



Superintendent Monthly Update

by **Jon Rother**. February 2025



Welcome Aboard!

(And, roles and responsibilities of the school board.)

The January 8, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting marked the beginning of tenure for JCC's newest board members. Sarah Weber, Jon Schmid and Dan Jones were sworn in for their four year term of service.



Dr. Sarah Weber

(sarah.weber@jccentral.org)



Mr. Jon Schmid

(jon.schmid@jccentral.org)



Mr. Dan Jones

(dan.jones@jccentral.org)

Also, with new members added to the board of education, reorganization of the board was conducted at the January meeting.

Offices:

President - Kim Wellensiek (kim.wellensiek@jccentral.org)

Vice President - Justin Beethe (justin.beethe@jccentral.org)

Treasurer - Gail Hutt (gail.hutt@jccentral.org)

Committees:

Americanism - Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid, Kim Wellensiek

Budget Review - Gail Hutt, Dan Jones, Sarah Weber

Building & Grounds - Justin Beethe, Dan Jones, Jon Schmid

Negotiations - Justin Beethe, Sarah Weber, Kim Wellensiek

Policy Review - Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid, Sarah Weber

Transportation - Justin Beethe, Dan Jones, Kim Wellensiek

JCC School Board Policy #2001 defines the role of the board of education as follows:

"The board's primary duties are: (1) to establish a mission, goals, and policies; (2) to establish and maintain school facilities; (3) to select a superintendent; (4) to adopt a fiscally responsible budget; and (5) to evaluate programs."

Your school board members are here to listen to you concerning all the matters that their position is entrusted to. However, please remember that the board does not evaluate teachers, principals, coaches or other staff members and the board does not respond to individual student issues. Those must first be addressed at the classroom or building level. Should you have any questions about who to bring your concerns to, please feel free to contact myself (jon.rother@jccentral.org) or Mrs. Kim Wellensiek, JCC School Board President.

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

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ISSUE 6

Jon Rother
Superintendent
Elementary Principal
402-335-3320

Rick Lester
High School Principal
402-335-3328

Rich Bacon
Middle School Principal
402-864-4171

AQuESTT - GREAT!

Based on the spring of 2024 state assessment data, the Johnson County Central school district earned a “**Great**” rating!

Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) is Nebraska’s “accountability system that supports and rewards continuous improvement for every student, school, and educator.” Using student test scores from the NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) and ACT, the Nebraska Department of Education gives each school, and each school district, a designation. NSCAS is administered to students in grades 3-8 in the areas of English-Language Arts and Math. NSCAS Science is administered only to grades 5 and 8. The ACT Language Arts, Math and Science is administered to students in 11th grade.

Once test scores are collected, the State then uses these scores to determine each school’s status. This is done on a point scale of 1 to 4 with 4 being the highest score.

After this, they use the following tenets to adjust the score:

- Participation (percent of eligible students participating in the assessments)
- Positive Partnerships, Relationships and Success
- Transitions
- Educational Opportunities and Access
- Postsecondary, Career and Civic Ready
- Student Achievement and Growth
- Educator Effectiveness

Once adjustments are made using the seven tenets, the scores are then transferred to a classification based on the final number.

- 4 = EXCELLENT
- 3 = GREAT
- 2 = Good
- 1 = Needs Support To Improve

JCC’s district and schools’ AQuESTT classifications are determined by the assessments the students took in the spring of 2024. The following shows JCC’s student population from 2023-2024, past designations and past proficiency scores:

JCC 23-24 Student Membership: 521 students
JCC 23-24 Demographics vs State Average:

F/R Lunch	53.93%	(51.80%)
SPED	25.68%	(16.77%)
English Learners	5.01%	(9.15%)
Highly Mobile	6.38%	(4.14%)
Chronic Absenteeism	23.45%	(21.19%)

