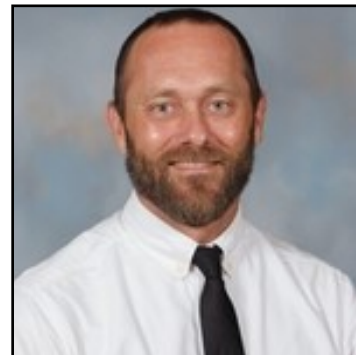




Superintendent Monthly Update



Upcoming Bond

by **Jon Rother**. March 2023

June or July Bond

The JCC Board of Education is planning a special board meeting on March 6 at 5:00 PM in the high school computer lab to continue to finalize plans for an upcoming bond election. They will be meeting with representatives from Clark & Enersen (architects), Boyd Jones (Construction Manager at Risk), DA Davidson (Bond Underwriters) and Russ Koch (Facilities Advisor). The goal remains to unify Johnson County Central's services in one location and under one roof. If the team can come up with plans and a dollar amount that are acceptable, you can expect a mail-in bond election in June or July.

Teacher Shortage Report

In February, the Nebraska Department of Education released their report on the ongoing teacher shortage in Nebraska. All 436 Nebraska districts/systems had access to complete the survey. This includes 244 PK-12 districts, 17 Educational Service Units and 175 non-public school systems. Of these, 402 (92%) completed the survey. The full report and more information about the Nebraska teacher shortage can be found here:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/educatorprep/teacher-shortage-survey/>

Here are some of the highlights:

- In 2022, 768 teaching positions in Nebraska went unfilled.
 - * This is up from 482 in 2021 (74% of districts/ESUs/non-publics completed the survey in 2021).
- Of 196 respondents, 46% reported the reason the positions went unfilled was due to "No applicants."
 - * 20% reported "No fully qualified applicants."
- The top 5 unfilled positions were:
 - * Special Education
 - * Elementary Education
 - * Career Education
 - * Language Arts
 - * Science

We need to start asking ourselves "Why?" Why are young people not entering the profession of education?

- Is the compensation for education careers not competitive with other professions that require the same amount of education and training?
- Is negative publicity (both in media and politics) steering prospective educators away?
- Is there too much being asked of those in education in meeting the needs of children (i.e. social, emotional, nutritional, hygiene needs, etc.)?
- Do those in education feel supported by the public and by their communities?

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

VOLUME 17
ISSUE 8

Jon Rother
Superintendent
Elementary Principal
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High School Principal
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Middle School Principal
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The next questions we need to ask are “How” and “What”.

- How will our communities attract new teachers to our schools?
- With a limited number of educators qualified to apply for open positions, how will we bring in new educators to our communities?
- What is it about our schools and communities that will bring teachers to work, live and raise their families here?
 - * Child care?
 - * Health care (i.e. dental, medical, etc.)?
 - * Housing options?
 - * School facilities?
 - * Supportive communities and families?
 - * Recreation?
 - * Dining?
 - * Essentials (i.e. gas, groceries, hardware store, etc.)?

We’ve been fortunate at JCC. We have had excellent teacher retention in the district’s 16 year history. In the past couple of years, we have been able to fill all our positions except one. However, this may change in the near future. In the next five years, JCC has the potential to retire up to 13 teachers, 2 administrators and 13 support staff. In the five years following, an additional 7 teachers and one administrator will be eligible for retirement.

I don’t know if a four-day school week is the answer. I think we all have questions on how this will impact students and education. Maybe more competitive compensation is the answer. But, this would mean school districts would have to increase their budgets. I will begin looking into how various careers compare with education in terms of compensation and education required. Stay tuned!

January K-3 Thunderbirds of the Month



Kindergarten (L to R): Rainey Neemann, Wren Bischoff, Victoria Chavez, Johan Villalobos, Penny Barnes, Owen Bowman, Beau Lada, Aidaly Merlin-Lara.

