

Superintendent Monthly Update

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The Bond

by **Jon Rother**. February 2022

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On May 10, 2022, Johnson County Central voters will decide whether to build a new facility for the education and safety of all students and personnel in our district. In doing so, they will weigh an important question: how do we most efficiently and effectively use our limited economic resources for the good of our school district and meet the needs of our current and future students? Are our resources better devoted to repairing our current facilities or should we build a new, single site facility?

These are difficult questions to which there are no easy answers. We have grappled with the issues and worked with members of the community since at least 2018 to try and develop a solution that best balances the many different considerations that must be taken into account. For some voters, this will be their first opportunity to vote on a bond issue such as this. Others may have voted on bond issues in the mid-1970s or the late 1990s. For the former Tecumseh district, the mid-1960s bond was to build the current high school building. For the former Nemaha Valley district, the late 1990s bond was to upgrade and add to the Cook Site facilities with classrooms and a competition gym.

The JCC Building Steering Committee (made up from residents across our district) has recommended to the School Board that it propose a construction bond to the voters in the May 2022 primary election. If passed, the money raised from the bonds sold would be used to build a new, single-site facility in Tecumseh. This determination was made after a months-long review of factors such as:

- aging facilities that are in need of repair and do not meet current fire safety or ADA standards;
- safety and security needs of our students and faculty;
- educational and technological needs that differ from the past; and
- inefficiencies caused by the use of multiple facilities and separation of students and staff;
- current low interest rate environment

Beyond that, the Steering Committee addressed the cultural and community impact of having a new facility in one location vs. renovating the facilities in their current locations. They researched what options could potentially exist for facilities that would no longer be utilized (in whole or in part) under the different options considered. Many other factors were contemplated as well.



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

VOLUME 15
ISSUE 6

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Superintendent
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As of this writing, the estimated cost to renovate JCC's current facilities to meet our current needs are as follows:

JCC Tecumseh Elementary (built 1931) = \$6.5 million

JCC Cook Site (built 1958 & 1999) = \$9.8 million

JCC High School (built 1966) = \$10 million

TOTAL = \$26.3 million

The renovations needed relate to major issues such as replacing the buildings' HVAC systems (including boilers); asbestos remediation; updating the buildings to meet fire safety codes and ADA requirements; fixing the buildings' roofs; updates for safety and security to include entrances, windows and interior doors; and updating telephone and IT capabilities.

In May 2021, we initially estimated that a new PK-12 facility would cost approximately \$56-\$61 million and would be roughly 155,765 sq. ft. Since that time, using input from staff and the Steering Committee, we were able to substantially modify this estimate after discussions with both Clark Enerson (engineering team) and Boyd Jones (construction team). Currently, we believe that the needed square footage for a new PK-12 facility is approximately 125,700 sq. ft. and will cost approximately \$42.5 to \$43.5 million.

The proposed facility would accommodate all educational and extracurricular services for grades PK-12 except Industrial Arts (shop classes) and the wrestling room. It would also house all staff except the superintendent's office, the business office, and the technology coordinator's office. Shop space, wrestling room(s), superintendent's office, business office and the technology office would all be maintained in the current high school building with minimal renovations needed. A few dates concerning the bond to make note of:

February 9, 2022 - JCC School Board to approve resolution calling for the bond election.

March 1, 2022 - Deadline for JCC School Board to file bond resolution with the Johnson County Election Commissioner.

May 2, 2022 - Last day for in-person voter registration.

May 2, 2022 - Last day to receive an application for early voting ballots to be mailed to a specific address.

May 9, 2022 - Last day for early voting in-person at the county clerk's office.

May 10, 2022 - Primary election.

The following are some key Nebraska legislation that can impact a bond resolution in our district:

LB 2 - LB 2 took effect this January of 2022. It states that when repaying school bonds, agricultural and horticultural land is valued at 50% of its actual value. Prior to the passage of this bill, agricultural and horticultural land was valued at 75% of its actual value. The full bill can be seen here: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/Final/LB2.pdf>

LB 890 - This bill is proposed by Senator Walz of Columbus. LB890 is a new funding formula providing additional state aid to schools and in turn reducing the reliance on property tax asking for school districts. If passed it would be phased in over two years. In its current form, the bill would allow JCC to lower the current tax asking by almost 14 cents on the dollar equating to approximately \$1,051,000. Thus, JCC's levy would go from 99 cents to 85 cents. The full bill as presented can be seen here: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/Intro/LB890.pdf>

LB 891 - LB 891 proposes to change the distribution of sales tax revenue, school levy limitations, and other tax and school provisions. LB 890 and 891 are to be a package proposal. 890 will go to the Education Committee and 891 will go to the Revenue Committee. The full bill as introduced can be seen here: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/Intro/LB891.pdf>

I understand that I've only provided a high-level overview of the anticipated project in this letter and that there will be many questions about this topic. We welcome those questions. Over the course of the next month, we will be scheduling informational sessions and otherwise getting more information to everyone through social media and the internet. Additionally, you should feel free to ask questions of the Steering Committee or School Board members. If you have a question, others may have that question as well. We will work to answer those questions to the best of our ability.