AQuESTT Designations & Assessment Proficiencies

Year	AQuESTT Designation	NSCAS Math % Proficient	State Average	NSCAS ELA % Proficient	State Average	NSCAS Science % Proficient	State Average	ACT Math % Proficient	State Average	ACT ELA % Proficient	State Average	ACT Science % Proficient	State Average
2017-2018	Good	43%	51%	50%	51%	74%	68%	70%	50%	65%	50%	73%	54%
2018-2019	Good	45%	52%	49%	52%	80%	66%	36%	52%	33%	51%	42%	53%
2019-2020	NO DATA (COVID)												
2020-2021	Good	49%	46%	49%	48%	NO DATA		30%	44%	39%	46%	48%	50%
2021-2022	Good	54%	46%	51%	47%	69%	66%	39%	44%	42%	46%	42%	48%
2022-2023	Excellent	64%	61%	64%	58%	75%	70%	54%	42%	46%	46%	42%	49%
2023-2024	Great	64%	58%	60%	59%	82%	74%	35%	42%	62%	45%	44%	49%

If you have further questions about the AQuESTT classification system, or would like more detailed information about JCC’s classification, please feel free to contact me directly (jon.rother@jccentral.org). Or, go to <https://aquestt.com/> to read all about AQuESTT.

What’s a QCPUF?

Johnson County Central currently levies 3¢ (or approximately \$273,000) through the QCPUF. Here is the definition as provided by The Nebraska Department of Education, Rule 2, Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts:

A Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF) may be established for the removal of environmental hazards, the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers in school district buildings, the repayment of a qualified zone academy bond issued for a qualified capital purpose, modifications for life safety code violations, life safety hazards, and mold abatement and prevention projects for existing facilities only.

A 2023 School Board Building Committee review of the facilities identified the following as priorities for the existing buildings:

Tecumseh Site Elementary

- Exterior/Interior Doors and Entries
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Water Lines
- LED Lighting
- Fire Sprinkler System

High School

- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Concrete Walkway Replacement & Repair
- Secure Entries
- Fire Sprinkler System

Cook Site Middle School/Elementary

- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Kitchen Remodel
- Roof Repair/Replacement
- LED Lighting

As these issues have been identified, and would qualify under QCPUF, funds from this account can now be used to address them.

The Johnson County/Foodbank of Lincoln Backpack Program

Currently, JCC distributes 63 food “backpacks” to families in the district as part of the Foodbank of Lincoln’s Backpack Program. The backpacks come at a cost of \$275 per student for the school year. In order to maintain providing this resource to food insecure students, fundraising efforts must be done.

The Foodbank of Lincoln is currently seeking a local individual/individuals to coordinate fundraising efforts in Johnson County. If you, or someone you know, is interested in taking on this responsibility, please contact:

Mr. John Mabry
Foodbank of Lincoln Chief Relationship Officer
jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org
402.819.6861



As part of Johnson County Central’s commitment to students’ safety and mental health, beginning in November 2024 we are launching an anonymous reporting program, which will allow students and parents to make anonymous reports about concerns of safety or student wellness. Our program is student-focused, as opposed to crime-focused, meaning it is a tool for alerting caring adults about students who need help—not snitching. This is part of our continuous effort to increase campus and student safety, and provide students with a safe, completely anonymous outlet to share concerns. Students can use our new Safe2HelpNE app to report: bullying, suicide concerns, depression, sexting, stealing, threats, cutting, abuse, dating and domestic violence, fights, drugs, alcohol, weapons or other types of dangerous situations that threaten their safety or the safety of others. Their reports will be addressed by a trained school threat assessment team.

When you or your student have a concern, you can go to www.safe2helpne.org on your computer, tablet, or laptop-- or you can download the free Safe2HelpNE mobile app-- and make a 100% anonymous report in less than five minutes.

The use of anonymous reporting apps in state programs like Safe2Tell Colorado have proven to be successful in providing the tools and information needed for school officials and to proactively address concerning behaviors, potential incidents of violence, and other harmful situations on campus before they develop. We look forward to working with you and your student to continue making Johnson County Central a safe school.

