



Superintendent Monthly Update

District Update

by **Jon Rother**. February 2023

The Building Construction Bond

JCC's school board and administration continues to meet with Clark-Enersen Partners (architecture firm) and Boyd Jones (construction manager at-risk) to explore building methods, building materials, and alternate building plans. The goal remains the same: to get all JCC students to one site, under one roof, in an affordable manner in facilities that are functional, durable, and attractive providing all the necessary spaces to continue to provide the same variety of programming as well as providing opportunities for future expansion.

As of late, we have been exploring the various options of using the topography of the proposed property to the north of the current football field. As it is not entirely flat, we are discussing whether or not to "toe into" the landscape or if the natural decline in elevation can be used to our advantage. The latest iterations of the plans have a moderate reduction in size of some classrooms and rooms with fewer or no windows. The current goal is to keep the total square footage at around 112,000 square feet and cost between \$43-45 million.

Should the team develop plans that will meet the needs and parameters of the district, patrons can expect a mail-in bond election in late May or June

Results of the 4-Day Week Survey

In late November and early December, staff and stakeholders were asked to complete a survey regarding their thoughts about a potential 4-day school week. The idea of the 4-day school week has been discussed by our school board, staff, and some patrons over the last four years. Initially, it was seen as a potential cost savings to the district. And, according to our figures in JCC's business office, the district could save approximately \$4,000/day. This would be in the areas of transportation, utilities and personnel.

Not only does there seem to be a workforce shortage, but there is also a teacher shortage nationwide. Colleges and universities are not graduating as many educators as in past years. When a teaching job was posted, it was not uncommon to get 20 to 30 applicants. Now, schools are receiving fewer than 10 and in some instances are not getting any applicants. Special Education, Industrial Technology (formerly referred to as "shop"), Science and Music positions have been particularly hard to fill. Some school districts who were not able to fill positions used substitute teachers to fill positions for an entire year.



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

VOLUME 17
ISSUE 7

Jon Rother
Superintendent
Elementary Principal
402-335-3320

Rick Lester
High School Principal
402-335-3328

Rich Bacon
Middle School Principal
402-864-4171

Looking closely at JCC's current staffing, we have discussed the number of staff who are eligible to retire in the next five years (up to 14 teachers, 2 administrators, and 14 support staff) and those who are eligible to retire in the next six to ten years (8 teachers, 1 administrator). The questions arose: Would a 4-day week be a way to attract and retain new teachers? However, we know that a 4-day week will have an impact on all our stakeholders.

Therefore, the survey was created and distributed to staff and patrons. The results are displayed below. The results of the survey showed that **81.2%** of current JCC staff are in favor of a 4-day school week. Out of 207 community responses, **72.9%** are in favor of a 4-day school week. Comments from the surveys were consistent with the following positives and concerns:

Positives of a 4-day week:

- More family time.
- More time for students to decompress and get school work done.
- More opportunities for students to work.
- Less time for students riding school buses or school transportation.
- Cost savings to the district.
- More time for appointments without having to miss school (improved attendance).
- Attractive to potential future teacher hires.

Concerns of a 4-day week:

- Welfare of our students.
- Daycare.
- Student learning impact.
- Loss in wages to support staff.

Although the pros may have outnumbered the cons, the severity of the cons are such that they are worth thoughtful consideration. We will be exploring ways in which these concerns can be addressed prior to implementing a 4-day school week. As a result, we will plan to continue with our "hybrid" schedule for the 2023-2024 school year.

Thank you to all of those who took the time to complete the survey and give constructive feedback!

Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar

As stated above, we plan to continue with the "hybrid" calendar format. Some elements of this format:

- No planned early outs other than the first and last days of the school year.
- All staff development days are on Mondays except the ESU4 Engaging Educators Conference in February.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are on Mondays.
- August 18 and 21 are no school days for students.
 - ◊ This allows for participation in the Johnson County Fair.
 - ◊ The Otoe and Pawnee County Fairs are in July.
 - ◊ The Nemaha County Fair on August 13-16 *could be a conflict for a small number of our students.*

Some things to remember when creating the calendar:

- Instructional Hours (the hours of the school day excluding lunch).
 - ◊ Middle School/High School = minimum of 1,080 instructional hours.
 - ◊ Elementary = minimum of 1,032 instructional hours.
 - ◊ Kindergarten = minimum of 400 instructional hours (includes lunch).
 - ◊ Preschool = minimum of 450 instructional hours (includes lunch).
- Teacher Contracted Days
 - ◊ Currently 185 days (this includes days with students and professional growth days).

Changes from the 22-23 calendar to the 23-24 calendar:

- The Christmas break starts later and goes farther into January.
 - ◊ This puts the school more in line with the NSAA Activities Moratorium.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns about the proposed school calendar, or any topic pertaining to our school, stop into the office, talk to me at a JCC event or give me a call at (402) 335-1087.

