Meints, and Neil Bowman, for representing JCC in a positive way and for their time and commitment throughout the season.

The Junior High Track season has begun with 41 students (23 boys and 18 girls) participating. You can catch them in action at home at the JCC Invitational on Thursday, April 29th. Hope to see you there!

Go Thunderbirds!



Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll Third Quarter 2020-2021

Grade 8

Kayden Badertscher (All A's)

Gabriel Burki (All A's)

Salena Conley (All A's)

Alexander Cruz (All A's)

Jersey Graham

Juanita Grobler

Jackson Haughton (All A's)

Avery Houseman

*Madison Jansen

Keegan Jones (All A's)

Levi Mahoney-Boardman

Lydia Mejia (All A's)

Dawn Sejkora

Tucker Thomas

*Logan Topp

Nolan Wellensiek (All A's)

Jaxon Zimmerman

Grade 7

Ashley Beethe (All A's)

*Isaac Beethe

Charlyn Bobadilla

Elizabeth Bstandig-Rowland (All A's)

*Jocelyn Duarte

Trevin Huskey (All A's)

ChanhviLay Kongmanyvong (All A's)

Marisol Mandl

Nayeli Manriquez

Levi Othmer (All A's)

Jazmyn Prado

Briana Robeson (All A's)

Saige Rother (All A's)

Wesley Swanson (All A's)

Madison VanLaningham

Jack Waring (All A's)

Owen Weber (All A's)

*Catherine Wendt

Cameron Werner

Grade 6

Harrison Bacon (All A's)

Bryce Beckman

Amelia Britt (All A's)

Nevaeh Brown

Zoey Bryant

*Regan Campbell-Thies

Anthony Campos (All A's)

Jillian Cropp (All A's)

Jonathan DeFreece

Hayley Jones

Mario Lara Jr. (All A's)

*Andre Rautenbach

Tyson Thompson

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

Greetings Thunderbird Family!

By Garrett Collin

April is finally here and with that comes spring sports! The boy's track team has 19 athletes participating and is coached by Mrs. Angie Huskey. The girls' track team has 24 athletes participating and is coached by Mr. Nick Weber. The track team is also assisted by Mr. Reid Genuchi and Mr. Justin Damme. Boys golf has 9 golfers out this year and is coached by Mr. Ben Swanson. JCC also has 4 girls that are participating in soccer in a Co-op with Nebraska City.

Here are the home events that we are having this year:

April 6 - Thunderbird Invitational Track Meet (varsity)

April 6 - Boys Golf Dual v. Southern

April 29 - Thunderbird Invitational Track Meet (JH)

May 6 - JCC Invitational Golf Meet

May 7 - JCC Invitational Track Meet (varsity)

May 12 - District Meet

On March 17th, the high school held an assembly for our fall athletes to recognize our award winners. Here is the list of recipients.

Cross Country

Ashlei McDonald - NCPA Academic All-State,
ECNC All-Conference, 8th Place State Medalist
Madison Pingel - NCPA Academic All-State
Hayden Huskey - NCPA Academic All-State
Jason Kettlehake - NCPA Academic All-State



Football

Hunter Haughton – Lincoln Journal Star All-State Honorable Mention; Omaha World Herald All-State Honorable Mention; Class D1-2 All-District 1st Team; All-Conference 1st Team; Selected to play in the 44th Annual Sertoma 8-Man All-Star game
Dalton Berkebile – Class D1-2 All-District 1st Team; All-Conference 1st Team
Trey Holthus – NCPA Academic All-State
Logan Barras-Carnagey – NCPA Academic All-State
Calvin Antholz – Class D1-2 All-District Honorable Mention; All-Conference Honorable Mention
Sam Agena - Class D1-2 All-District Honorable Mention; All-Conference Honorable Mention
Roberto Borboa - Class D1-2 All-District Honorable Mention; All-Conference Honorable Mention
Cam Schuster - Class D1-2 All-District Honorable Mention; All-Conference Honorable Mention