Congratulations to JCC's K-3 November Thunderbirds of the Month!



K - MaKayla Sell, Cassidy Russell,
Max Georges, Amelia Grimes, Wyatt Bruley,
Leah Barnes

2nd - Aidaly Merlin Lara, Wren Bischoff,
Leeland Bailey, Victoria Chavez Acosta,
Renzo Maldonado, Penny Barnes,
Not pictured: Ki'Lee Rose, Kenrick Reyes



1st - Christopher Duarte Chavez,
Caleb Griess, Henry Rolf,
Izzabella Brown, Blakely Kuhl,
Stella Clifton, Jesse Lada, Luna Herrle,
Gus King, Brock Schultz



3rd - Karter Shullaw, William Jensen,
Isabell Gerking, Charlie Brandt,
Naomi Andrade, Dawson Beethe,
Georgia Russell, Jayden Dixon,
Calum Dickson



***Thank you Tecumseh Pizza Hut and Tecumseh Dairy Queen for supplying gift coupons for our Thunderbirds!**

PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident

PowerSchool recently experienced a data breach that impacted the staff and families of Johnson County Central Public Schools.

JCC will be sending letters to all district families (this may include families who no longer have students enrolled at JCC).

For more information, please visit: <https://www.powerschool.com/security/sis-incident/>

Identity Protection and Credit Monitoring Services:

PowerSchool has announced that they have engaged Experian, a trusted credit reporting agency, to offer complimentary identity protection and credit monitoring services to all students and educators whose information from our PowerSchool SIS was involved. This offer is being provided regardless of whether an individual's Social Security number was exfiltrated.

Identity Protection: PowerSchool will be offering two years of complimentary identity protection services for all students and educators whose information was involved.

Credit Monitoring: PowerSchool will also be offering two years of complimentary credit monitoring services for all adult students and educators whose information was involved.

Notifications: Starting in the next few weeks, PowerSchool will be handling notifications to involved individuals. PowerSchool will coordinate with Experian to provide notice to students (or their parents / guardians if the student is under 18) and educators, as applicable, whose information was involved, as well as a call center to answer questions from the community. The notice will include the identity protection and credit monitoring services offer (as applicable)

Protecting our students is something we take seriously. Thank you for your patience and understanding. If there are any important updates, we will notify you.

Jon Rother, Superintendent
jon.rother@jccentral.org 402-335-3320

Kindergarten Round-Up



WHEN: Monday, April 14, 2025
9:00-11:00 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, 2025.

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 2025 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 13, 2025.

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 2025-2026 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 parents must also 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 5, 2025. They will be due back to the office on Thursday, March 13, 2025. 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, we 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 2025-2026 school year to change their class schedule.

I encourage all parents to work with your students to help them plan their 2025-2026 class schedule - your input and encouragement is essential.



NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR Mrs. Olivia Reuter

Johnson County Central Foundation Scholarship Applications- Due March 21st

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 21st.

Education Quest: Help with College Planning, Financial Aid, and the FAFSA

The best way to stay informed of the latest developments with college planning, financial aid, and the FAFSA is to sign up for EducationQuest's FREE Countdown2College newsletter (located at the bottom of EducationQuest's home page) and follow EducationQuest on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Our college planning experts are also ready to provide personal assistance. Contact EducationQuest offices in Lincoln (402-475-5222) or Omaha (402-391-4033) with any questions you have that you can't find answers to. You can also schedule a virtual appointment with an EducationQuest representative by going to <https://app.10to8.com/book/educationquest/> and scheduling a date and time.

Nebraska's New Universal FAFSA Requirement- All Seniors in the Class of 2025 Must Fill Out the FAFSA

Nebraska law now requires all public high school students to complete and submit a FAFSA (or actively opt-out) as a graduation requirement starting with the graduating class of 2025. This type of requirement is also referred to as a Universal FAFSA requirement. FAFSA became a graduation requirement with the passage of revised statute 79-729 in 2023. This legislation applies to seniors who will graduate in 2025 and beyond.