PROPOSED 2023-2024 Calendar

2023-2024 School Calendar

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MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

By Rich Bacon

2nd quarter/1st semester report cards were handed out to students the week of January 10. If you haven't seen your child's report card, please talk to them or call the office.

Congratulations to the following Middle School students who earned straight A's for both the 2nd quarter and the 1st Semester. 8th Grade – Amelia Britt, Regan Campbell-Thies, & Molly Weber; 7th Grade – Reese Badertscher, Leighton Beethe, Abigail Burki, Reese Carter, Cooper Jones, Anthony Orozco, Stefani Peters, Sophia Schmid, Wesley Schmid, Tegan Topp & Riley Wellensiek 6th Grade – Damian Andrade, Elliott Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Chance Harre, Hadley Hartman, Lucy Hippen, Heidi Reyes, & Kenna Thomas. 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. Generally, we expect Middle School students 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 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.

On a related note, second semester Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Monday, February 13th from 11:00 to 7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher Conferences is an ideal time for parents and teachers to have detailed conversations about child's current grades, the effort that is being given by their child, the student's classroom behavior and other issues that are relevant to student learning. Parent-Teacher Conferences also provides your child's teachers with an opportunity to share classroom work or share something positive that your child has done. The dialogue generated at Parent-Teacher Conferences is an important element in a student's learning process that is beneficial to all and I hope all parents will take advantage of this opportunity. We hope to see you on February 13th.

Congratulations to the following students who earned the right to represent JCC at the Johnson County Spelling Contest. Eighth Grade: Amelia Britt, Jillian Cropp, Nancy Duarte, & Molly Weber; 7th Grade: Jesus Hurtado, Anthony Orozco, Stefani Peters & Wesley Schmid; Sixth Grade: Elliott Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Lucy Hippen & Heidi Reyes; Fifth Grade: Jay Barot, Lydia Bilsend, Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen & Jack Sterup; and 4th grade: Eleanor Burgett, Ada Goodrich, Damien Hinojosa, & Ian Robeson. Special Congratulations for the Thunderbirds who qualified for the oral portion of the Spelling Bee to be held in Sterling on Saturday, Feb. 4: Amelia Britt, Nancy Duarte, Molly Weber, Jesus Hurtado, Anthony Orozco, Stefani Peters, Wesley Schmid, Lucy Hippen, Heidi Reyes, Jay Barot, Damien Hinojosa. Good Job and Good Luck Thunderbirds!

The Junior High Boys' Basketball teams finished their season at the Malcolm Tournament. The A-team finished with a 4-7 record, the B-team finished with a 4-6 record and the C-team was 3-0. The A-team finished in 2nd place at the Palmyra Fun Day Tournament & at the JCC Invite. The B-team finished as tournament runner-ups in the JCC Invite. Congratulations to Coach Jones, Coach Straka, Coach West and the boys on a competitive 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 contest close by. Please come and cheer on our athletes and coaches. Good luck to both teams and their coaches. Go Thunderbirds!



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 2023-2024 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 8, 2023. They will be due back to the office on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. 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 2023-2024 school year to change their class schedule.

I encourage all parents to work with your student to help them plan their 2023-2024 class schedule – your input and encouragement is essential.

All Seniors and Senior Parents are Invited to

JCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

JCC Foundation members will be present to provide information about JCC Foundation Scholarships that are available and will assist with the application process.

**FREE MEAL PROVIDED TO ALL
SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS**

**PLEASE RSVP TO THE
HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE BY
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10TH**

402-335-3328



Notes From the High School Counselor Mrs. Olivia Reuter

Johnson County Central Foundation Scholarship Applications- Due March 16th

The Johnson County Central Foundation is offering nine scholarships to JCC seniors this year. To apply, seniors must fill out the application that was emailed to them. Seniors will need to follow the instructions on the application and also have two references, one from someone in the school, and one from someone outside the school (an employer, community member, church pastor, etc.) There will be three \$2000 four year college/university scholarships awarded, three \$1000 two-year college scholarships available, and three \$1000 trade school scholarships awarded. All scholarship applications must be given to Mrs. Reuter by March 16th.

Southeast Community College Scholarship Applications Open Until March 1st

The Southeast Community College (SCC) online scholarship application for high school seniors planning to attend SCC for the Fall 2023 semester opened on December 1, 2022. 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/>

Juniors: Apply for Boys' State, Girls' State, and Junior Law Cadet ASAP

If any junior boys or girls are interested in attending Boys' or Girls' State on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from June 4-10, they need to talk to Mrs. Reuter as soon as possible to apply. This is an excellent leadership opportunity where students use and improve their leadership skills and make life-long connections with other students their age. They also get to meet the governor of Nebraska, state legislators, UNL professors and athletic coaches, and hear from several motivational speakers. Junior boys and girls are also welcome to apply to attend the Junior Law Cadet program that will be held June 20-21 (boys) and June 22-23 (girls). This program allows juniors to explore and experience the various aspects of law enforcement such as law enforcement technology, tactical medicine, K-9 handling, firearms training, drones, aviation support, and emergency vehicle operations. This experience will be held at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island.