Once the bond resolution has been approved, I will be able to provide some more numbers in the March newsletter concerning tax impact on individuals. You can expect to see finalized building plans in the March newsletter as well. Stay tuned!

The 2022-2023 School Calendar

When developing a school calendar there are a couple numbers that must be considered.

1. Teacher Contract Days = 185 days
2. Required Student Hours = 1080 hours grades 6-12, 1032 hours grades 1-5, 400 hours Kindergarten, 450 hours Preschool
 - a. Our current high school day is 6.97 hours. The 2021-2022 calendar of 175 student days adds up to approximately 1,204 student hours or 18 days more than what is required.
 - b. The current middle school day is 6.7 hours. This makes approximately 1,158 student hours or almost 12 days more than what is required.
 - c. The elementary school day is 6.63 hours at 175 student days. This puts the elementary school at approximately 1,146 student hours or roughly 17 days over the state requirement.

Going beyond what the state requires for student hours is not a bad thing. My only point is to show that we have plenty of student hours as dictated by the law.

There really is no rhyme or reason to when the school calendar starts other than tradition. “Traditionally” school starts the 2nd or 3rd week of August. In Johnson and Otoe Counties, this usually coincides with the county fair. Therefore, we try to support our families involved in fair activities by either not having school around the weekend of the fair, or making allowances for those students and staff involved to maintain their involvement. Also to be considered are the many, many meetings that school staff attend to kick off the school year. These usually entail the review of practices, policies and procedures, mandatory training required by Nebraska Department of Education, any district improvement initiatives and planning out the school day for teachers, support staff and students. That being said, we are usually pressed for time in preparing for the school year as we also intend to continue to have open houses prior to the start of school.

For the sake of efficiency and predictability, I am proposing a somewhat different calendar. The new calendar will only have two days that are early dismissals: the first and last days of the school year. Early dismissal days can be haphazard and rushed, leaving staff depleted of their energy and attention spans to attend any staff development... especially on a Friday! All teacher in-service days will be on Mondays with no school for students. The only exception to this is the February 3 ESU4 Engaging Educators Conference. This will serve two purposes. The first is to allow plenty of time for in-service training and district wide planning. The second is to allow parents, students and staff to make appointments on these days. My hope is that we will cut down the amount of instructional time lost due to the various appointments people (students AND staff) must attend. From a systems standpoint, I would much rather have staff miss an in-service day than an instructional day with students. This should also decrease the number of substitute teachers needed. I understand, of course, that there are times when we cannot dictate appointments and there will be times these appointments will fall on a day other than a Monday.

Parent-Teacher conferences would also be held on Mondays. I understand that not everyone can make a Monday work for conferences, however this is the case now that not everyone can make the conference dates work. I know the teachers have done a good job of making themselves available to parents wanting to set up a conference time other than what is scheduled as “Parent-Teacher Conferences”.

Using (roughly) every other Monday as a teacher in-service days would give the district 185 teacher contracted days and 166 student days. This would still give the high school approximately 1,150 student hours, the middle school 1,105 student hours and the elementary school 1,094 student hours. Should there be a need to make up any student hours (due to snow days or any other unforeseen circumstances), we would simply convert a teacher work day to a regular school day. I am providing the proposed calendar for your perusal. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

PROPOSED 2022-2023 School Event Calendar

July 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	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						

July
4 Independence day

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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			

August
8-12 Teacher In-Service
15 First Day For Students - 1:00 PM Dismissal
19 NO SCHOOL
22 Teacher In-Service

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

September
5 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
19 Teacher In-Service

October 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	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					

October
3 NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences
10 Columbus Day
17 Teacher In-Service
24 United Nations Day
31 Halloween

November 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November
7 Teacher In-Service
11 Veterans Day
23-25 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

December 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	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

December
5 Teacher In-Service
19-30 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
23-27 NSAA Winter Moratorium
Total 1st Sem. Student Days - 79
Total 1st Sem. Teacher Days - 90

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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			

January
1 New Year's Day
2 Teacher In-Service
3 Begin 2nd Semester/3rd Quarter
16 Teacher In-Service
16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

February
2 Groundhog Day
3 NO SCHOOL - ESU4 Engaging Educators Conf.
6 NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences
12 Lincoln's Birthday
14 Valentine's Day
20 President's Day

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	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	

March
10-13 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
17 St. Patrick's Day
12 Daylight Saving
27 Teacher In-Service

April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

April
1 April Fool's Day
7-10 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
22 Earth Day
24 Teacher In-Service

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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			

May
17 Last Day for Students - 11 AM Dismissal
18 Teacher In-Service
Total 2nd Sem. Student Days - 87
Total 2nd Sem. Teacher Days - 95

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June
2021-2022 TOTAL = 166 Student Days
2021-2022 TOTAL = 185 Teacher Days

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

The month of February is our first step in preparation for next fall where our students will start pre-registration for the 2022-2023 school year.