Kenrick Reyes (not pictured)



1st Grade (L to R): Shaylee Hartmann, Allura Bruley, Dawson Beethe, Georgia Russell, Isabell Gerking, Cooper Kuhl, Karter Shullaw, Mateo Campos, Quinn Beck, Alexa Merlin-Lara



2nd Grade (L to R): Isabelle Linville, Eliot Schultz, Hank Smith, Bristol Meints, Brylee Cropp, Chloe Kirkendall, Ethan Barnes, Lily Bilslend, Josie McCoy, Thaddious Desmond



3rd Grade (L to R): Joey Burki, Leon Sejkora, Gabriella Brown, Kaison Dillard, Trinitee Stevenson, Rylin Campbell-Thies, Axel Prado, Evelyn Little, Liam Thompson

Legislation with Educational Impacts

For the current Nebraska Legislative Session, there are 106 bills being presented that can impact education. You can see the full list here with links to the full proposals of each bill:

<https://nasb.envisiams.com/legislative-bills>

Some of these pertain to land, how it is taxed and state aid for schools:

- LB320 - Also known as the "Nebraska Plan", lowers ag land valuation from 72% to 42%. Lowers other real property from 96% to 86%. Creates a minimum level of basic funding of 10%. Total cost \$361 million
- LB386 - Prohibit changes to the base limitation for school districts and the local effort rate calculation under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. Holds base limitation to 2.5%.
- LB429 - Moves unclaimed property tax credits to Trust Fund to be used for state aid.
- LB475 - Terminates TEEOSA (the current state aid formula), replaces it with a per pupil state aid allocation with allowances for ELL, sparsity and kids in poverty.
- LB518 - Adopt the Reducing Education Risk Factors and Property Tax Relief Act and change provisions of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act.
- LB583 - Appropriates \$1,500/student and 80% SpEd reimbursement partially outside of TEEOSA. One of the Governors 3-pack of bills intended to provide state funding for every student and cut property taxes along the way. "Necessary controls" on spending will be included.
- LB589 - Limits tax asking to 3% per year, considered a "soft cap" that school districts could override through a supermajority vote of 75% of school board members or 60% of the district's registered voters. Considerations for Poverty, ELL, student numbers. One of the Governors 3-pack of bills intended to provide state funding for every student and cut property taxes along the way. "Necessary controls" on spending will be included.
- LB681 - Creates an Educational Trust Fund of \$1 Billion to fund: Foundation Aid (\$1500/student), Special Ed Reimbursement, Career & Technical Education, Teacher turnover, Mentorship, Provide \$ for \$ property tax relief. One of the Governors 3-pack of bills intended to provide state funding for every student and cut property taxes along the way. "Necessary controls" on spending will be included.
- LB699 - Changes ag and commercial property value for school taxation to zero.
- LB750 - Change provisions relating to the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land.
- LB751 - Create a fund to provide state aid for public education.
- LB820 - Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act.

Of particular interest are bills LB583, LB589 & LB681 combined and LB320. These bills all take aim at lowering local property taxes and bringing more state aid to school districts. Governor Pillen's plan (LB583, LB589 & LB681) has the potential to lower JCC's General Fund Levy by approximately 13¢. The "Nebraska Plan" (LB 320) has the potential to lower JCC's General Fund Levy by approximately 16¢.

Parenting, Activities, Sports & Life

I know there are many parents on social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Depending on what accounts or who you follow, you can find a bit of everything and anything. Some of it is good, some is not so good. For a bit of good advice on how to support our children through activities, sports and school, give Matt Lisle a follow. Coach Matt Lisle has experience coaching at the collegiate and professional levels. He shares great advice not only for athletes, but for life in general and a bit of humor!



Facebook

Coach Lisle & Chalk Talk with Coach Lisle



Twitter

@CoachLisle & @ChalkTalkComedy



Instagram

@coachlisle & @chalktalkcoachlisle

2023-2024 School Calendar

2023-2024 School Calendar

July	January 2024														
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6			
						Independence day	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	February 2024														
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
							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							
September	March 2024														
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
							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	April 2024														
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	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	May 2024														
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
							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	June 2024														
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
							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							

January

1 New Year's Day

1-5 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

8 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.

9 Begin 2nd Semester/3rd Quarter

15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

22 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.

February

2 NO SCHOOL - ESU4 Engaging Educators Conf.

12 NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences

11 AM - 7 PM

14 Valentines Day

19 President's Day

26 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.

26 NSAA Start Spring Practices

March

7 End 3rd Quarter

8-11 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

10 Daylight Saving

17 St. Patrick's Day

29-1 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break

Total 3rd Qtr. Student Days = 39

Total 3rd Qtr. Teacher Days = 44

April

15 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.

29 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.