Volleyball

Morgan Moran - ECNC All-Conference Honorable Mention, Lincoln Journal Star All-State Honorable Mention, Omaha World Herald All-State Honorable Mention

Saylor Rother - MUDECAS B-Division Honorable Mention, NCPA Academic All-State

Zadie Plager - NCPA Academic All-State

Ava Berkebile - Lincoln Journal Star All-State Honorable Mention, Omaha World Herald All-State Honorable Mention, MUDECAS B-Division Honorable Mention, ECNC All-Conference 2nd Team

Arely Cabrales - Lincoln Journal Star All-State Honorable Mention, Omaha World Herald All-State Honorable Mention



Unified Bowling

Hayley Neemann - NCPA Academic All-State

Jack Luenberger - NCPA Academic All-State



Girls Golf

Kaita Baird - NCPA Academic All-State

Vanessa Jiminez - NCPA Academic All-State

Anzel duPreez - ECNC Champion

Play Production

Kaita Baird - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)

Hayley Neemann - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)

Ashlei McDonald - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)

Emma Straka - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)

Saylor Rother - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts), Best Overall Actress (ECNC)

Logan Barras - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)

Sunnie Rother - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)

Ava Berkebile - Outstanding Acting Award (Districts)



Congratulations to these athletes and thank you coaches for the time you put in and the sacrifices you make for your team and athletes!

Congratulations K-3 February Thunderbirds of the Month

Kindergarten

Ethan Barnes

Garrett Burgett

Thaddious Desmond

Chloe Kirkendall

Josephine McCoy

Bristol Meints

Stetson Miller

Kaylen Najera

Eliot Schultz

Raytin Wagner

1st Grade

Dakotah Daniels

Everest Droge

Maelyn Hamilton

Evelyn Little

Abby Oenbring

Zoelly Rentas-Franco

Genesis Reyes

Leon Sejkora

Tyson Shirley

2nd Grade

Eleanor Burgett

Jude Fricke

Ada Goodrich

Kelly Kongmanyvong

Mackenzie Sell

Kali Smail

Makenzy Russell

3rd Grade

Aedan Gordon

Kloie Neemann

Kyndall Meints

Sophie Kirkland

Lydia Bilslend

Natalya Kirkendall

Lilyana Padilla

NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Ms. Olivia Reuter

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

Juniors: Start Visiting Colleges

Most colleges and universities are now offering individual visits for students and parents on campus. It's a good idea to visit at least one or two colleges your junior year to make it easier to make a decision your senior year. To set up a visit, go to the website of the college you are interested in visiting and look at the admissions section. Most colleges have it where you can set up a visit online. You can also call the admissions office to set up a visit. If you need help, ask me, and I will gladly get a visit set up for you.

Meet the JCC Class of 2021

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

Ruby Valles



Ruby Valles is the daughter of Sergio and Norma Valles of Tecumseh. She has two brothers, Sergio Jr. (15) and Cesar (5). According to Ruby the best thing about being a senior is, "I am almost done with all of the stressful classes." Ruby's favorite classes at JCC have been PE, choir, and study hall. Her most challenging classes have been medical terminology and anatomy/physiology. Her hobbies outside of school are traveling and going places with friends and her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Ruby's advice for freshmen is, "Be involved in activities and make smart choices." During her high school years, Ruby has been involved in volleyball, FBLA, HOSA, choir, and art. After she graduates from high school, Ruby plans to attend the Bryan College of Health Science to go into nursing. In ten years, Ruby hopes to be working as a nurse. She also hopes to have a family of her own and hopes to be living in a nice house in a different state.

Kathia Castor



Kathia Castor is the daughter of Eduardo Castor and Maria Perez of Tecumseh. She has two siblings, Guadalupe (24) and Eduardo (10). According to Kathia, the best part about being a senior is “graduating in less than two months.” During high school, Kathia has been involved in one act, choir, FBLA, HOSA, and soccer. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl and her favorite class at JCC has been study hall. Her most challenging class has been anatomy/physiology. Kathia’s main interest outside of school is singing. Her advice to freshmen is, “Enjoy the next three years because they really do fly by.” After she graduates, Kathia plans to attend Southeast Community College and be a part of the nursing program. In 10 years, Kathia hopes to have graduated college and hopes to be working as a nurse. She doesn’t know where she will live or if she will be married with kids.