What is pre-registration? The students choose their top eight classes and two options – at this time there is no set schedule. Once all pre-registrations are complete we'll plan the class schedule. Every student must sign their pre-registration form and their parent must also sign the form. This gives the parents the opportunity to see their student's class selections and "sign off" on it. Mrs. Reuter, the school counselor, is the final signature on every student's pre-registration form. She reviews each student's class selection to verify they are taking appropriate classes which are required for each grade and are meeting their graduation requirements.

Students will receive their pre-registration forms on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. They will be due back to the office on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. This due date is necessary so that we can plan the class schedule. We try to create a schedule that accommodates the most students with the least amount of conflicts. Once we have the best class schedule created, Mrs. Reuter will personally meet with each student who has a class conflict. A student will only have a class schedule conflict if they are unable to get an eight period class schedule by using their eight selected classes or two options. Mrs. Reuter will then aid them in selecting an additional alternate class until we are able to fill their eight periods with an appropriate schedule.

After we have completed a successful class schedule, I will send out summer pre-registration letters to all students. Around the first week in August, each student will receive this letter which will contain their actual class schedule, complete with periods and teachers for every class. If the students and parents are satisfied with this schedule, nothing more needs to be done before the beginning of school next fall. If students desire to make changes to their class schedule they will have a scheduled day (to be announced), to meet with the counselor to make changes prior to the start of school. Students will also have the first five days of the 2022-2023 school year to change their class schedule.

I encourage all parents to work with your student to help them plan their 2022-2023 class schedule – your input and encouragement is essential.

Notes from the High School Counselor

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

FAFSA Application for 2022-2023 College Students Is Now Open

High school seniors and students already in college can now start applying for federal financial aid by filling out a FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) online at fasa.gov. Make sure that you go to the fasa.gov address. Do not search for the FAFSA on a search engine, it could take you to the wrong page. There are copycat pages out there that look like the FAFSA page, but at the end they ask for money in order to submit it. The FAFSA is free to apply for, never pay money to submit a FAFSA form! It is very important that they fill out a 2022-2023 form and not a 2021-2022 form. You fill out the form for the year you will be in college. Before you can fill out the FAFSA, both the student and one parent need an FSA ID. To get FSA IDs, go to <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>; after you have these, you can start the FAFSA. Parents who have FSA IDs from children who have already been in college, can use that same FSA ID. If you need help with the FAFSA, EducationQuest is glad to help. They offer virtual appointments and can also help by phone. To get help with your FAFSA or set up a virtual appointment, call the Lincoln office of EducationQuest at (402) 475-5222 or the Omaha office at (402) 391-4033. The EducationQuest website has an entire page dedicated to helping students and parents navigate the FAFSA. You can find this page at <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/fafsa-tools/>

Apply to Take the April or June ACT Now

Students can apply online to take the ACT in April or June at <https://my.act.org/>. Register by February 25th to take the April 2, 2022 ACT. Register by May 6th to take the June 11, 2022 ACT. If a student is on an IEP and needs accommodations, they need to request these online. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can ask Mrs. Reuter for a fee waiver form to take the ACT test for free. Keep in mind that all juniors will take the ACT for free in March for their Nebraska state testing.

SCC Scholarship Application Open Until March 1st

Southeast Community College (SCC)- all campuses will open their online scholarship application on December 1, 2021. The application will be open until March 1, 2022. In order to apply, students will need the following information: 1) a valid and functional e-mail address, 2) their mailing address, 3) their social security number, and 4) their phone number. Students can apply online at <https://www.southeast.edu/scholarships/>

Highlighting the Class of 2022- Meet eight more members of this year's senior class.



Treyton David Holthus is the son of Patti and the late Dave Holthus of Tecumseh. He has two older sisters, Ashley and Kelsi. Trey's favorite and most challenging class at JCC was Anatomy and Physiology because it was something that challenged him and he had an interest in some aspects of it. Throughout high school, Trey has been involved in football, basketball, track and field, FBLA, HOSA, FFA, and one act/play production. His hobbies outside of school are baseball, hunting, and fishing. After high school, Trey is interested in studying business administration or sports management, but he is not sure where he will attend college yet. His advice to freshmen is, "Get involved in everything you can." The best thing about being a senior this year is according to Trey is, "no covid restrictions." His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. In ten years, Trey sees himself out of college having earned a college degree in either business management or sports management. He hopes to live close to Tecumseh.

Jennifer Castor Cruz lives in Tecumseh and is the daughter of Erika Cruz and Arturo Castor. She has one brother, Jesus, who is 24. Throughout her high school years, Jennifer has been involved in FBLA, HOSA, National Honor Society, Her favorite classes at JCC have been personal finance, marketing, intro to education, advanced English, and business math. Her most challenging class as chemistry. Her hobbies and interests outside of school are attending school activities, especially football and volleyball games in the fall, and also participating in bowling and one act. After she graduates high school, Jennifer will maybe attend Northwest Missouri State University to major in business administration or special education teaching. Her advice to freshmen is, "Get involved in as many activities as you can! The four years of high school fly by. Make lots of memories and capture them by taking pictures so you can see the differences between your freshman year compared to your senior year."