May

11 JCC High School Graduation

16 Last Day for Students - 11 AM Dismissal

End 4th Quarter/2nd Semester

17 Teacher In-Service

Total 4th Qtr. Student Days = 44

Total 4th Qtr. Teacher Days = 47

Total 2nd Sem. Student Days = 83

Total 2nd Sem. Teacher Days = 91

June

2023-2024 TOTAL = 167 Student Days

2023-2024 TOTAL = 185 Teacher Days

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Spring is just around the corner...which means Prom is near! Prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Hartman's Cattle Company. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to take pictures until 8:45 p.m. The dance will be held from 8:45 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. Hors d' oeuvres will be served. Post Prom will take place at the Cook site with many activities and food.

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

A very important date you need to mark on your calendar is Tuesday, March 21, 2023. All juniors in the State of Nebraska will be required to take the ACT test on this date. Our JCC juniors will test at the high school - and around the first week of March, high school counselor Mrs. Reuter, will be mailing out a letter with the agenda for this day to all junior parents. On this day we do have plans for the rest of the high school students – our seniors and freshmen will be going on college visits or career/industry tours, and our sophomores will be taking the Pre-ACT test.



Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS Growth) **Testing Information**

The NSCAS window opens in the spring. Students in grades 3-8 will participate in state assessments between April 3rd and May 12th in the areas of reading, math and science.

NSCAS Growth: Multiple Measures to Help Students Learn

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced “en-skass,” is a statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska’s holistic view of students and helps them prepare for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. It uses multiple measures throughout the year to provide educators and decision makers at all levels with the insights they need to support student learning.

NSCAS Growth is aligned to the NDE State Standards. This school year, JCC students participated in NSCAS Growth testing in the fall and winter and will participate in NSCAS Growth testing this spring. Students in grades 3-8 will participate in NSCAS Growth. The results will provide detailed information about students strengths and areas targeted for growth. Students are assessed in English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics in grades 3-8 and Science in grades 5 & 8. The NSCAS General Summative Assessment measures student performance against Nebraska content area standards, showing how learning compares to expectations. The assessments are computer-adaptive. Staff will be able to use data from prior MAPS assessments and NSCAS Growth to instruct and assist students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

By Rich Bacon

Middle School Students who made the 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester Honor Roll were recognized at a school assembly in February. JCC teachers challenge their students on a daily basis with high expectations and challenging curriculum and Honor Roll students excelled in the classroom during the 1st semester. These students worked hard, turned in assignments, studied for tests, and met each of their individual teachers' classroom expectations. The following students in grades 4-8 received special recognition for earning straight A's for the 1st Quarter, 2nd Quarter, and 1st Semester: 8th Grade – Amelia Britt, Regan Campbell-Thies & Molly Weber; 7th Grade – Reese Badertscher, Leighton Beethe, Cooper Jones, Anthony Orozco, Stefani Peters, Sophia Schmid, Wesley Schmid & Riley Wellensiek; 6th Grade – Damian Andrade, Elliott Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Chance Harre, Hadley Hartman, Lucy Hippen and Heidi Reyes The following students were recognized for modeling citizenship at a high level during the 2nd quarter: 4th Grade: Desiree Anderson, Aubrey Herrera, Mackenzie Sell, Eleanor Burgett, Skylar Dillard, Makenzy Russell; 5th Grade: Kyndall Meints, Bradley Baker, Haley Dixon, Courtney Oltrogge, Gabriel Cabrales, Gia Ly; 6th Grade – Damian Andrade; 7th Grade – Bodhi Klein; 8th Grade – Monica Jimenez. These students have demonstrated positive leadership, work ethic, & manners in dealing with their teachers and peers and have demonstrated the 4 core values of the Thunderbird Way – Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe and Be a leader – in a consistent manner. Congratulations to all students who were recognized at the assembly.

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held in the middle of the quarter this year on February 13th. Thank you to all parents who took time out of their day to attend conferences. Parents who were unable to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences are encouraged to make contact with their child's teachers to get clarification on how their student is doing in all areas of their education, not just grades. This important interaction between teacher and parent can benefit the student immensely.

Congratulations to 6th grader Lucy Hippen for winning the Johnson County Spelling Bee. Lucy earned the right to represent JCC and Johnson County at the next round. Congratulations also go out to JCC spellers who finished in the top three in their grade level on the written portion of the Bee. 8th grade: tie for 2nd-4th place - Nancy Duarte, Molly Weber and Amelia Britt; 7th Grade: 1st. Stefani Peters, 2nd tie-Jesus Hurtado & 2nd tie-Anthony Orozco; 6th Grade: 1st. Heidi Reyes, 2nd. Lucy Hippen & 3rd. Elliott Brommer. 5th Grade: 1st. Jay Barot, 2nd Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen & 3rd. Jack Sterup; 4th Grade: 1st. Damien Hinojosa, 2nd. Ada Goodrich & 3rd. Ian Robeson. Congratulations and great job by all JCC medalists and participants!