Kyle Laue

Kyle David Laue lives in Tecumseh. He is the son of Candy Reilly and Lloyd Laue. He has one sibling, Shelby Potter, age 28. According to Kyle, the best thing about being a senior is being really close to graduating. Kyle’s favorite class at JCC has been zoology because it is taught by his favorite teacher. His most challenging classes have been his English classes. His hobbies and interests outside of school are cars. Kyle’s advice to freshmen is, “Stay out of trouble, it’ll help in the long run.” His favorite school lunch is chili and cinnamon rolls. During his high school years, Kyle has been involved in football, golf, and band. After high school graduation, Kyle plans to attend Southeast Community College for their automotive technology program. In ten years, Kyle says he will be happy and doing what he wants to do in life.



Calvin Antholz



Calvin J. Antholz lives in Tecumseh. He is the son of Jeremy and Cheryl Doty and Danny and Danielle Antholz. He has three siblings Oakley (4), Axel (2), and Briggs (1) Antholz. During his high school years, Calvin has been involved in basketball, football, track, FBLA, student council, and cross country. The best thing about being a senior according to Calvin is inching closer to getting out of high school. Calvin's favorite classes at JCC have been strength training and PE because they are taught by coaches. He says the classes are fun, but the coaches brought intensity into the classes every day. His most challenging classes were physics with Dr. Boone and calculus with Mr. Faris because these classes really made him think at times. Calvin's main hobby outside of school is basketball. His advice to freshmen is, "Try new things and go out and have fun making memories." After high school graduation, Calvin plans to attend Southeast Community College

in Lincoln for their computer information technology program. In ten years, Calvin says, "I honestly have no clue what I will be doing, but I hope to have a successful job and a happy life."

Uriel Cabrales

Uriel Cabrales is the son of Maria Carrera and Teodoro Cabrales of Tecumseh. His siblings are Arely and Carlos Cabrales. Uriel has participated in football, basketball, choir, soccer, and track while he has been in high school. The best thing about being a senior, according to Uriel is, "Being almost done with high school." His favorite classes at JCC have been strength training and PE because these classes helped him to letter in sports. His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl and his most challenging classes have been English and American government. His advice to freshmen is, "Don't slack on grades." His hobbies and interests outside of school are making money and playing pick up basketball." After high school, Uriel plans to attend SCC Lincoln and then then transfer to UNL after two years to major in business administration. In ten years, Uriel sees himself having a good job and making money and still single.





THUNDERBIRD

JUNIOR HIGH



BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

THE JCC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL STAFF IS OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CURRENT (2020-21) 6th and 7th GRADE BOYS TO IMPROVE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL BASKETBALL SKILLS INCLUDING SHOOTING, BALL HANDLING, FOOTWORK AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE SKILLS.

- ◆ DATES: May 26, 27, 28
- ◆ TIME: 2:30 -5:00 PM
(FYI DRIVERS EDUCATION ENDS AT 2:30)
- ◆ WHERE: JCC HS GYMNASIUM, TECUMSEH
- ◆ CAMP FEE \$30/ATHLETE
- ◆ MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: JCC
- ◆ REGISTRATION AND FEE DEADLINE IS MAY 12TH TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT
- ◆ LATE REGISTRATION IS POSSIBLE UP TO THE DATE OF THE CAMP BUT LATE REGISTRANTS MAY NOT RECEIVE A T-SHIRT.
- ◆ ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BENEFIT THE JCC BOYS BASKETBALL.
- ◆ CONTACT COACH FARIS WITH QUESTIONS (402) 515-0426 or kirk.faris@jccentral.org
- ◆ Complete and return the attached form to Coach Faris at the HS or Julie at the Cook site.