Abbigail Susan Jamison is the daughter of Jeremy and Misty Jamison and Rachael Mitchell. She lives near Elk Creek. She has three siblings, Mikey (20), Dani (16), and Will (10). During high school, Abbi has been involved in FFA, NHS, one act/play production, academic decathlon, HOSA, and art club. Her favorite classes at JCC have been her art and agriculture classes. Her most challenging class was chemistry. Her favorite school lunch has been pizza. Abbi's favorite things about being a senior have been, "having seniority and experiencing the lasts of our senior year." Outside of school, Abbi works at Pizza Hut in Tecumseh. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, and watching crime shows. After she graduates, Abbi plans to attend Northeast Community College in Norfolk for two years and then transfer to Wayne State College. She plans to major in criminal justice (law enforcement), psychology, and/or forensic science. Abbi's advice to freshmen is, "whatever you choose to be a part of, give it your all." In ten years, Abbi sees herself working for the FBI in some aspect, having a master's degree along with her bachelor's degree in criminal justice or psychology. She hopes to live in Omaha or another big city in another state. She may also be considering earning a doctorate degree at that time. She adds, "You just never know where life will take you."



Sam Agena is the son of Lois and Brian Agena. He has two older sisters, Emily and Shelby. His favorite classes at JCC have been his shop classes with Mr. Novell because they taught him skills that he can use outside of school. His most challenging class was chemistry. During high school, Sam participated in football, wrestling, and track. According to Sam, the best part about being a senior is that he is very close to graduation. Sam's favorite school lunch is pizza. After high school, Sam plans to be a mechanic who works on skid loaders. Outside of school, Sam likes to work on his truck. Sam's advice to freshmen is, "Don't give up, if something is hard, keep pushing yourself to achieve your goals." In ten years, Sam sees himself married, with three kids, and making \$80,000 a year.

Madison Ann Pingel is the daughter of James and Wendy Oltrogge of Cook. She has three siblings, Ethan (16), Memphis (14), and Courtney (10). Her favorite class at JCC was psychology because it helped her discover what she wants to do in life. According to Madison, the best thing about being a senior is, "knowing that in a few short months, I will be working towards my dream career." Trigonometry was her most challenging class. Her favorite school lunch has been chili and cinnamon rolls. During her high school years, Madison has been involved in track, cross country, volleyball, unified bowling, band, jazz band, FBLA, one act, play production, and NHS. Her advice to freshmen is, "Appreciate your time in high school. Everyone says it goes by quick, but you never believe it until your time is almost up." After high school, Madison plans to attend a four-year college to earn her bachelor's degree in psychology and then continue on to earn her master's. Outside of school, Madison likes to spend time with her friends and family. "In ten years, I see myself working as a mental health counselor, married, with a few kids."





Emma Ann Straka is the daughter of Scott and Jennifer Straka. She has one sister, Maya, who is 15. During her high school years at JCC, she’s been involved in band, jazz band, art club, choir, golf, basketball student manager, FBLA, NHS, yearbook, one act, spring play/musical, speech, and student council. Her favorite classes at JCC have been art, band, choir, psychology, and journalism, and her most challenging classes were finite/trig and algebra because math is not her strong suit. According to Emma, the best thing about being a senior is, “My classmates, I really enjoy being around all of the people in my senior class. Outside of school, Emma likes to read, draw, and paint. Emma adds, “My favorite school lunch has definitely been chili. I absolutely love the school’s chili.” After high school, Emma will likely attend Northwest Missouri State University or the University of Nebraska-Omaha to major in psychology and minor in something art-related. Emma’s advice to freshmen is, “Never give up and stay involved, not having any extracurricular activities after school is boring, be involved.”

In ten years, Emma says, “I will hopefully be married and working as a school psychologist or a school counselor. I plan to have kids, but I don’t know when I will have them.”

Jonathan Duncan lives in Tecumseh and is the son of Jessica Duncan and Charles Duncan. He has one brother, Demetrius Murray, who is 20. His favorite thing about being a senior is the backpack he has this year and his favorite school lunch is the creamy chicken over biscuits. During his high school years, Jon has been involved in FBLA, HOSA, quiz bowl, golf, basketball, track and field, football, and one act/play production. His favorite class at JCC is physics because the teacher makes it fun and his most challenging class was anatomy/physiology. Outside of school, he likes to hang out with his friends. After he graduates from high school, he plans to go on to college at either the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or the University of Evansville to study archaeology. His advice to freshmen is, “Make your high school years fun.” In ten years, Jon says, “I will be traveling the world finding ancient artifacts with a cool hat.”



Marie Noel Ascheman is the daughter of Charles and April Ascheman of Tecumseh. She has three older siblings, Avangaline (23), Logan (21), and Jazdia (20). According to Marie, the best thing about being a senior is, “being so close to graduation.” Her favorite classes at JCC have been Mrs. Schuster’s study hall, English, and life skills classes because when she finishes her work, she lets her read. Her favorite school lunch is pizza on Fridays. Throughout high school, Marie has been in choir. Her most challenging classes have been personal finance and business math. Outside of school, Marie likes to sing, write books, and draw. After high school, Marie plans to attend the College of Hair Design in Lincoln, NE to study cosmetology including hair, nail art, and makeup. Marie’s advice to freshmen is, “Turn in your homework and don’t let the older students intimidate you.” In ten years, Marie sees herself being a cosmetologist full-time and still being there to watch her goddaughter, Naomi, grow up.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

BY RICH BACON

2nd quarter/1st semester report cards were handed out to students the week of January 11. If you haven't seen your child's report card, please talk to them or call the office.