Congratulations to the following 6th grade students for being selected to participate in the Meridian Honor Choir: Nevaeh Brown, Reese Carter, Tegan Topp, Amelia Britt, Riley Wellensiek, Monica Jimenez, Stefani Peters, Adree Case, Harley Reyes, Cooper Jones, Wesley Schmid, Jesus Hurtado and Jacob Nixon.

The Junior High Wrestling season got underway with a triangular between JCC, Syracuse, and Ashland-Greenwood on February 21st. Johnson County Central has 9 boys and 5 girls wrestling this year. In addition to the triangular at Ashland, the wrestlers will have meets at Falls City on February 23rd Weeping Water on February 24th, Auburn on March 2nd, Norris on March 4th, Nebraska City on March 9th and finish their season at the ECNC Championships at JCC on March 14th. Good luck to the wrestlers as they finish their season. GO THUNDERBIRDS!

Johnson County Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Lucy Hippen, the Johnson County Spelling Bee Champion! Lucy won the overall spelling competition, correctly spelling the word lustrum. The runner-up was Heidi Reyes, both are sixth grade students at Johnson County Central.

Students from each grade represented Johnson County Central schools in the 22-23 competition. Spellers included:

- 4th grade: Eleanor Burgett, Ada Goodrich, Damien Hinojosa and Ian Robeson.
- 5th grade: Jay Barot, Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen, Jack Sterup and Lydia Bilslend
- 6th grade: James Brommer, Jackson Gottula, Lucy Hippen and Heidi Reyes
- 7th grade: Jesus Hurtado, Anthony Orozoco, Stefani Peters and Wesley Schmid
- 8th grade: Amelia Britt, Jillian Cropp, Nancy Duarte and Molly Weber

Students who placed in the top ten of the round two participants moved on to the oral portion of the Johnson County Spelling Bee held at Sterling Public Schools on Saturday, February 4th. The following students participated in the oral portion of the spelling bee: Grade 8- Amelia Britt, Nancy Duarte and Molly Weber; Grade 7- Jesus Hurtado, Anthony Orozco, Stefani Peters and Wesley Schmid; Grade 6- Lucy Hippen and Heidi Reyes; Grade 5 Jay Barot; Grade 4 Damien Hinojosa.

Lucy Hippen will represent Johnson County at the Regional Spelling Bee at the University of Omaha on March 18th.

The Johnson County Spelling Bee recognizes the three top spellers in each grade level. The following students were recognized as top spellers in their grade level:

- 4th Grade: first place Damien Hinojosa, second place Ada Goodrich and third place Ian Robeson.
- 5th grade: first place Jay Barot, second place Timothy Johns Hinrichsen, third place Jack Sterup.
- 6th Grade: first place Heidi Reyes, second place Lucy Hippen, third place James Brommer.
- 7th grade: first place Stefani Peters, tied for second place Jesus Hurtado and Anthony Orozco.
- 8th grade: first place Joie Janssen (Sterling), tied for second place Amelia Britt, Nancy Duarte and Molly Weber.

Congratulations to our top Johnson County Spellers!

Greetings Thunderbird family!

Winter is almost over! With that comes the end of the winter sports season and the beginning of spring sports.

The boys and girls basketball teams wrapped up their respective seasons the last two weeks in subdistrict play at Freeman. The girls finished their season 6-17 and the boys finished 13-12.

The wrestling team had a successful postseason with sending Levi Boardman, Rita Ceballos, Alejandra Reyes, and Jocelyn Prado to the state meet in Omaha. Although Levi, Rita, and Ale did not medal, they competed hard and represented JCC well. Jocelyn was a first place medalist and JCC's first ever wrestling state champion! Congrats, Jocelyn!!

We will have more winter results and awards in next month's article.

Spring practice is quickly approaching with a start date of Monday, February 27th. Our athletes will have the chance to participate in these opportunities: Boys golf, boys and girls track, and boys and girls soccer (co-op with Nebraska City).