2023-2024 FAFSA Application Open

Seniors in high school who plan to attend college should complete a FAFSA form online. Seniors can now start applying for the FAFSA and should definitely have this done by March 15, 2023. The earlier they are completed, the better. Some colleges and universities only have so much grant and scholarship money to award and when it's gone, it's gone. To create a FAFSA, seniors will need their own and their parents' 2021 tax information and W2s. They need to fill out the 2023-2024 FAFSA because the FAFSA is for the year you will start college. One parent and one student will need an FSA ID. If a parent already has one from an older child in college, they can use the same one. For more information on this and all steps to completing the FAFSA, go to <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/fafsa-tools/> This page includes FAFSA videos, tutorials, checklists, a FAFSA demo, frequently asked questions, and more. If you still have FAFSA questions, you are welcome to call Education Quest, they are here to help all Nebraska students with the FAFSA. The number for the Lincoln office is (402) 475-5222. The number for the Omaha office is (402) 391-4033. They are always willing to set up virtual appointments with parents and students, and sometimes they can set up in-person appointments too.

Search for Nebraska Scholarships By Using Scholarship Quest

ScholarshipQuest is a feature on the Education Quest website that allows all high school students to create a profile and search for Nebraska scholarships. This is an especially good tool for high school seniors, but there are also scholarships on there for underclassmen as well. If you are in high school, it's a good idea to create an account and check your scholarship matches periodically. To get started and create an account, go to <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/scholarshipquest/> and click on the orange rectangular Go For Scholarship Quest button.

Meet the Class of 2023



Katelyn Beethe is the daughter of Justin and Carolyn Beethe of Tecumseh. Her school activities have been HOSA, choir, student council, class officer, National Honor Society, FFA, FBLA, volleyball, and basketball. Her favorite high school class was psychology and she didn't see any of her high school classes as being all that challenging. Outside of school, Katelyn likes being around her family and friends and babysitting. This upcoming fall, Katelyn plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In ten years, Katelyn hopes to be a dentist in Nebraska and married.

Ivan Arellano is the son of Jesus and Maria Arellano of Tecumseh. His school activities have been football, choir, track and field, and basketball. His favorite high school classes have been strength training and team games because they are both fun and productive. His most challenging class has been chemistry because he says, "it's too much science!" The teachers that have inspired him most throughout high school are Coach Haughton, Mrs. Roesener, Mr. Hedger, Mrs. Little, and Mr. Faris. His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Ivan likes to hang out with his friends and family and play basketball. His most memorable high school moment is being voted the Homecoming king. This fall, Ivan plans to attend SCC-Lincoln. In ten years, Ivan says, "hopefully I will be wealthy and have a healthy lifestyle with my beautiful wife and family of four kids, traveling the world together."



Austin Goracke is the son of Travis and Jackie Goracke of Tecumseh. He has an older sister named Gwen. This year, Austin is on the wrestling team. Earlier on in high school, he was in basketball and choir. His favorite class in high school has been strength training. He likes the environment, the teacher, and meeting his goals. His most challenging class this year is English IV because the writing is so time-consuming. The teacher that has inspired Austin the most is Mr. Bowman. He got him interested in going out for wrestling and challenges him in the weight room to more than he ever knew he could do. Outside of school, Austin likes to hang out with friends, lift weights, and play football or basketball at the park. His most memorable experience in high school was going to the state wrestling tournament last year to watch Christian wrestle. It was such an exciting experience and it really made the sport of wrestling interesting to him. After high school, Austin plans to start the electrician apprenticeship program at Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest in Lincoln. In ten years, Austin hopes to be working in Lincoln as an electrician, making good money, and living in a house that he bought with the money he has earned.





Rita Ceballos is the daughter of Ninfa Soto of Tecumseh. During high school, Rita has been in many activities including wrestling, band, jazz band, quiz bowl, one act, speech, student council, National Honor Society, FBLA, HOSA, golf, unified bowling, and cross country. She is also a member of the NSAA student advisory committee. Her favorite classes have been her English classes. Rita says, "I have enjoyed all of my English classes especially with Mrs. Little since she makes class fun and there is never a dull moment in class. I have also enjoyed student assisting for Mrs. Beard since we bake in that class and we talk about different topics that are interesting." As for her most challenging classes, Rita says, "Chemistry has been one of my most challenging classes since it has a lot of math and is time consuming. Anatomy has also been pretty difficult since there is a lot of memorization and many of the words are similar so it's hard to figure