Congratulations to the following students who earned straight A's for both the 2nd quarter and the 1st Semester.

8th Grade – Ashley Beethe, Charlyn Bobadilla, Jocelyn Duarte, Danny Kongmanyvong, Nayeli Manriquez, Levi Othmer, Briana Robeson, Saige Rother, Wes Swanson, Jack Waring, Owen Weber, & Catherine Wendt;

7th Grade – Regan Campbell-Thies, Anthony Campos, & Molly Weber;

6th Grade – Leighton Beethe, Payton Brandt, Abigail Burki, Reese Carter, Adree Case, Cooper Jones, Trey Lubben, Anthony Orozco, Stefani Peters, Sophia Schmid, Wesley Schmid & Riley Wellensiek.

Congratulations to these students for their hard work!

Now is an excellent time to sit down with each of your children and take a close look at their academic progress. The semester grades a student earns are one of the determining factors whether an individual will be promoted to the next grade level or be retained in their current grade next year. The Middle School Handbook states that “students are required to pass seven out of the ten semesters of core subjects (math, social studies, science, reading & language arts) in a given year to be promoted to the next grade. Any student passing six semesters or less will be strongly considered for retention. An administrative committee will consider each case on an individual basis.” The administrative committee will look at other factors such as the student's MAP scores, NSCAS scores, personal history and social maturity. If, after looking at the other factors, the committee believes the student can be successful at the next grade level it may recommend the student be promoted. Or, the committee may feel that the student may lack the basic skills and would benefit from another year of maturity and recommend they be retained in their current grade. Regardless of your child's grades, it would be very beneficial for parents and children to sit down and discuss how they did during the first semester and set some academic goals for the 2nd semester.

Congratulations to Brayden Beethe, Trevin Huskey, Abby Mejia, A.J. Rautenbach, Brayden Taylor, Molly Weber, & Cameron Werner for being selected to participate in the Singing Youth of Nebraska Honor Choir in North Platte on January 29th in North Platte. They will be in a choir of 120 members from throughout the state that were chosen through an audition process.

Congratulations to 8th Graders Ashley Beethe, Harley Lubben and Trevin Huskey for being selected as the local Tecumseh VFW winners in the Patriots Pen contest. These students submitted an essay on the subject “How Can I Be a Good American”. Each of these students received a cash prize given by the VFW Post 8221.

Congratulations to the following students who earned the right to represent JCC at the Johnson County Spelling Contest.

Eighth Grade: Ashley Beethe, Theresa Doiel, Saige Rother & Aiden Strecker;
Seventh Grade: Harrison Bacon, Amelia Britt, Harley Reyes, & Molly Weber;
Sixth Grade: Reese Carter, Wes Schmid, Anthony Orozco & Stefani Peters;
Fifth Grade: Elliott Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Lucy Hippen & Wyatt Lueders;
Fourth Grade: Jay Barot, Lydia Bilslend, Jack Sterup & Brynn Weber.

Also, congratulations to Molly Weber for finishing 3rd overall!

The Junior High Boys' Basketball teams finished their season at the Malcolm Tournament on December 18. The A-team finished with a 5-6 record, the B-team finished with a 7-3 record and the C-team finished with a 3-1 record. The A-team finished as runner-up at the Palmyra Fun Day Tournament and finished in 3rd place at the JCC Tournament. The B-team finished as tournament champions in the JCC Invite and Palmyra Fun Day Tournament and tournament runner-up at the Malcolm Invite. Congratulations to Coach Weber, Coach Jones, Coach West and the boys on an outstanding season.

The Johnson County Central wrestling team and girls' basketball team started practice in early January in preparation of their upcoming season. There are several opportunities for our fans to watch them at a home contest or one close by. Please come and cheer on our athletes and coaches. Good luck to both teams and their coaches. Go Thunderbirds!



Greetings Thunderbird Family!

I hope everyone had a great holiday break and a Happy New Year! At the writing of this letter, we are in the heart of the winter season as the basketball teams get ready for the conference tournament and the wrestling teams prepare for districts and state.

Here are some important dates as we move through February:

Wrestling:

February 4th: Girls Districts at Amherst and Boys ECNC Invite at Weeping Water.

February 11th, 12th: Boys Districts at Centennial.

February 16th, 17th, 18th: Boys and Girls State Wrestling in Omaha.

Basketball:

February 8th: Senior night vs. Elmwood-Murdock.

February 14th, 15th, 18th: Girls Sub-Districts at the high seed.

February 21st, 22nd, 24th: Boys Sub-Districts at the high seed.

March 7th-12th: Boys and Girls State Championships in Lincoln.