Here is a list of the coaches for these activities:

High School Track - *Angela Huskey, Nick Weber, Reid Genuchi, Justin Damme*

Junior High Track - *Tim Hedger, Cody Franklin, Brad Gabriel*

Boys Golf - *Benjamin Swanson, Russ Waring*

**If you see any of these coaches please thank them for the time they put in with our student-athletes.

Opening dates:

HS Track: March 17th - Indoor invite @ Doane University

JH Track: April 14th - @ Conestoga

Boys Golf: March 27th - @ Auburn Country Club

Go Thunderbirds!

Garrett Collin



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.

March Testing and College Visits

On March 21st, all JCC juniors and students in their third year of high school will take the state mandated ACT test free of charge. Students do not need to sign up on their own for this test, they are already signed up through our school. Student scores can be used for colleges, scholarships, or whatever they need an ACT score for. It's nice to get the opportunity to take the test free of charge instead of having to pay \$63.00 to take it. All sophomores who have not yet taken the ACT, will take the pre-ACT free of charge that same day. This test is a shorter version of the ACT that gives students their predicted ACT range and shows them what to improve on to do better on the ACT, when they take the test. There will be a parent letter coming out on testing that includes more details. While sophomores and juniors are testing, the freshmen, sophomores who have already taken the ACT, and the seniors will be going on college visits or business/industry visits to either Highland Community College, the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum, or various places of business in Beatrice including Rare Earth Salts, NEAPCO, Precise Fabrication, and Landmark Snacks. All students will receive free breakfast that morning. The students on field trips will receive free lunch, and the students testing will have the option of a sack lunch from the kitchen after testing. Students will be released from school after testing is done or after they get back from their field trip.

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



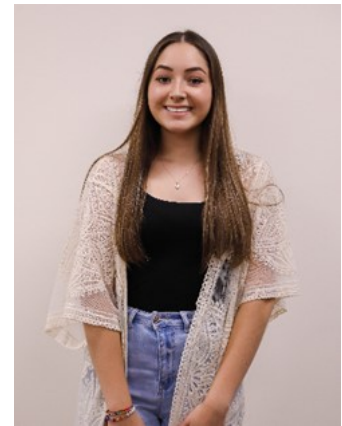
Allie Swanson is the daughter of Ben Swanson and Emily Rinne. During her high school years, Allie has been involved in unified bowling, bowling, track and field, and cheerleading. Her favorite high school class has been P.E. because it is fun and her most challenging class has been American Government because of the difficult worksheets. Outside of school, Allie likes to go shopping with her mom and grandma. As for what she will remember most about high school, Allie says, "hanging out with my friends." Her most inspiring teacher is Mrs. Beard and her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. She's not completely sure what she will do after she is done with high school, but in ten years, she plans to be living and working in the Tecumseh area.



Anzel du Preez is the daughter of Elise and Moaner du Preez. During high school, Anzel has participated in Golf, FBLA, One Act, and National Honor Society. Outside of school, Anzel likes to be outside, play golf, swim, or just drive arounds. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. When asked about her favorite high school class, Anzel said, “Anatomy and Medical Terminology were my favorite classes because Dr. Boone was always challenging me and telling interesting stories from her OBGYN days.” Anzel’s most challenging classes were all classes taught by Dr. Boone because she is so intelligent and made me work my brain. As for her most inspiring teacher, Anzel had this to say, “Mrs. Little

has inspired me the most, she doesn’t talk about falling in love and settling young, she tells us to travel and date lots of boys before we settle. She empowers me and helps me see my worth.” When asked what she will remember most about high school, Anzel says, “Covid was very memorable and changed our lives.” After she graduates, Anzel plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University for their RN (BSN) nursing program. Ten years from now, Anzel hopes to be somewhere that is warm all year-round, helping people, and seeing the world.

Karen Canseco Chavez is the daughter of Oscar Canseco and Martina Chavez of Tecumseh. During her high school years, Karen has been involved in volleyball, soccer, cross country, choir, yearbook, and HOSA. Her favorite class is, “Journalism, because I enjoy making the yearbook.” Her most challenging class is, “Chemistry, because science is just hard.” As for her most inspiring teacher, Karen has this to say, “My most inspiring teacher is Mrs. Little because she’s always positive and always has a smile on her face.” Outside of school, Karen enjoys hanging out with her friends and her family. After graduation, Karen plans to study nursing at either Southeast Community College or Bryan College of Health Sciences. As for what she will remember most about high school, Karen says, “I will remember my friends and the sports I was in the most. In ten years, Karen sees herself as a registered nurse, living in a different city and building a family.