The Nebraska legislature determined that the FAFSA is an excellent opportunity to learn of financial aid they may receive, to encourage postsecondary education, and to make more informed college-going decisions. There are many resources to complete the FAFSA. If students need help, they can definitely ask Mrs. Reuter. Filling out the FAFSA does not mean that students must make the ultimate decision of going to college. The FAFSA just allows them to see what financial resources are available to them if they decide to go to college.

If students and their parents decide that filling out the FAFSA is not right for them, for any reason, there is a waiver form available in both English and Spanish. Students who do not fill out the FAFSA must complete a waiver form with their parents and turn it into Mrs. Reuter by May 1st.

Meet JCC's Class of 2025

In each newsletter, I'll be featuring a few of our JCC seniors. This month, I'm featuring Tucker, Kaden, and Logan.

Tucker Thomas

Tucker Thomas is the son of Travis and Mikaela Thomas of rural Cook. He has a brother named Prestin who is 15 and a sister named Kenna who is 13. While in high school, Tucker's main extra-curricular activity has been wrestling. When asked what his favorite class in school is, Tucker said that he doesn't have a favorite class. His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Tucker likes to ride his four-wheeler. His favorite movies are any Fast and Furious or Adam Sandler movie. After he graduates from high school, Tucker plans to attend SCC-Milford for their diesel mechanic program.



Kaden Sosa



Kaden Sosa is the son of Kaylee Sosa and Ray Duran of Tecumseh. He has three siblings, Kaleb (18), Koley (15), and Klarie (12). He moved here from Vermillion, South Dakota before this school year. His main school activity at JCC is JAG. His favorite high school class is American Government and his most challenging class is Chemistry because it has math equations. His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Kaden likes to go out with friends. His favorite music is everything from Queen and Radiohead. Kaden's future plans include attending a trade school while working in the military, hopefully the Marines. Eventually, he wants to become a plumber.

Logan Topp

Logan Michael Topp is the son of Jake and Michelle Topp of Tecumseh. He has one sister, Tegan, who is 14. Logan's school activities include cross country, wrestling, and track and field. His favorite class in school is strength training. His most challenging class was Biology because he just never could get an A. His favorite school lunch is biscuits and gravy. Outside of school, he likes to play disc golf with friends. As for music, he likes a wide variety of music. His favorite movie series is the Maze Runner and his favorite book series are the Percy Jackson books. After high school, Logan plans to attend Kansas Wesleyan, Doane, Nebraska Wesleyan, or Wayne State. He wants to study in a Pre-Physician Assistant program and eventually become a physician assistant. In ten years, Logan predicts, "I will be working as a physician's assistant in a rural area. I will be married and might have a baby by that time."



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

By Rich Bacon

2nd quarter/1st semester report cards were handed out to students the week of January 20. 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 – Jackson Gottula; 7th Grade – Edith Blomstedt, Lila Britt, Jay Chaudhari, Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen & Brynn Weber; 6th Grade – Jude Fricke, Ada Goodrich, Presley Juilfs & Ian Robeson; 5th Grade – Rylin Campbell-Thies, Alivia Gottula & Evelyn Little; 4th Grade – Ethan Barnes, Lily Bilslend, Reagan Bischoff, Brylee Cropp, Jacob Griess, Emma McCoppin, Bristol Meints, Baylee Shirley, Henry Smith & Beau Winslow. Congratulations to these students for their hard work!

On a related note, second semester Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Monday, February 17th from 11:00 to 7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher Conference is an ideal time for parents and teachers to have detailed conversations about a 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 provide 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 17th.