THUNDERBIRD



3RD - 5TH GRADE

BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

THE JCC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL STAFF IS OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CURRENT (2020-21) 3rd through 5th GRADE ATHLETES TO IMPROVE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL BASKETBALL SKILLS INCLUDING SHOOTING, BALL HANDLING, FOOTWORK AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE SKILLS.

- ◆ DATES: May 26, 27, 28
- ◆ TIME: NOON-2:00 pm
- ◆ WHERE: JCC HS GYMNASIUM, TECUMSEH
- ◆ CAMP FEE \$30/ATHLETE
- ◆ MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: JCC
- ◆ REGISTRATION AND FEE DEADLINE IS MAY 12TH TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT
- ◆ LATE REGISTRATION IS POSSIBLE UP TO THE DATE OF THE CAMP BUT LATE REGISTRANTS MAY NOT RECEIVE A T-SHIRT.
- ◆ ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BENEFIT THE JCC BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM.



CONTACT COACH FARIS WITH QUESTIONS (402) 515-0426 or kirk.faris@jccentral.org

THUNDERBIRD BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

Registration Form

Complete and return this form to Coach Faris at the HS or Julie at the Cook site.

Student Name _____ Current Grade (20-21) _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent phone # _____

Parent Work Phone _____

Emergency contact Name _____ Emergency Contact Phone _____

T-shirt size (circle one)

<u>Youth</u>			<u>Adult</u>				
Small	Med	Large	Small	Med	Large	XL	XXL
(6-8)	(10-12)	(14-16)					

Parents Release and Waiver Agreement

We (or I) as parents or guardian, hereby give permission for _____ to participate in Thunderbird Basketball Camp during the summer of 2021. We (or I) hereby release the Johnson County Central Board of Education and all of its employees and camp staff, from all claims on account of any injuries, which may be sustained by our son while attending the Thunderbird Basketball Camp. We (or I) agree to indemnify the JCC Board of Education and all its employees and the camp staff for any claim, which may hereafter be presented by our son as a result of such injuries. I give permission to Kirk Faris, Ben Swanson, and Ryan Haughton to make emergency medical decisions concerning my son in my absence.

Parent or Guardian (Signature)

_____ Date _____

Online Safety

By: Marsha Bacon

Students in grades K-3 have been learning about Internet Safety, Community Safety and Careers in guidance classes. Resources were used from Netsmartz Kids for the lessons in Kindergarten through third grade. More information can be found at the following web address: <https://www.netsmartzkids.org/>. Students in grades 4 and 5 learned about cyberbullying: what it is and how it can affect others. Students in grades K-8 learn about online safety and Digital Citizenship each year. Below are some of the items we address at the different grade levels.

Be Smart About Internet Safety



Before you post something on the Internet, think how it may affect you or those around you:

- It's hard to retrieve and delete something once it is on the Internet.
*rule of thumb, **once it is on the Internet, it is there forever.***
- Never send pictures to strangers.
- Keep passwords private (except from your parents).
 - For example, at school, if a student is logged in as you and in an inappropriate site, you would face the consequences.
- Tell an adult if something mean or inappropriate has been done to you when you are online. It is important to talk to your child about telling a trusted adult if something they see makes them uncomfortable.
- Limit the amount of time you spend on the Internet. At home, 30 minutes a day is a maximum time recommendation for a student in 4th or 5th grade.
- **Never provide personal information** like a phone number, address, best friend's name, or picture.



If you Use Online Social Sharing Networks such as TikTok, YouTube or Instagram:



- Have you given away your identity and location (name, school, address, age, phone)?
 - this includes programs that want to use your location
- Do you know all of your Friends? You should only "friend" someone that you feel you would talk to if you saw them in person.
- The computer/phone/tablet or other device should be in a common area of the house, parents should be able to monitor your online activity.
- The information you post is not private. If any information could be viewed as harassment of another student, consequences at school include meetings with parents and administrators, a warning, suspension, or expulsion.