Nehemiah Watson is the son of Candice and Ronald. He lives in Tecumseh and has a sister, Kymah, who is a freshman. Nehemiah moved here from Wisconsin this past summer. Here at JCC, Nehemiah has been involved in Striv. His favorite high school class is American History because the teacher makes jokes and keeps it interesting. English IV has been his most difficult class because each assignment is worth a lot of points. Outside of school, Nehemiah enjoys running simulation type games or watching reviews of games. When thinking about his high school years, Nehemiah says, “I will remember everyone that I’ve met during these years. I got to know a lot of different people with a lot of different personalities. After he graduates, Nehemiah plans to attend Milwaukee Area Technical College for their computer programming, simulation, and gaming

program. In ten years, Nehemiah says, “In ten years, I hope to have graduated from college and I hope to have a family. I will be fine with living anywhere really. I wish to be able to work from home by fixing programs from my home computer.”



Amy Aragon is the daughter of Genero and Guadalupe Aragon of Tecumseh. During her high school years, Amy has been involved in choir, soccer, FFA, and church choir. Her favorite high school classes have been JAG and, and her most challenging classes have been American History and Psychology. The teacher who has inspired her the most is Mrs. Herbert. Amy’s favorite school lunch is chili and cinnamon roll. As of now, Amy is not sure which college or university she will attend, but she knows she wants to attend a college or university. As for what she will remember the most about high school, Amy says, “the people I have met

throughout the years.” In ten years, Amy says, “I will live somewhere other than Tecumseh. I will have graduated college and I hope to have a family and a career.”



Jacob Graham is the son of Jeremy and Lynsey Graham of Tecumseh. He has been in choir all four years of high school. His favorite classes in school have been all of his shop classes because everything they do is hands-on. His most challenging class in high school was finite/trigonometry. As for a favorite school lunch, Jacob’s is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Jacob likes to play the video game, Apex. The teacher who has inspired Jacob the most is Mr. Hedger because he’s a great teacher and a nice guy who pushes you to do your best. As for what he will remember the most about high school, Jacob says, “wanting to graduate.” After he graduates, he plans to work at Magnolia Metal in Auburn. In ten years, Jacobs says, “I will not be living here. I will be somewhere doing whatever I want.”

MacKinze Gordon is the daughter of Brian and Nikki Gordon. She lives on a farm north of Elk Creek. During high school, Kinze has been involved in volleyball, cheerleading, and FFA. She was also a student manager for basketball. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Her favorite high school classes have been those taught by Mrs. Hodges because she makes every class interesting and fun. Her most challenging class was finite/trigonometry because there were a lot of steps and it was confusing at times. When asked about a teacher who inspired her the most, Kinze said, “Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Little and Coach Collin because they all give me some of the best advice and push me to be better.” Outside of school Kinze likes to ride her horse, hang out with her friends and family, play with her dog, and spend as much time outdoors as she can. After she graduates high school, Kinze will continue her education through Penn Foster online college. When asked what she will remember most about high school, Kinze says, “I will remember all of the fun times that were had during volleyball, FFA, and basketball” In ten years, Kinze sees herself living around the Tecumseh area, married and starting a family, and hopefully working at the Tecumseh Animal Clinic.



Springtime in the Band Department

Welcome to Spring! Springing into the weather season but also the season of contests, concerts, and honor bands. We have several students that have auditioned and made it into various honor bands for this semester. Even as I write this today (February 9th), Rita Ceballos, senior clarinet player, will be attending the Wesleyan Honor Festival of Winds in Lincoln NE. We will travel to Lincoln, rehearse this evening, all day tomorrow, Saturday morning, and evening with an afternoon performance.

On March 16th, the MS students will be performing a concert at the MS in preparation for their contests. The 6-8 Band contest is scheduled for the next day, March 17th in Humboldt, NE. Several students will also be performing in small ensembles and solos. Then, on the 18th, five students will be rehearsing and performing at Class C Allstate Honor Band in Kearney, NE. These students are: Rita Ceballos (12th, clarinet), Maya Straka (11th, trumpet), Ashley Beethe (9th, alto saxophone), Jessa Adams (7th, mallets), and Jesus Hurtado (7th, mallets).

The HS students will then be performing a contest concert in Tecumseh on Monday, March 20th in preparation for their first contest at HTRS on March 23rd. Again, several students will be performing in small ensembles and solos as well.