Congratulations to the following students who earned the right to represent JCC at the Johnson County Spelling Contest. Eighth Grade: Xavier Arguello, Bentley Campbell, Jackson Gottula & Heidi Reyes; 7th Grade: Lila Britt, Jay Chaudhari, Naomie Henry & Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen; Sixth Grade: Ada Goodrich, Damien Hinojosa, Slayden Newman & Mackenzie Sell; 5th Grade: Hazel Arguello, Selena Cabrales, Nathaly Hurtado-Arellano & Evelyn Little and 4th grade: Ethan Barnes, Lily Bilslend, Nenne Ofoegbu & Hank Smith.

Special Congratulations for the Thunderbirds who qualified for the oral portion of the Spelling Bee to be held at Sterling High School on Saturday, January 25: Jay Chaudhari, Selena Cabrales, Ada Goodrich, Heidi Reyes, Jackson Gottula, Damien Hinojosa, Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen, and Naomie Henry. Good Job and Good Luck Thunderbirds!

Congratulations to the following JCC 7th-9th grade students who were selected for the Singing Youth of Nebraska Honor Choir in Fremont: Janel Leyva, Heidi Reyes, Kaitlyn Clements, Haley Dixon, Sophie Kirkland, Damian Andrade, Reese Carter, Adree Case, Jesus Hurtado, Kene Ofoegbu, Wes Schmid, and Tegan Topp. They performed on Saturday, January 18 in a choir of around 120 members that were chosen through an audition process.

The Junior High Boys' Basketball teams finished their season before the semester break in December. The A-team finished with a 5-6 record, the B-team finished with a 3-7 record and the C-team was 0-4. The B-Team finished 2nd at the Palmyra Fun Day Tournament. The A-team finished 1-1 at the 3-team round robin Palmyra Fun Day Tournament. Congratulations to the boys on a competitive season and for the growth they showed throughout the season.

The Johnson County Central boys 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!***

**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
Second Quarter 2024-2025**

6th Grade

Isaac Buchanan
Jude Fricke (All A's)
Ada Goodrich (All A's)
Presley Juilfs (All A's)
Kelly Kongmanyvong
Teegan Longsine
Ian Robeson (All A's)
Elena Rojas Stitzel

7th Grade

Edith Blomstedt (All A's)
Lila Britt (All A's)
Jay Chaudhari (All A's)
Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen (All A's)
Sophie Kirkland
McKenna Lade
Angel Lara Rojas (All A's)
Kyndall Meints
Courtney Oltrogge
Emma Othmer
Brynn Weber (All A's)

8th Grade

Jorge Andrade
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Hadley Hartman
Marley Jensen
Diego Martinez
Reese McDonald
Maria Pinedo Peña
Heidi Reyes
Kenna Thomas
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

**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
First Semester 2024-2025**

6th Grade

Isaac Buchanan
Brock Carter
Jude Fricke (All A's)
Ada Goodrich (All A's)
Preston Hartman
Damian Hinojosa
Presley Juilfs (All A's)
Kelly Kongmanyvong (All A's)
Teegan Longsine
Slayden Newman
Lucy Rademacher
Ian Robeson (All A's)
Elena Rojas Stitzel
Mackenzie Sell
Tanner Tex-Sherman



7th Grade

Jamison Bacon
Lilyana Birdwell
Edith Blomstedt (All A's)
Lila Britt (All A's)
Jay Chaudhari (All A's)
Kaitlyn Clements
Hudson Harrifeld
Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen (All A's)
Sophie Kirkland
Angel Lara Rojas
Kyndall Meints
Kloie Neemann
Courtney Oltrogge
Emma Othmer
Emry Pollard
Brynn Weber (All A's)

8th Grade

Jorge Andrade
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Hadley Hartman
Marley Jensen
Diego Martinez
Reese McDonald
Maria Pinedo Peña
Heidi Reyes
Kenna Thomas (All A's)
TyLynn Wellensiek
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**

JCC Preschool Enrollment for the 2025-26 School Year Opens February 1, 2025

Dear Family,

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. The purpose of the Johnson County Central Preschool Program is to promote the social, emotional, intellectual, language, physical, and aesthetic development and learning for the children served and to promote family development and support. The preschool schedule encompasses discovery through active involvement. Activities, materials, and equipment reflect and respect the diversity of race and multiculturalism and the physical and mental abilities of all children. It is preferred that your child be fully toilet trained before entering the program.