*** If your parents, teachers or friends cannot see it, you should not be doing it.***

Digital Citizenship Presentation

Last school year, the JCC school attorney, Ms. Karen Haase from KSB School Law presented to students in grades 4-12 about Digital Citizenship. Karen Haase and the KSB law firm believe passionately that schools should use technology to increase engagement and student achievement. They are a leading authority in Nebraska who educate teachers and students how to appropriately integrate digital citizenship with education. A digital citizen is a person who utilizes information technology in order to engage in society, politics, and government and who uses the internet regularly and effectively. Ms. Haase discussed legal issues related to students' use of social media and other online mediums. She utilized humor, statistics, summaries of real-life cases to explain to students the significant consequences attached to the inappropriate use of social media such as TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat. Staff continue to use items she shared as resources to help our students develop into positive digital citizens.

before you



think

t = is it true?

h = is it helpful?

i = is it inspiring?

n = is it necessary?

k = is it kind?

2nd Graders Meet an Author!

The 2nd Grade classes of Mrs. Robeson and Mr. Meints recently had an opportunity to ZOOM with a Nebraska author. Dr. Deb Weitzenkamp, an Extension Educator for Youth STEM, through the Nebraska Extension Office of Otoe County, is the author of the book 'I Wonder'. This book encourages children to think about the world around them in which they live, and Dr. Deb supplied each student with a book so that they could read along with her. How cool is that! The students were involved in questions and answers while going through the book with Dr. Deb, and they learned about different types of bees, butterflies, and much more. There were many great questions by the 2nd graders about some of the topics in the book. It was a great experience. There is a link for more information regarding the 'I Wonder' book and some information about the author, Dr. Deb.

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/kimmel/i-wonder-book/>



An Author Visit!

We are delighted to host a special picture book author to JCC this spring for our lower elementary students K-3. In association with the 25th Annual Plum Creek Literacy Festival Sherri Duskey Rinker will be coming to our school on Friday, April 16th. Her visit is being sponsored by Kelly and Virginia Holthus. We thank them for helping to bring a famous author to our school!

Sherri is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site Series and Steam Train, Dream Train. She also authored the nonfiction picture book biography Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton, which received starred reviews from Kirkus and Booklist. Some of her other titles include: The 12 Sleighs of Christmas, and Celebrate You.

Sherri has two new titles releasing this fall: Construction Site Mission: Demolition, which continues the Construction Site series, and her first novel for young readers, Revver the Speedway Squirrel.

Sherri lives in the Chicago area with her husband, two sons and one fluffy dog. Inspired by her sons, by her 25-year career as a graphic designer and by her own childhood memories, Sherri writes from a place of love and in hopes of happier bedtimes and sweet dreams for all. In addition to writing, Sherri loves to read, collect antique oil paintings, cook and garden.

Her books, along with books from all the authors and illustrators at the Plum Creek Literacy Festival are available for purchase. Packets of order forms are being sent home with each K-3 elementary student and teacher. If you would like to order please contact Joan Peters at the school by email joan.peters@jcccentral.org .

**When ordering please make checks payable to CUNE - Plum Creek
All orders are due back by Wednesday, March 31.**



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!

JCC's elementary K-5 was given a \$10,000 gift at the beginning of the school year. The anonymous donors wanted the money used for enhancing reading education through technology. The elementary teachers gave input in deciding which programs to purchase. The Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms are using ABC Mouse to enhance their reading, writing, spelling and math skills. The Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade students are using Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress to enhance their reading, writing, and spelling skills. The generous donation is very much appreciated! Please be sure and ask your child about these wonderful programs.

It's been such a short/long school year!

This year has been such a trying year for everyone, our students, especially. As a music teacher, it has been tough to sit back and watch our students not be able to perform or be a part of the same year music activities we usually participate in. It's been even harder for us as a department to work around all of the covid protocols while still trying to play or sing together as a group without being able to sit next to each other or do the same things we would normally do in class. That being said, I believe our students are going to come out of this with a better appreciation of what it means to be part of a group and the energies we give and receive when we get to create music together in a regular setting.