them out." Outside of school, Rita likes to read, listening to music, and going out to eat and shopping with her friends. As for teachers who have inspired her the most, Rita says "I think Mrs. Roesener and Mrs. Little have inspired me to always smile and have a good attitude since every time I see them, they are always smiling. Coach Bowman has also inspired me and made me realize that I have to work hard in order to have success." Rita's favorite school lunches are hot ham and cheese sandwiches and the popcorn chicken bowl. Rita plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Doane University, or Hastings College starting this fall. As for what Rita will remember the most about her high school years, she says, "I will remember all of my activities especially one-act and wrestling, and how many friends I have made by participating in activities." In ten years, Rita sees herself having a family with a good career either in criminal justice or as a special education teacher. She's not sure where she wants to live yet, but hopefully somewhere warm. She also hopes to be able to travel to many other countries around the world.

Jailine Manriquez is the daughter of Adrian and Laura Manriquez of Tecumseh. She has two sisters, Gisselle, who is in the radiology program at SCC and Nayeli who is a freshman at JCC. During high school, Jailine has been in golf, choir, HOSA, art club, and academic decathlon. Her favorite high school classes have been chemistry although it was challenging at times and academic decathlon because it was really fun to get to experience going to state. Her most challenging class is American government. The teachers that have inspired Jailine the most are Mrs. Roesener, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Richardson, and Mr. Hedger as they inspired and motivated her to accomplish her goals and to never give up, no matter how hard things got. Her favorite school lunch is cheese sticks. Outside of school, Jailine likes to read, spend time with family and friends, and sleep. After high school, Jailine plans to attend SCC Lincoln. Her future career interests include surgical technology, dermatology, or hematology. In ten years, Jailine sees herself with a family of her own, living in another state or maybe even another country, working her dream job and living her dream life, traveling the world.



**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
Second Quarter 2022-2023**

8th Grade

Harrison Bacon
 Trever Bohling
 Addison Borrenpohl
Amelia Britt (All A's)
 *Nevaeh Brown
 *Zoey Bryant
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
Anthony Campos (All A's)
 Ayden Cannon
 Jillian Cropp
 Kylee Cruz
 Amillia Gentert
 Monica Jimenez
 Memphis Pingel
 Andre Rautenbach
 Harley Reyes
 *Haylee Riesland
 *Haylee Trew
Molly Weber (All A's)
 *Trinity Williams

7th Grade

Jessa Adams
Reese Badertscher (All A's)
 Gerardo Becerra
Leighton Beethe (All A's)
 Payton Brandt
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
 Adree Case
 Conner Gerking
 Dalton Henderson
Cooper Jones (All A's)
 Aaryn Kaster
 Bodhi Klein
 Trey Lubben
Anthony Orozco (All A's)
Stefani Peters (All A's)
 Edgar Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Weslev Schmid (All A's)
Alex Thippavong (All A's)
 Landon Toohy
Tegan Topp (All A's)
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

6th Grade

Jorge Andrade (All A's)
Elliott Brommer (All A's)
 Bentley Campbell
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Chance Harre (All A's)
Hadley Hartman (All A's)
Lucy Hippen (All A's)
 Ashton Huskey
 Janel Leyva
 Wyatt Lueders
Heidi Reyes (All A's)
Kenna Thomas (All A's)
Elliott Werner (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 2022-2023**

8th Grade

Harrison Bacon
 Brayden Beehe
 Addison Borrenpohl
Amelia Britt (All A's)
 *Nevaeh Brown
 *Zoey Bryant
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
 *Anthony Campos
 Ayden Cannon
 Jillian Cropp
 Nancy Duarte
 Amillia Gentert
 Memphis Pingel
 Nayelli Prado
 Andre Rautenbach
 Harley Reyes
 Haylee Riesland
 *Haylee Trew
Molly Weber (All A's)
 *Trinity Williams

7th Grade

Jessa Adams
Reese Badertscher (All A's)
 Gerardo Becerra
Leighton Beehe (All A's)
 Payton Brandt
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
 Adree Case
 Conner Gerking
 Chase Harrifeld
 Ailyn Herrera
 Jesus Hurtado
Cooper Jones (All A's)
 Aaryn Kaster
 Bodhi Klein
 Trey Lubben
Anthony Orozco (All A's)
Stefani Peters (All A's)
 Edgar Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Wesley Schmid (All A's)
 *Alex Thippavong
 Landon Toohey
Tegan Topp (All A's)
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

6th Grade

Jorge Andrade (All A's)
Elliott Brommer (All A's)
 Bentley Campbell
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Chance Harre (All A's)
Hadley Hartman (All A's)
Lucy Hippen (All A's)
 *Ashton Huskey
 *Janel Leyva
 Wyatt Lueders
 Diego Martinez
Heidi Reyes (All A's)
Kenna Thomas (All A's)
 Elliott Werner

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

Title 1 Book Bingo

February 16, 2023

7:00 p.m.



JCC Cafeteria in Tecumseh

A chance
to win
books!