Meridian Honor Band and Choir will be rehearsing and performing on Friday, March 31st. Band students are that participating are: Mario Lara (8th, flute), Riley Wellensiek (7th, alto saxophone), Kael Fricke (7th, percussion). Lastly, we have a final HS contest, District Music Contest, on April 20th at JCC HS.

Our Spring concerts will be held in May. Please look for these dates below. As always, thank you for supporting your child's music education!

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
	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	14	Friday	MS Vocal Music Contest TBA
	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

Attention Parent(s) of students who receive services through the Special Education Department

The special education department has sent out parent survey letters to each family, whose child(ren) receives services through the resource, Horizon, or speech program. Johnson County Central's Parent Survey is the data collection for the SPP Part B Indicator 8 – Parent Involvement. This data is collected from Nebraska school districts and shared with the Nebraska Department of Education. All responses are CONFIDENTIAL and demographic information collected is not for identification purposes.

All parent survey results must be submitted to NDE by March 31, 2023. Note that there is also a Spanish translation of the survey, which can be accessed by clicking on the dropdown menu on the top right corner of the survey screen.

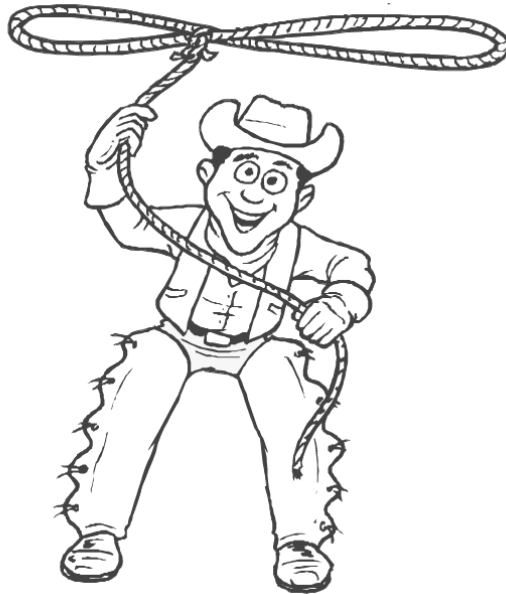
******IF you did not receive an email with the survey link, please contact your child(ren)'s special education teacher.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Johnson County Central Special Education Department



Kindergarten Round-Up



WHEN: Friday, April 28, 2023
9:00-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Johnson County Central Elementary Building in Tecumseh.

WHO: Children residing in the Johnson County Central school district who are, or will be, age 5 on or before July 31, 2023.

Individual letters will be sent in April to the parents of all Kindergarten ready students residing in Johnson County Central's school district. If you do not receive a letter, please call the school and let us know that you will be attending the 2023 Kindergarten Round-Up.

If applying for early registration (child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 15), JCC must have received your written request by March 10, 2023.

JCC Preschool Enrollment for the 2023-24 School Year Opened 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 web-site: 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 Began
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**

Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten News

The 12 students in Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten Class have been very busy in the beginning of the 2023 school year. We celebrated the 100th day of school on February 2nd, 2023. The students decorated a cape that they wore with 100 items of anything they chose. The children also counted and wrote their numbers to 100. We went on a scavenger hunt in our classroom to find 100 chocolate kisses with the numbers on them. We collected them all!



(Not pictured: Beau Lada)



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT
Arts + Humanities
LIVELIHOOD



First Grade News!!!

With the support of the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment organizations, and The Kimmel Charitable Foundation, we are excited to tell you that we received a Southeast NE School Bus for the Arts Grant to support our visit to The Rose Theater in Omaha, Nebraska, on Friday, March 24, 2023. We will be watching the performance of *The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. This is a book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith. It is a book that takes fairy tale classics and "turns them on their heads". We will be practicing our active listening skills and theater etiquette as we observe the elements of the theater - posture, movement, facial expressions, gestures, vocals, costumes and makeup, props and scenery. This is a fabulous opportunity for our students to see a book that they've heard in the classroom come alive with the performance of this story.

The Nebraska Arts Council Executive Director Suzanne Wise commented, "The Rose Theatre contributes a great deal to the advancement of the arts in Omaha, Nebraska. We commend the work being done by organizations such as The Rose Theatre because the arts are important to the education and quality of life for all Nebraskans."