Our year up to this point in the band department has been fairly uneventful. We were unable to march at any parades this past fall. Many honor bands went virtual in the first semester. Pep band for volleyball and football was non-existent. Fortunately, we were able to perform for football games and we did record a few of our tried-and-true songs play at the games.

This coming quarter will really take off with events. As I write this, Class C Allstate Honor Band will take place as normally as possible this year. It is held at Kearney HS on March 20th and we had one student make it this year, Ashley Beethe, on Alto Saxophone. She actually placed 2nd chair in the junior high band saxophone section, which is an amazing achievement! Our contests for both the MS and HS are for small groups only. Many of our 6-8 band students have been working on this music for most of the 3rd quarter. Our HS band students are all involved in one small group or solo. The results of these will be posted for MUDECAS (March 25) and District Music Contest (April). By May, we should be able to host fairly normal Spring concerts, live, with some limits on attendance. ECNC Honor Band is still planning to take place May 10th with a live concert (limited attendance). Students chosen for ECNC are still being determined as final numbers for each school are still being decided on.

The band trip that was preliminarily scheduled for the end of May has been postponed until next Spring. If your student is in grades 8-11 currently and in band, please be looking for more information on this once school starts in August. One final note, Summer is a great time to take your student's instrument into Dietze to get it looked over and cleaned. They have multiple locations in Lincoln and Omaha and a great job of working with you on what repairs/adjustments may be needed and by priority.

Music events for the rest of the year!!!

April

12	Monday	HS Contest Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
22	Thursday	HS District Contest—Tecumseh
29, 30, May 2	Thur, Fri Sun	Spring Play—Thur @ 1:15 pm, Friday @ 7 pm & Sun @ 2 pm

May

3	Monday	K-3 Spring Program @ 6:30 pm - Tecumseh High School Spring Concert & Art Show 7:00 pm - Tecumseh
6	Thursday	4-8 Spring Concert 7:00 pm - Cook
8	Saturday	HS Band @ HS Graduation
10	Monday	ECNC Honor Band @ Elmwood Murdock
15	Saturday	Miles for Music 5K Fundraiser

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 is Open 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.

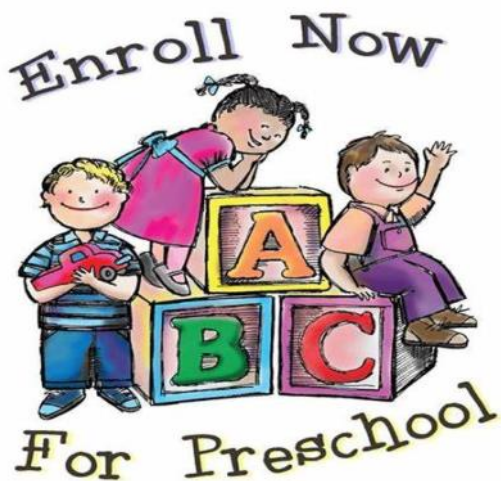
Our focus is to provide learning opportunities for those students who will be entering kindergarten the following year. Therefore, the majority of our enrollment will be filled by prekindergarten students. **Prekindergarten** is defined as a child who will be four years of age on or before July 31, 2021. 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 is available on the school website: www.jccentral.org. If you would prefer a paper application, please contact the elementary office at 402-335-3320.



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.

Resilience and Grit: Developing a Positive Mindset

By K-8 School Counselor Marsha Bacon

This past month students in grades 3-8 have been learning about GRIT (Growth; Resilience; Integrity; Tenacity) utilizing lessons from Dr. Angela Duckworth, an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She defines “grit” as sticking with things over the long term until you master them.” Essentially, it is having passion and sustained persistence applied to achieve long-term goals. Students then created an academic goal to help engage them as active learners in the lessons taught at school, to help make them more purposeful. A major component of grit is resilience; an individual's ability to bounce back after they have struggled, faltered or failed. Each year we work with students to develop a growth mindset, to understand that they have control over many aspects of their education and lives including their effort, attitude and willingness to work to get better at items that are difficult.