K-5th grade students
with their parents
are invited to attend.
(Younger siblings may
also attend.)

JCC Music Calendar

Month	Date	Day	Event
March	7	Tuesday	30th Annual Freshmore Clinic - Tecumseh
	16	Thursday	MS Contest Concert - Cook @ 6:30 pm
	17	Friday	MS Band Contest - HTRS
			MS Vocal Music Contest TBA
	18	Saturday	Class C Allstate Band
	20	Monday	HS Contest Concert @ 6:30 pm
	23	Thursday	HS MUDECAS Music Contest - HTRS
	31	Friday	Meridian MS Honor Choir and Band
April	20	Thursday	HS District Music Contest - Tecumseh
	27, 28	Thur & Fri	Spring Play - Thur @ 1:00, Fri @ 7
	30	Sun	Spring Play - Sun @ 2
May	1	Monday	HS Spring Concert and Art Show @ 6:30 pm
	8	Monday	ECNC Honor Band @ Falls City
	10	Wednesday	Band Recruitment Day
	12	Friday	4-8 Spring Concert - Cook, 6:30 pm
	13	Saturday	HS Band at Graduation
	15	Monday	K-3 Spring Program - HS GYM, 7:00 pm

Vocal Music - Mr. Doran Trevin Huskey - Reporter

Doane Vocal Festival

On Sunday & Monday, January 8 & 9, the following students attended the Doane Vocal Festival Honor Choir in Crete: Jacob Graham, Hayden Huskey, and Tanner Woods. They joined 230 other students from 51 high schools to rehearse Sunday afternoon & Monday morning then they presented a fabulous concert Monday night.



Singing Youth of Nebraska

The Nebraska Choral Directors Association sponsored the bi-annual Singing Youth of Nebraska Festivals throughout the state in January and February. JCC attended this 7-9th grade festival on Saturday, January 21 held at Fremont High School. Our clinician was Celeste Ditter from Columbus Middle School. JCC singers attending were: Altos – Payton Brandt, Abby Burki, Adree Case, Monica Jimenez, Harley Reyes, & Molly Weber; Sopranos – Leighton Beethe, Nevaeh Brown, Angel Buchanan, Reese Carter, & Nayeli Prado; Tenors – Jesus Hurtado, Trevin Huskey, A.J. Rautenbach, Wesley Schmid, & Brayden Taylor; Basses – Wyatt Case & Jacob Nixon.

Freshmore

JCC will host the 30th Annual Freshmore Clinic on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. This is a clinic Mr. Doran started in 1994 to help strengthen the younger voices (Freshmen and Sophomores) for choirs from area schools. We'll rehearse all day in the Elementary Auditorium and present a 6:30 PM concert that evening. The concert is only \$1.00 so come join us! This year's clinicians & accompanists are Kevin Boesiger & June Bowers. Because it's an anniversary year, we will be premiering a new commissioned song "Let Your Light Shine" written for us by Kevin Boesiger. Daniel Christian will be performing a set at the beginning of the concert. Ashley Juilfs will be making special anniversary cupcakes for the singers and directors during one of their breaks. We will also be marking the 30th anniversary with t-shirts for all the singers and directors.

Here are some interesting facts about Freshmore:

- There have been 47 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, Wilber Clatonia, & Yutan.
- There have been a total of 75 different directors who have brought students from those 47 schools.
- A total of 4218 singers have performed (not including guest show choirs) which averages to 151 a year. The high participation was 228 and the low was 66. We have had only one cancellation due to weather.
- Four have been held on March 4 & 7, three on 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.
- 93 different songs have been performed.
- 3 of those songs have been written for us.

Come listen to the concert at 6:30 pm in the Elementary Auditorium in Tecumseh.

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 3rd: Girls Districts at Lincoln Southeast and Boys ECNC Invite at Falls City.

February 10th, 11th: Boys Districts at Oakland-Craig.

February 16th, 17th, 18th: Boys and Girls State Wrestling in Omaha (schedule attached).

Basketball:

February 9th: Senior night vs. College View Academy.

February 13th, 14th, 16th: Girls sub-districts at the highest seed.

(Freeman, JCC, Wilber-Clatonia, Southern, Tri County)

February 20th, 21st, 23rd: Boys sub-districts at the highest seed.

(Freeman, JCC, Wilber-Clatonia, Southern, Tri County)

March 1st-4th: Girls State Tournament in Lincoln

March 8th-11th: Boys State Tournament in Lincoln

Bowling:

February 1st: Boys & Girls Districts at Sun Valley Lanes in Lincoln @ 11:30

(JCC, Lincoln Northwest, Seward, Waverly)

****Spring practice starts on Monday, February 27th****

Thank you!