The program will be available to children of the following ages:

- Children who are 3 years of age on or before July 31 of the enrollment year;
- Children who are 4 years of age (on or before July 31 of the enrollment year) at the start of the enrollment year; and
- Children who are 5 years of age at the start of the enrollment year, so long as they do not turn 6 years of age prior to January 1 of that year (subject to the participation limitation below).

All enrollment is subject to capacity limitations and established enrollment priorities. Three-year-old children will only be offered half-day attendance. Four-year-old children will be offered full-day or half-day attendance. The full-day option will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Five-Year-Old Participation - Participation of 5-year-old students who will not turn 6 prior to January 1 of the enrollment year will be further limited to those students who have met the score criteria per district policy on the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III (3-5 years).

All preschool programming will be housed at the Tecumseh site. Transportation will be provided to and from licensed child care providers at no cost. Shuttle services will run between the Tecumseh site and the Cook site. There is no tuition fee for preschool. However, breakfast and/or lunch fees will be charged when applicable.

If interested in the preschool program, please complete the electronic application which will be available beginning February 1, 2025 on the school website: www.jccentral.org. If you have any questions, would like to schedule a classroom visit, or would prefer a paper application, 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.

Choir Department

School is back and now is the time our students are starting to learn music for many different choral activities. We have several students in both High School and Middle School that are preparing music for solos and small groups to be performed at our contests this year. Along with that, our choirs are in full swing working on full group pieces for the contest. Listed below are the students that have been accepted into the various honor choirs this season.

Singing Youth Of Nebraska - Saturday, January 18th at Fremont High School
 Sopranos - Reese Carter (9), Tegan Topp (9), Heidi Reyes (8), Haley Dixon (7)
 Altos - Adree Case (9), Janel Leyva (8), Kaitlyn Clements (7), Sophie Kirkland (7)
 Baritones - Jesus Hurtado (9), Kene Ofoegbu (9), Wes Schmid (9), Damian Andrade (8)

University of Nebraska Kearney Honor Choir - Monday, January 27th at UNK
 Sopranos - Amelia Britt (10)
 Altos - Marisol Mandl (11), Monica Jimenez (11)
 Bass - Harrison Bacon (10), Jon DeFreece (10), Collins Ofoegbu (12), Aiden Strecker (11)

Wesleyan Honor Choir - Friday, February 7th, at Wesleyan University
 Altos - Monica Jimenez (10), Marisol Mandl (11)

We also have around 30 students in grades 7 and 8 that auditioned for Meridian Honor Choir that takes place in March. We won't find out about those auditions for a few weeks.

Please take a look below and view our upcoming music calendar.

January	18	Saturday	Singing Youth of Nebraska - Fremont (7th-9th)
	21	Tuesday	PB - BB vs. Weeping Water
	23	Thursday	PB - BB vs. HTRS
	30	Thursday	PB - BB vs. Fairbury
	27	Monday	UNK Honor Choir - Kearney (10th-12th)
February	6-7	Thurs-Fri	Wesleyan Honor Choir (9th-12th) - Lincoln
	13-15	Thurs-Sat	Wesleyan Honor Band (9th-12th) - Lincoln
	13	Thursday	PB - BB vs. College View Academy
	21	Friday	PB - BB vs. Auburn (Boys)
March	4	Tuesday	30th Annual Freshmore Clinic - Tecumseh
**New Date	20	Thursday	MS Contest Concert - Cook @ 6:30 pm
	21	Friday	MS Contest - Humboldt
	29	Saturday	Class C Allstate Band - Kearney
	31	Monday	MUDECAS Music Contest - Pawnee City
April	4	Friday	Meridian MS Honor Choir and Band (7th/8th) - Daykin
	24	Thursday	HS Contest Concert @ 7:00pm - Aud and HS Gym
	25	Friday	HS District Music Contest - Tecumseh
May	Apr 30, May 2	Wed & Fri	Spring Play - Wed @ 2:00, Fri @ 7:00
	4	Sun	Musical - Sun @ 2:00
	8	Thurs	HS Spring Concert and Art Show @ 7:00 pm - Auditorium
	10	Saturday	HS Band at Graduation
	12	Monday	ECNC Honor Band - Elmwood Murdock
	14	Wednesday	Band Recruitment Day
	19	Monday	4-8 Spring Concert - Cook @ 7:00pm
	20	Tuesday	K-3 Spring Program - HS GYM @ 7:00 pm