Speaking of basketball, I ran across this article and thought some of you would be interested. It has to do with misunderstood rules in basketball. Please take a read before you attend your next basketball game! I have included some highlights and more common ones that I tend to see but if you want to read the whole list you can find it on the South Dakota High School Activities Association website: <https://www.sdhsaa.com/>

Most Misunderstood Basketball Rules

**The front, top, sides, and bottom of the backboard are all in play. The ball cannot pass over a rectangular backboard from either direction. The back of a backboard is out of bounds as well as the supporting structures

**The traveling rule is one of the most misunderstood rules in basketball. To start a dribble, the ball must be released before the pivot foot is lifted. On a pass or a shot, the pivot foot may be lifted, but may not return to the floor before the ball is released. A player may slide on the floor while trying to secure a loose ball until that player's momentum stops. At that point that player cannot attempt to get up or rollover. A player securing a ball while on the floor cannot attempt to stand up unless that player starts a dribble. A player in this situation may also pass, shoot, or call a timeout. If the player is flat on his or her back, that player may sit up without violating.

continued ...

****The hand is considered part of the ball when the hand is in contact with the ball. This includes holding, dribbling, passing, or even during a shot attempt. Striking a ball handler or a shooter on that player's hand that is incidental to an attempt to play the ball is not a foul, no matter how loud it sounds or how much it hurts.**

****Reaching in is not a foul. The term is nowhere to be found in any rulebook. There must be contact to have a foul. The mere act of reaching in, by itself, is nothing. If contact does occur, it's either a holding foul or illegal use of hands foul. When a player, in order to stop the clock, does not make a legitimate play for the ball, holds, pushes or grabs away from the ball, or uses undue roughness, the foul is an intentional foul.**

****Over the back is not a foul. The term is nowhere to be found in any rulebook. There must be contact to have a foul. A taller player may often be able to get a rebound over a shorter player, even if the shorter player has good rebounding position. If the shorter player is displaced, then a pushing foul must be called. A rebounding player, with an inside position, while boxing out, is not allowed to push back or displace an opponent, which is a pushing foul.**

****A defensive player does not have to remain stationary to take a charge. A defender may turn away or duck to absorb contact, provided he or she has already established legal guarding position, which is both feet on the playing court and facing the opponent. The defender can always move backwards or sideways to maintain a legal guarding position and may even have one or both feet off the playing court when contact occurs. That player may legally rise vertically. If the defender is moving forward, then the contact is caused by the defender, which is a blocking foul.**

****The intent of the three-second rule is to not allow an offensive player to gain an advantage. Referees will not call this violation if the player is not gaining an advantage. There is no three-second count between the release of a shot and the control of a rebound, at which time a new count starts. There is no three-second count during a throw in. There is no three-second count while the ball is in the backcourt. Allowance shall be made for a player who, having been in the restricted area for less than three seconds, dribbles in or moves immediately to try for goal**

****Officials do not make calls that decide the outcome of a game. Players commit fouls and violations; officials view those infractions, judge the action, and then apply the rules of the game to what they had viewed. The rules then determine the penalty. Officials are on the court to be the only unbiased arbiters of the game. Officials are not concerned with who wins or loses, but only fairness and safety. Everyone else in that gym cares about winning, and therefore cannot look at the game objectively.**

Thank you!

Garrett Collin
Activities Director



Vocal Music - Mr. Doran

Doane Vocal Festival

On Sunday & Monday, January 9 & 10, the following students attended the Doane Vocal Festival Honor Choir in Crete: Jacob Graham, Vanessa Jimenez, Emma Straka, and Tanner Woods. They joined 180 other students from 45 high schools to rehearse Sunday afternoon & Monday morning then they presented a fabulous concert Monday night.



Freshmore Clinic

Mr. Doran will host his 29th Annual Freshmore Clinic on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. I am awaiting confirmation as to who will be our clinician. Judy Vrbka, (retired vocal teacher from Wilber Clatonia & currently on staff accompanying for Doane University) will be our accompanist.

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 69 different directors who have brought students from those 45 schools.
 - A total of 4106 singers have performed (not including guest show choirs) which averages to 147 a year. The high participation was 260 and the low was 66. 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.
 - 90 different songs have been performed.
 - 2 of those songs have been written for us.

Come listen to the concert at 6:30 pm on March 1st in the Elementary Auditorium in Tecumseh.

**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
Second Quarter 2021-2022**

8th Grade

Ashley Beethe (All A's)
Isaac Beethe
Charlyn Bobadilla (All A's)
Ezekiel Burki
Ricardo Castor
Jocelyn Duarte (All A's)
Trevin Huskey
Chanvilay Kongmanvong (All A's)
***Harley Lubben**
Marisol Mandl
Navelli Manriquez (All A's)
Abriella Mejia
Braiden Nichols
Levi Othmer (All A's)
Briana Robeson (All A's)
Saige Rother (All A's)
Aiden Strecker
Wesley Swanson (All A's)
Madison VanLaningham
Jack Waring (All A's)
Owen Weber (All A's)
Catherine Wendt (All A's)
Cameron Werner

7th Grade

***Harrison Bacon**
Brayden Beethe
Addison Borrenpohl
***Amelia Britt**
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
Anthony Campos (All A's)
Mario Lara Jr.
Navelli Prado (All A's)
William Rademacher
Andre Rautenbach
Haylee Riesland
Haylee Trew
Molly Weber (All A's)

6th Grade

***Rodrigo Agapito**
Reese Badertscher
Leighton Beethe (All A's)
Payton Brandt (All A's)
Angel Buchanan
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
Adree Case (All A's)
Kael Fricke
Conner Gerking
***Chase Harrifeld**
Jesus Hurtado (All A's)
Cooper Jones (All A's)
Bodhi Klein
Trey Lubben (All A's)
Anthony Orozco (All A's)
Stefani Peters (All A's)
Edgar Damian Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Wesley Schmid (All A's)
***Alex Thippavong**
***Tegan Topp**
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B.