Garrett Collin
Activities Director



2023 NSAA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

CHI Health Center Arena-Omaha

Thursday - February 16

Weigh-Ins	A and D	8:00 A.M.
	Girls	1:00 P.M.
	B and C	1:30 P.M.
	1st Session	
1st Round – 10 Mats	A and D	9:30 A.M.
Quarterfinals – 10 Mats	A and D	Follows 1 st Round
	2nd Session	
1st Round – 10 Mats	B and C and Girls	3:00 P.M.
Quarterfinals – 10 Mats	B and C and Girls	Follows 1 st Round

Friday - February 17

Weigh-Ins	A and D	7:30 A.M.
	Girls	10:00 A.M.
	B and C	10:30 A.M.
	3rd Session	
1st Round Cons – 10 Mats	A and D	9:00 A.M.
2nd Round Cons – 10 Mats	A and D	Follows 1 st Round Cons.
	4th Session	
1st Round Cons – 10 Mats	B and C and Girls	12:00 P.M.
2nd Round Cons – 10 Mats	B and C and Girls	Follows 1 st Round Cons.
	5th Session	
Semifinals and 3rd Round Consolations – 10 Mats	All Boys Classes & Girls	6:30 P.M.

Saturday - February 18

Weigh-Ins	Girls	7:00 A.M.
	All Boys Classes	7:30 A.M.
	6th Session	
Cons Semifinals – 10 Mats	All Boys Classes & Girls	9:00 A.M.
3rd & 5th Place Matches - 10 Mats	All Boys Classes & Girls	Follows Consolation Semi-Finals
Championship Finals – 4 Mats	All Boys Classes & Girls	3:00 P.M.



JCC Preschool Enrollment for the 2023-24 School Year Opens February 1, 2023

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, 2023. A **three-year-old** is defined as a child who will be three years of age on or before July 31, 2023. We offer a full-day program for prekindergarten students in Tecumseh and Cook. Three-year-olds will join the morning portion of the full-day program. Preschool is in session Tuesday through Friday. It is preferred that your child be fully toilet trained before entering the program.

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

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

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

Enrollment will be filled according to the following criteria: [Rule 11](#) guidelines, students currently enrolled in our program, and the date an application is received. If interested in the preschool program, please complete the electronic application which will be available beginning **February 1, 2023** on the school website: www.jccentral.org. If you would prefer a paper application, please contact the elementary office.

Contact will be made by April 15, 2023 regarding enrollment for the 2023-24 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.

Johnson County Central Preschool

**2023-24 Enrollment Begins
February 1, 2023**



An on-line application can be accessed on the school website beginning February 1:

www.jccentral.org

If you would like a paper application or would like to schedule a classroom visit, please call the elementary office: 402-335-3320



***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**



Mapping Our Food - First Grade - Mrs. Faris

Through a grant from the National Agriculture in the Classroom and the Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom, the First Grade students in Mrs. Faris's class received funds to learn about where foods come from in Nebraska. The Agriculture in the Classroom program is managed by the Farm Bureau Foundation. Other organizations that supported this grant are The Nebraska Beef Council, Nebraska Corn Board, and Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard, Midwest Dairy, and Nebraska Dry Bean Commission. It is also supported by the United States Department of Agriculture.

This grant was used to learn about our food system. The focus was on Nebraska-grown products from across the state. Students learned about the people who produce these foods and also read letters from children their age who have a family that provides these foods for us. We received a map of Nebraska. On this map we placed stickers on the certain area that we were discussing. We were also given posters highlighting these different foods, how they are produced and get to our grocery stores, farmers markets, or in orchards for us to buy. We tasted each food and completed a chart telling what it looked like, smelled like, and if we like it or not.

We were learning about the harvest season and Thanksgiving at this time so we added a few foods to taste. We sampled cornbread, pumpkin pie, and cranberry sauce and discussed what those foods are made of and that they are traditional foods for some families.

Food	Observations	Like	Dislike
hamburger	meat, red, round	like	
bread	soft, brown, 2/2	like	
cheese	yellow, square	like	
teardrop	yellow, crunchy	like	
BBQ	orange, BBQ sauce	like	
onions	green and yellow	like	
beans	black, smooth	like	
Chuck	white, smooth	like	
kidney	red, smooth	like	
apple pie	soft, sour, sweet	like	
apple juice	sweet, orange	like	
applesauce	yellow, fruit	like	
honey	yellow, sticky	like	
milk	white, liquid	like	
butter	yellow, creamy	like	
yogurt	white, vanilla, smooth	like	
ice cream	frozen, white, sweet	like	
whip cream	white, soft	like	
cookies	crunchy, sweet, brown, circle	like	
cornbread	yellow, lumpy	like	
scrambled	egg, yellow, wiggly, ddy	like	
bacon	crunchy, brown, salty	like	
pumpkin pie	orange, soft	like	
cranberry	sauce, red, tangy	like	
popcorn	white, lumpy	like	