Title 1 Book Bingo

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025

6:30 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.)

Greetings Thunderbirds 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 and bowling teams prepare for districts and state.

This last week the basketball teams finished up at the 96th MUDECAS tournament in Beatrice. The boys went 1-2 with a win against Southern and losses to Freeman and Exeter-Milligan-Friend. The girls went 1-1 with a loss against Freeman and a win against Exeter-Milligan-Friend. Wes Swanson, Keegan Jones, and Harley Lubben were the individuals that were named to the A Division Honorable Mention All Tournament teams.

Bowling

February 3rd: Districts at Sun Valley Lanes in Lincoln

February 10th & 11th: State at Sun Valley Lanes

Wrestling

February 8th: Girls Districts at Prichard Auditorium in Falls City

February 14th & 15th: Boys Districts at Tekamah-Herman

February 18th & 19th: Girls State at CHI Health Center Arena-Omaha

February 20th, 21st, & 22nd: Boys State at CHI Health Center Arena-Omaha

Basketball

February 3rd-8th: ECNC Conference Tournament

*High seeds will host with the final round being played at Palmyra.

February 17th, 18th, & 20th: Girls Sub District Tournament

*Sites are TBA

February 24th, 25th, & 27th: Boys Sub District Tournament

*Sites are TBA

Speech

February 1st: MUDECAS at HTRS

February 26th: ECNC at Elmwood-Murdock

Here are some final fall season awards

Volleyball

Ashley Beethe: *MUDECAS All-Tournament Team HM, KMALand Nebraska POTY and First Team, ECNC All-Conference First Team, NCPA Academic All-State, LJS/OWH All-State HM*

Harley Lubben: *MUDECAS All-Tournament Team HM, ECNC All-Conference Second Team, KMALand Nebraska HM, LJS/OWH All-State HM*

Riley Wellensiek: *ECNC All-Conference Second Team, KMALand HM, LJS/OWH All-State HM*

Molly Weber: *ECNC All-Conference Third Team, LJS/OWH All-State HM*

Sophia Schmid: *ECNC All-Conference HM*

Kali Drake: *NCPA Academic All-State*

Cross Country

Logan Topp: *ECNC 8th Place, Districts 12th Place, Class C State Qualifier, NCPA Academic All-State*

Madison VanLaningham: *ECNC 4th Place, ECNC All-Conference, Districts 6th Place, Class C State Qualifier, All-KMAland Nebraska XC Team Selection*

Trevin Huskey: *ECNC 9th Place, NCPA Academic All-State*

Dalton Henderson: *ECNC 12th Place*

Catherine Wendt: *NCPA Academic All-State*

Adree Case: *NCPA Academic All-State*

Girls Golf

Amelia Britt: *NCPA Academic All-State*

Football

Keegan Jones: *First Team Offense and Defense All-District & ECNC, LJS/OWH All-State HM, NCPA Academic All-State*

Cedric Ofoegbu: *First Team Offense All-District & ECNC, LJS/OWH All-State HM*

Jersey Graham: *First Team Offense All-District & ECNC, LJS/OWH All-State HM*

Jackson Haughton: *Second Team Offense All-District & ECNC Honorable Mention*

Gabe Burki: *Second Team Offense All-District & ECNC Honorable Mention, LJS/OWH All-State HM, NCPA Academic All-State*