*Honor Roll with distinction is based on student's having all A's with only one B

**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
First Semester 2021-2022**

8th Grade

Ashley Beethe (All A's)
Isaac Beethe
Charlyn Bobadilla (All A's)
Ezekiel Burki
Ricardo Castor
Jocelyn Duarte (All A's)
Trevin Huskey (All A's)
Chanvilay Kongmanvong (All A's)
Harley Lubben
Martisol Mandl
Nayeli Manriquez (All A's)
Caden McDonald
A브리ella Mejia
Braiden Nichols
Levi Othmer (All A's)
Briana Robeson (All A's)
Saige Rother (All A's)
Aiden Strecker
Wesley Swanson (All A's)
Madison VanLanningham
Jack Waring (All A's)
Owen Weber (All A's)
Catherine Wendt (All A's)
Cameron Werner (All A's)

7th Grade

*Harrison Bacon
Brayden Beethe
Addison Borrenpohl
Amelia Britt (All A's)
Zoey Bryant
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
Anthony Campos (All A's)
Mario Lara Jr.
*Nayeli Prado
William Rademacher
*Andre Rautenbach
Harley Reyes
Haylee Riesland
Haylee Trew
Molly Weber (All A's)
Trinity Williams

6th Grade

*Reese Badertscher
Leighton Beethe (All A's)
Nayeli Bobadilla
Payton Brandt (All A's)
Angel Buchanan
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
Adree Case (All A's)
Kael Fricke
*Conner Gerking
Chase Harrifeld
Jesus Hurtado
Cooper Jones (All A's)
Bodhi Klein
Trev Lubben (All A's)
Anthony Orozco (All A's)
Stefani Peters (All A's)
Edgar Darnian Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Wesley Schmid (All A's)
Alex Thippavong
Tegan Topp (All A's)
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B.

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Johnson County Central Hosts Johnson County Spelling Bee

The Johnson County Spelling Bee was completed as a hybrid spelling bee this school year. Students from Johnson County Central and Sterling Schools completed the first two rounds of the spelling contest with online tests at their respective schools. The top spellers then moved on to the final round, the oral spelling bee hosted by Johnson County Central Schools. JCC students who qualified to participate in the written portion of the Scripps Spelling Bee are picture below:



Johnson County Central Scripps Spelling Bee Participants include from left to right:
Backrow 7th and 8th grade students: Theresa Doiel, Ashley Beethe, Saige Rother, Harley Reyes, Molly Weber, Amelia Britt and Harrison Bacon.
Middle Row 6th grade students: Anthony Orozco, Wesley Schmid, Reese Carter and Stefani Peters.
Front Row 4th & 5th grade students: Lucy Hippen, Wyatt Lueders, Elliot Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Jack Sterup, Lydia Bilslend, Jay Barot and Brynn Weber.

The final round, the oral portion of the competition, was held at Johnson County Central Middle School on January 22nd. The Johnson County Spelling Bee Champion was Joie Janssen and Runner-up was Taylor Truscott, both girls are from Sterling and Third place in the oral portion of the spelling bee was Molly Weber of Johnson County Central.

Students who placed in the written competition were also recognized on Saturday. Each grade level had eight students in the competition. JCC students who placed in the county spelling bee include:

4th graders Jay Barot (1st) and Lydia Bilslend (3rd);
5th graders Lucy Hippen (1st), Elliot Brommer (2nd), Jackson Gottula (3rd);
6th graders Stefani Peters (1st), Anthony Orozoco (3rd);
7th grader Molly Weber (1st);
8th graders Ashley Beethe (1st), Saige Rother (2nd), Theresa Doiel (3rd).

Congratulations to all of these students and the spelling bee participants. It is a great academic achievement to be among the top four spellers of their grade and to be eligible to participate in the spelling bee.

Johnson County Central Middle School Students Learn about Careers in Nebraska with EducationQuest and 4-H activity: Career-Chat Live

On January 20th JCC students in grades 6-8 learned about opportunities from people working in various career fields in Nebraska. During the zoom sessions, students heard from 18 different people working in Nebraska. There were three speakers working in occupations from the six Career Cluster areas.

During the chat students learned about the education needed for those jobs, what the daily routine was like for people employed in the area and how to prepare themselves for the jobs while they are in school. It was a great opportunity for students to learn about different types of careers.

There were 3 speakers in each of the following areas: Skilled & Technical Sciences; Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Communication & Information Systems; Business Marketing & Management; Health Sciences; Human Sciences and Education. Within these areas students heard from a variety of professionals including a truck driver, electrician, environmental engineer, cybersecurity operator, chef, nurse anesthetist, and a translator for family resources programs.