We tasted apples, applesauce, apple juice, and apple pie. We tasted bacon and discussed the other foods we get from pork. We scrambled eggs to taste and discussed how we use those in many ways. We discussed how wheat is made into flour and used in many of our foods. Dry beans was another food to try. We used the dry beans to sort and identify and We took beans from cans to try, but they weren't our favorite. Hamburger was a favorite of the class. We ate tiny hamburgers on tiny buns (so that they were linked back to the flour). We knew that honey comes from bees, but were very interested in learning how it is harvested. For our milk foods, we tried white milk, yogurt, cheese (on our hamburgers), whip cream, and ice cream. Ice cream was hands-down the most favorite of the foods tasted. It was fun learning all the steps it takes to get milk and milk products to our stores. Popcorn is a tasty treat that we didn't know much about. We learned there are popcorn farms and Nebraska grows more popcorn than any other state. Our last tasting was potato chips. We learned that Frito Lay makes over 56 different flavors of potato chips. We tried sour cream and onion, barbeque, and regular. Did you know that it takes only 4 or 5 potatoes to make a bag of chips?



This was a fantastic learning experience. Our goal was to learn about how foods come to us in many different ways and the steps it takes to get those foods to our stores and to our tables. It was a delicious way to learn about the importance of agriculture in our state.

Many thanks for our food producers around our area and throughout our state. We appreciate all of the wonderful foods we have!! And a Special

Thank You to The National and Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom grants and programs, the Farm Bureau Foundation, and all of the many supporters! You provided us with a wonderful and yummy learning opportunity!



Mrs. Faris and First Graders

Weather School

The First Grade classes had the opportunity to have Jennifer Clason from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from Valley, Nebraska, teach us about the different kinds of weather we experience here.

She brought several things with her. The students got to hold an example of the latex balloon that they send up everyday to help meteorologists make forecasts and predict storms. She also had a sensor that goes with the balloon that tells the air pressure and temperature. She explained that the weather forecasts we see on t.v. are based on the information they get from the balloons. She also brought casts of huge hailstones. The students loved passing those around. Some were bigger than their hands. She showed them an experiment on how to make a cloud with shaving cream and then watch how the precipitation falls. She also brought the equipment to show a tornado within a clear box.

The students also thoroughly enjoyed a video showing tornados, strong winds, hail, and rain. We watched it twice! It was a very informative hour and our presenter was terrific! Thank you to Mrs. Reuter for setting this event up for us! Now we are very interested in weather and may have a future meteorologist or two in our classrooms!





BUS DRIVERS WANTED
Johnson County Central Public Schools
Bus Drivers

Johnson County Central Public Schools is currently seeking route, shuttle, and activity, bus drivers.



\$33.00/ Route
\$30.00 / Shuttle
\$17.50 per hour / Activity Van
\$20.00 per hour / Activity Bus

Please contact Jon Rother or
Laurie Badertscher if interested.
402-335-3320

**JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE MANAGER**

JCC is currently accepting applications for an Office Manager for our elementary school in Tecumseh, NE. We are looking for a person who is team-oriented and has an outgoing positive personality. Excellent interpersonal communication skills when working with children and adults are essential. This person needs to be organized and detail-oriented. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and Google applications is required, as is having the desire for learning new skills.

We offer excellent benefits to include:

- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement
- Disability Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- 403(b) Plan
- Paid Time Off

If interested please apply at <https://jccentral.tedK12.com/hire/index.aspx>. Applications are also available at www.jccentral.org or the District Office, 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450.

Completed applications should be sent to: Jon H. Rother, Johnson County Central Public Schools.
358 North 6th Street Tecumseh, NE or jon.rother@jccentral.org.

**Johnson County Central Public Schools
Custodial/Maintenance Team Member**

Johnson County Central Public Schools is currently accepting applications for our custodial/maintenance services team. Candidates must be detail-oriented and dependable. We are looking for someone who takes pride in their work. Previous experience with HVAC and plumbing is preferred but not required. This position will start in May of 2023 and is a full-time, year-round position.

- We offer excellent benefits including:
 - Health Insurance
 - Retirement (NPERS)
 - Vision Insurance
 - Dental Insurance
 - Disability Insurance
 - 403(b) Plan
 - Paid time off


If interested please apply at <https://jccentral.tedK12.com/hire/index.aspx>. Applications are also available at www.jccentral.org or the District Office, 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450.

Completed applications should be sent to: Jon H. Rother, Johnson County Central Public Schools. 358 North 6th Street Tecumseh, NE or jon.rother@jccentral.org.



Johnson County Central is an equal-opportunity employer.