Individuals who develop a growth mindset understand that learning and intelligence are not fixed, that students can become more intelligent with effort; that putting forth extra time and work can lead to higher achievement. Lessons taught about a Growth Mindset are based on the teachings of Dr. Carol Dweck, a professor of psychology at Stanford University. By developing a growth mindset, students change their attitudes from “I can’t do that” to “I can’t do that, yet.” The purpose of the lessons is to again reinforce the notion that students have control over many aspects of their educational journey, based on their effort, attitude and willingness to work more on items that are difficult.

At school, we apply these beliefs to lessons in the classroom. In addition to classroom instruction, other items teachers use to help students persist in their educational journey include: IXL is an online educational tool that helps students learn and master concepts in math, reading and language arts; Reading Eggs, an app that supports the development and growth of reading, spelling, writing and phonics; Prodigy, an app that supports math growth in grade content areas; ABC Mouse, an app that supports the development and growth of reading and writing skills; Accelerated Reader (AR) and AR tests upon completion of a book; Goal-setting for AR, MAP and other assessments. IXL and Prodigy both align to the Nebraska State Standards. Students who develop a Growth Mindset and demonstrate Grit in their learning also often display other mentally strong characteristics. Amy Morin, a psychotherapist and Editor-In-Chief of the Verywell Mind recently wrote an article about 7 characteristics that children with mental toughness display:

- 1) They empower themselves
- 2) They adapt to change
- 3) They know when to say no
- 4) They own their mistakes
- 5) They celebrate other people’s successes
- 6) They fail...and try again
- 7) They persist

As parents and educators, it is important to help our children and students develop grittiness; resilience; a growth mindset; mental toughness. Developing these characteristics will help to empower them, to help them feel more in control of their education and their futures. More information about helping children develop mental toughness and the full article can be found at the following web address: <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/03/17/psychotherapist-parenting-tips-what-the-most-mentally-strong-kids-always-do.html>

As we continue the 2020-21 school year into spring and fourth quarter, students are also starting to prepare for their state assessments, known as the NSCAS (Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System). Students in grades 3-8 will participate in state assessments through the month of April (please see the school calendar for testing dates). Students in grades 3-8 will take the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics assessments. In addition grades 5 & 8 take a Science assessment. The NSCAS are summative assessments that measure student performance against Nebraska's content area standards. The results will determine whether students learned what they were expected to learn. Students are scored in each tested area as: Developing; On Track; College and Career Ready. These are important assessments the school district utilizes to help check for learning, make curriculum decisions and to earn academic honors such as The Presidential Academic Award for students in grades 5 and 8.

Encourage your student(s) to continue to grow through the school year. Visit with them about the Accelerated Reader (AR) book they are reading; what AR level are they currently reading at? How many reading levels have they improved throughout the year? How are they preparing for the NSCAS in Reading, Language Arts, Math or Science? We often remind our students at JCC that we are part of a team, we are The Thunderbirds. You are also part of our team. Together, let's help our students Soar!



Thunderbirds Soar

April 2021

Johnson County Central School Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Menu is Subject to change without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"						
4	5 No School Easter Break	6 Fajita Chicken Wrap Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Rice Milk	7 Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggies Milk	8 Breaded Chicken / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Milk	9 Pizza Salad Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	10
11	12 Chicken Nuggets Potato Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	13 TatPho's Corn Fruit & Veggie Dinner Roll Milk	14 Sloppy Joe / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Milk	15 Chefs Choice	16 Cheese Sticks / marinara Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Brownie Milk	17
18	19 Beef Fingers Fruit & Veggie Dinner Roll Milk	20 Shredded Pork / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Milk	21 Chicken Tender Wrap Corn Chip Fruit & Veggie Milk	22 No School District Music Contest @ JCC	23 Pizza Lettuce Salad Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	24
25	26 Chicken Alfredo Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bread Stick Milk	27 Hoagie Fruit & Veggie Cookie Milk	28 Sloppy Nacho's Fruit & Veggie Cheese Bread Milk Chicken Alfredo	29 Br Pork Patty / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Milk	30 Pizza Bites Fruit & Veggie Jell-O Cake Milk	