The Career-Chat Live event was provided by EducationQuest and Nebraska 4-H.




January 19th was “I ♥ Public Schools” day. The 4th & 5th grade students made the hearts to go with the Teacher’s sign.



Following are some of the students thoughts written on the hearts from the 4th & 5th grade students:

- | | |
|---|---|
| I like public schools because it makes me gain intelligence. | I love public schools because you get more freedom. |
| I love public schools because of my supportive friends. | I like school because we are the Thunderbirds. |
| I like school because I like to see my friends. | I love the school lunch. |
| I like my teachers because they teach me new things and give me more knowledge. | |
| I like my school, because you learn new things like math, reading, social studies and PE. | |
| I like how in AR we can pick what we read and are able to read what we want and have our own level. | |

February 2022 Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

	Green	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Br Pork Patty/ wug bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Goulash Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk	3 Hot Dog / WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Teacher In-service</i>	5
6	7 Taco Salad Bread Stick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		8 Shredded Pork / WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Chicken Nuggets Bread & Butter Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Salisbury Steak/ Bread Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 Pizca Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	12
13	14 Chicken Tender Wrap Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		15 Cheeseburger/ WG Bun French Fries Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>PT Conference</i> <i>11 am-7 pm</i>	17 Sloppy Nacho Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Stick Milk	18 Cheese Sticks Lettuce Salad Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19
20	21 Baked Potato HS & MS Hot Dog Elem Fruit & Veggie Bar Bread Stick Milk		22 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	23 Quesadilla Spanish Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 National Chili Day Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 Br. Chicken / WG Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26
27	28 Spaghetti/ Meat Sauce Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk		Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice “This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider”				

February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball ECNC Tournament-TBD	2 FFA State Degree Interviews- Sterling-4:00 pm	3 Boys Varsity Basketball ECNC Tournament-TBD JH Girls Basketball vs Palmyra @ JCC MS, Cook Site-4:00 pm	4 NO SCHOOL Teacher Workday Girls Varsity Basketball ECNC Tournament-TBD Varsity Wrestling ECNC Invite @ Weeping Water-2:00 pm Girls Wrestling Districts @ Amherst	5 Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball ECNC Tournament-Weeping Water-TBD Girls Wrestling Districts @ Amherst
6	7 C Team Girls/Boys Basketball vs Elmwood Mardock @ JCC HS- 6/7:30 pm	8 JV Wrestling Invitational @ Lincoln HS-3:30 pm JH Girls Basketball "B,A" vs Weeping Water @ Weeping Water-4:00 pm Girls/Boys Basketball vs Elmwood/Mardock JV Boys @ Cook Site-4:30 p.m. JV Girls, Varsity Girls/Boys @ JCC HS-4:30/6/7:30 pm	9 JCC School Board Meeting @ JCC HS- 6:00 pm	10	11 Varsity Wrestling District Tourney @ Centennial Girls JV/Varsity Basketball vs Auburn @ Auburn 5:30/7:00 pm	12 Varsity Wrestling District Tourney @ Centennial - TBD Girls/Boys C Team Basketball Tournament @ JCC MS-Cook Site-9:00 am
13	14 JH Girls Basketball vs Syracuse @ Syracuse-4:30 pm Varsity Girls Basketball Sub Districts-TBD	15 JH Wrestling Tri @ Syracuse HS- 4:30 pm Varsity Girls Basketball Sub Districts-TBD	16 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Parent/Teacher Conferences 11:00 am-7:00 pm	17 Varsity Wrestling State Championships @ CHI Health Center-Omaha Varsity Girls Basketball Sub Districts-TBD	18 Varsity Wrestling State Championships @ CHI Health Center-Omaha State Aca Deca @ Bellevue University-4:00 pm HS Cheer @ State Competition - Grand Island = TBD Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs Auburn @ Auburn 5:30/7:00 pm	19 Varsity Wrestling State Championships @ CHI Health Center-Omaha HS Cheer @ State Competition -Grand Island - TBD JH Girls Basketball Tourney @ Palmyra-8:00 am State Aca Deca @ Bellevue University
20	21 JH Girls Basketball vs Paramet City @ JCC MS Cook Site-4:30 pm Boys Varsity Sub District Tourney-TBD	22 Boys Varsity Sub District Tourney-TBD National FFA Week	23 FFA District Welding Competition @ SCC, Lincoln- 9:00 am	24 Boys Varsity Sub District Tourney-TBD JH Wrestling Invite @ Falls City HS-4:00 pm JH Girls Basketball vs Falls City @ Falls City HS-4:00 pm	25 Girls Varsity Basketball District Final - TBD JH Wrestling Invite @ Weeping Water-3:00 pm	26 Boys Varsity Basketball District Final-TBD
27	28	All Activities are Subject to Change				

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Johnson County Central Public Schools

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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.

**** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 ****
NO SCHOOL
Teacher workday

**** WEDNESDAY, February 16****
NO SCHOOL for Students
Parent Teacher Conferences
11 AM—7 PM

Happy
Valentines
Day



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B
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A
R
Y
14th