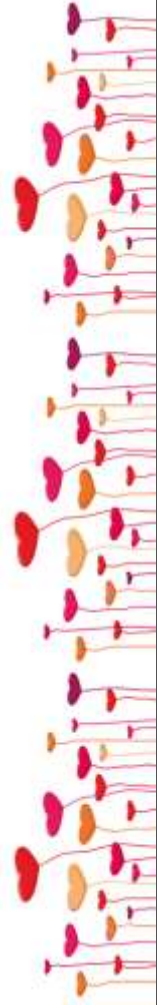
February 2023

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Taco Salad Cheese Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Hot Dog /wg Bun Baked Beans Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Teacher In-service</i>	4
5	6 Chicken Nuggets Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7 Spaghetti /Meat Sauce B&B Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Sh. Pork / wg Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Salisbury Steak / Bread Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Pizza Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11
12	13 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Parent/Teacher</i> <i>Conferences</i>	14 Chicken Tender Wrap Sun Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Cheeseburger /wg Bun French Fries Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 <i>Sloppy Nacho's</i> Bread Stick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Cheese Sticks Lettuce Salad Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18
19	20 Mini Corndogs Elem Baked Potato HS & MS Bread Stick HS & MS Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21 Quesadilla Spanish Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Br. Pork Patty / wg Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 National Chili Day Chili Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 
26	27 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Teacher In-service</i>	28 Chicken Tetrizzini Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk				

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 JCC V District Bowling @ Sun Valley Lanes—11:30 am	2 V Girls BB ECNC—TBD JH Girls BB @ Palmyra—4:00 pm	3 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher In Service Engaging Educators Conf. V Boys BB ECNC—TBD V Wrestling Boys ECNC @ Falls City—2:00 pm V Wrestling Girls Districts @ Lincoln Southeast—4:00 pm	4 Johnson County Spelling Bee @ Sterling—9:00 am V Boys/Girls ECNC @ Weeping Water—3rd Place games 1:45 pm, 1st Place games 6:00 pm
5	6 C Team BB Girls/Boys vs Elmwood -Murdock @ JCC HS 6:00/7:30 p.m.	7 JH Girls BB vs Weeping Water @ JCC MS Cook Site—4:00 pm JV/V Girls/Boys BB @ Elmwood -Murdock—4:30/6:00/7:30 pm	8 JCC School Board Meeting @ JCC HS Computer Lab—6:00 pm	9 BB vs College View Academy @ JCC JV Boys @ MS, Cook Site—4:30 pm JV Girls @ HS—4:30 p.m. V Girls/Boys @ HS—6:00/7:45 pm	10 V Wrestling Boys District Meet @ Oakland Craig HS—Time TBD K-3 Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash @ Peru—1:00 pm	11 V Wrestling Boys District Meet @ Oakland Craig HS—Time TBD CTeam Girls/Boys BB Thunderbird Invite @ JCC MS Cook Site—9:00 am Speech Meet @ Auburn 8:30 am
12	13 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Parent Teacher Conferences 11:00 am—7:00 pm V Girls BB Sub Districts—TBD JH Girls BB vs Syracuse @ JCC MS Cook Site—4:00 pm JCC Foundation Meal & Scholarship Information @ JCC HS Cafeteria - 6:30 pm	14  V Girls BB Sub Districts—TBD	15 FBLA Peru College Business Contest @ Peru State College—8:30 am	16 SCC Discovery Day @ SCC Beatrice—9:30 am V Girls BB Sub Districts—TBD V Wrestling Boys/Girls State Championships @ CHI Health Center, Omaha Title I Book Bingo @ JCC HS Cafeteria—7:00 pm	17 HS Students compete @ Wesleyan Honor Band—2/9—2/11 JV/V Boys BB vs Auburn @ JCC HS—5:30/7:00 pm V Wrestling Boys/Girls State Championships @ CHI Health Center, Omaha	18 V Wrestling Boys/Girls State Championships @ CHI Health Center, Omaha JH Girls BB Tourney @ Palmyra—8:00 am
19	20 V Boys BB Sub-Districts—TBD JH Girls BB @ Pawnee City—4:00 pm	21 V Boys BB Sub-Districts—TBD JH Wrestling Tri @ Ashland-Greenwood HS—4:30 pm	22 ECNC Speech Comp @ Palmyra HS—8:30 am FFA District Welding Contest @ SCC Lincoln—9:00 am	23 V Boys BB Sub-District Finals—TBD NE JAG Annual Career Development Conf. Omaha—9:00am JH Wrestling Invite @ Falls City—4:00 pm JH Girls BB vs Falls City @ JCC MS Cook Site—4:00 pm	24 V Girls BB District Finals—TBD JH Wrestling Invite @ Weeping Water—3:00pm FFA Launch Training @ Kearney—Noon	25 V Boys BB District Finals—TBD FFA State Leadership Conference @ Kearney—8:00 am
26	27 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher In Service	28 FFA District CDE's @ SCC Beatrice—8:00 am				



Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

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

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

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

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POSTAL PATRON

Non-Discrimination

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

Child find

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

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Teacher In-Service Engaging
Educators Conference

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Parent Teacher Conferences
11:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Teacher In-Service