April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE					
4 EASTER SUNDAY	5 NO SCHOOL EASTER BREAK	6 Track V B/G Thunderbird Invitational @ JCC Tecumseh-11:00 am Golf Boys vs Southern @ Tecumseh CC-4:30 pm	7 State FFA Convention-Virtual Golf Boys @ Friend Invite-Friend CC-9:30 am	8 State FFA Convention-Virtual NSCAS Testing Gr 5 & 8 Science 8:30 am	9 State FFA Convention-Virtual Meridian Honor Band/Choir @ Daykin-12:00 pm	10 Jr High Quiz Bowl @ Freeman-9:00 am
11	12 High School Contest Concert - 7:00 pm	13 Golf Boys HTRS Invite @ Kirkmans's Cove-9:00 am NSCAS Testing Gr 3 Math 9:00 am Gr 4 & 5 Math 8:30 am	14 State FBLA Virtual Live Sessions/ Workshops-A11 Day JCC School Board Meeting @ JCC High School Cafeteria-6:00 pm NSCAS Testing Gr 3 Language Arts Gr 6 Math 9:30 am	15 NO PRESCHOOL NO KINDERGARTEN Kindergarten Round Up 9:00 am High School MAP Testing NSCAS Testing Gr 7 & 8 Math 8:30 am	16 K-3 Author Visit @ JCC Elementary Tecumseh-1:45 pm High School MAP Testing Track Jr High B/G @ Conestoga Invitational, Murray-2:00 pm	17 Track Jr High B/G Mudecas Meet @ Tr1 County, Dewitt-9:00 am HS Quiz Bowl @ Freeman-9:00 am
18	19 Golf Boys Jr. Varsity @ Falls City JV Invite-Falls City-2:30 pm	20 Golf Boys ECNC Meet @ Crooked Creek -9:30 am Track Varsity B/G @ Tri County Invite -Dewitt-10:00 am Track Jr High B/G Falls City Invite @ Falls City-4:00 pm NSCAS Testing Gr 7 & 8 ELA 8:30 am Gr 6 ELA 9:30 am	21 Golf Boys @ Southern Invitational, Wymore CC-9:30 am NSCAS Testing Gr 4 & 5 ELA 8:30 am	22 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS JCC to Host District Music Contest	23 Kindergarten Field Trip to State Capitol & Lincoln Children's Zoo-8:00 am 4th Grade Field Trip-Homestead Nat'l Monument-8:15 am 3rd Grade Field Trip to SAC Museum -8:30 am	24 Track Varsity Boys/Girls Mudecas Meet @ Pawnee City-9:00 am
25	26 JCC Honors Program @ JCC HS Gym-2:30 pm Band Recruitment Day - 9:30 am	27 Seniors-SCC Scholarship Applicants Mtg @ JCC HS-9:30 am Track Varsity B/G @ Falls City Invite @ Falls City-2:30 pm Golf Boys vs HTRS @ Kirkmans Cove - 4:00 pm	28 Golf Boys @ Palmyra Invitational @ Woodland Hills Golf Course- 8:30 am State HS Quiz Bowl @ Hastings-10:00 am	29 Track Jr High B/G @ Thunderbird Invite @ JCC HS-1 pm Spring Play Matinee Presentation-JCC Elem Aud-1:15 pm FFA Sponsoring American Red Cross Blood Drive @ JCC HS Gym-9 am-3 pm	30 K-6 Elementary Track & Field Day @ JCC High School Spring Play Presentation-JCC Elem Auditorium-7:00 pm Last Full Day of School for Seniors!	

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
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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.

**Friday, April 2 & Monday, April 5
No School—Easter Break**



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*****Thursday, April 22*****

**No School—Both Sites—District Music Contest
Held & Hosted by Johnson County Central**