We are thrilled with this opportunity to attend this performance. We are so thankful to the Nebraska Arts Council. It is a state agency that provides numerous grants, services and special initiatives that help sustain and promote the arts throughout Nebraska. The Nebraska Arts Council is supported by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Legislature, and National Endowment for the Arts. If you'd like to learn more about the Nebraska Arts Council you can visit: artsCouncil.nebraska.gov.

Bus Drivers Wanted!



JCC is seeking route, shuttle and activity drivers for the current school year and upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

\$33 per route

\$30 per shuttle

\$20.00 per hour for activities

Contact Mr. Rother or Laurie Badertscher if interested.

402-335-3320

Johnson County Central is an equal-opportunity employer.

March 2023 Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"	1 Hot Ham & Cheese/ug bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Br Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 Cheese Sticks /Marinara Sauce Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4
5	6 Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Corn Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7 Creamed Chicken/ Biscuit Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Totcho's Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Chicken Nuggets Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Bread Stick Milk	10 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	11
12	13 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	14 Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 BBQ Riblet / ug bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Walking Taco Black Bean Corn Salsa B&B Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Breakfast for Lunch Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
19	20 Chicken Fajita Wrap L&T Corn Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21 Beef Fingers Mashed Potato Casserole Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Meat Ball Sub Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Hot Dog ug Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Fish Sticks Potato B&B Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25
26	27 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-service	28 Chefs Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Chicken Patty/ ug Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	30 Goulash Green Beans Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	31 Cheese Pizza Hot Veggie Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
5	6 JH/JV ECNC Quiz Bowl @ Elmwood-Murdock—9:00 am 8th Grade ESU 4 Leadership Academy @ Auburn—9:00 am <u>Special JCC School Board Meeting, JCC HS Room 204—5:00 pm</u>	7 30th Annual Freshmore Clinic @ JCC Tecumseh—9:00 am Freshmore Clinic Concert @ JCC Elem Auditorium—6:30 p.m.	8 JCC School Board Meeting @ JCC HS Computer Lab—6:00 pm	2 V Girls BB State Tourney—TBD JCC HS Quiz Bowl @ JCC HS - 4:00 pm JH Wrestling Tourney @ Auburn 4:30 pm	3 V Girls BB State Tourney—TBD 6-8 Grade Middle School Dance—6:30 pm	4 V Girls BB State Tourney—TBD HS District Speech Meet @ Conestoga—8:30 am JH Wrestling Invite @ Norris HS—9:00 am	
12	13 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK HOSA State Leadership Conference @ UNO March 12, 13 & 14	14 JH Wrestling ECNC Invite @ JCC, Cook Site—4:00 pm 6th Grade Quiz Bowl @ Freeman—4:00 pm	15	16 6-8 Middle School Contest Concert @ JCC MS, Cook Site—6:30 pm	17 6-8 MS Band Contest @ HTRS - 8:00 a.m. V Indoor Track Meet @ Doane University—10:00 am	18 Class C All State Band @ Kearney	
19	20 HS Contest Concert @ JCC HS & Elem Aud.—6:30 pm	21 ECNC Art Clinic @ Auburn Jr. ACT & Sophomore Pre-ACT Testing @ JCC HS—8:15 am Freshmen & Senior College/Career Field Trips—8:15 am JCC HS Cheer Tryouts	22 JAG/SNCAP College Campus Tour @ SCC Beatrice—9:30 am	23 HS Mudecas Music Contest @ HTRS	24 1st Grade Field Trip to The Rose Theater, Omaha—8:00 am JH ESU 4 Quiz Bowl @ Peru State College 1:00 pm JCC HS Cheer Tryouts for '23/'24 Cheer Squad—6:30 p.m.	25	
26	27 NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE V Boys Golf Invite @ Auburn CC—9:00 am HS ESU 4 Quiz Bowl @ JCC HS—1:00 pm	28 V Track Invite @ Auburn HS—2:30 pm	29 HS Mudecas Quiz Bowl @ Johnson Brock	30 HS/JAG/SNCAP Careers in Healthcare Tour @ SCC, Lincoln—9:30 am	31 MS Meridian Honor Band/Choir @ Daykin—9:30 am		
						State FFA Convention @ Lincoln—March 29, 30 & 31	

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

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

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

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

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Non-Discrimination

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

Child find

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

*Thursday, March 9th
End of 3rd Quarter*

**NO SCHOOL FOR
STUDENTS**

MARCH

10 & 13 SPRING BREAK

27 Teacher In-Service