Jack Waring: *All District & ECNC Honorable Mention*

Wyatt Case: *Second Team Defense & ECNC Honorable Mention*

AJ Rautenbach: *Second Team Defense & ECNC Honorable Mention*

****SPRING SEASON PRACTICE BEGINS
ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH****

The Johnson County Central After School Program

Who: Students in grades PK-6

Where: JCC's Tecumseh Site

When: 4:15 PM-6:15 PM each day school is in session

JCC will once again provide an after school program. The program is for students in preschool through the 6th grades. The intent of the program is to provide quality services to students as their caregivers make the transition from work to home. Students will be provided with homework assistance, learning opportunities and engaging activities. Mrs. Amber Baehr is the After School Program Coordinator and will serve to organize activities and programming for the students.

Tuition for the program is set at the following:

- \$25 per week for 4-year-old preschool students through 6th grade students.
- \$20 per week for 3-year-old preschool students.
- Each additional sibling will be \$15 per week.
**Tuition must be paid in advance and can be paid on a monthly or weekly basis.*

Transportation to the after school program will be provided for students coming from the Cook Site. However, parents/guardians will be required to provide transportation for their child at the conclusion of the program each day.

To register your child for the after school program, simply contact the school office and submit your tuition payment.

Here is a friendly reminder about School Pay!

JCC uses a secure online payment platform called SchoolPay where parents can create accounts to pay for some of the student fees and lunch balance. The website is <https://www.schoolpay.com/login> and from there you can create an account for yourself and associate with your child/children. There is also a direct link from the JCC website: Quicklinks > SchoolPay (Online Payment)

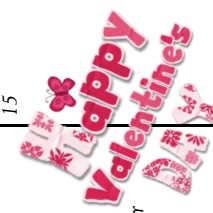
Previously the link was listed as "Online Lunch Payment."

Not only can you pay for lunches, some of the other items that can be paid for online are iPad Insurance, Instrument Rental Fee, Student Activity Fee, Adult Activity Pass, & After School Program. There is a FAQ page on the website that answers common questions about how to create an account and add your children.

The logo for SchoolPay, featuring the word "School" in a dark grey sans-serif font, "Pay" in a teal sans-serif font, and a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the "y".


February 2025

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice “This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider”</p>						
2	3 Chili Dog-HS Hotdog/WG Bun-EL/MS Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 Hot Ham/Cheese Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 Goulash Green Beans Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	6 Fish Sticks Tator Tots Bug Bites Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7 NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE Engaging Educators Conference	8
9	10 NO SCHOOL	11 Chicken Tenders Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	12 Sloppy Joe/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13 Hoagie Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	14 Pizza Hot Veggies Valentine Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 
16	17 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences 11 am-7 pm 	18 Corn dog Potato Casserole Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Taco Salad Black Bean Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	20 Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21 Meatball Sub Sun Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22
23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Breadstick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 Br. Pork Patty/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	27 NATIONAL CHILI DAY Chili WG Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	28 Cheeseburger/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	

February 2025

JCC Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 SCHOOL IN SESSION V Girls BB ECNC Tournament—TBD V Bowling District Tourney @ Sun Valley Lanes- 10:00 am	4 V Boys BB ECNC Tournament—TBD	5	6 V Girls BB ECNC Tournament—TBD Wesleyan HS Honor Choir @ Lincoln—1:00 pm JH Girls BB @ Palmyra—4:00 pm	7 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher In Service Wesleyan HS Honor Choir @ Lincoln—9:00 am V W Boys ECHC Tourney @ Freeman HS —12:00 pm V W Girls District Meet @ Falls City—2:00 pm	8 V Boys BB ECNC Tournament—TBD V Girls BB ECNC Tournament—TBD V W Girls District Meet @ Falls City—2:00 pm
9	10 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS V Bowling State Tourney @ Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln SCC Beatrice Discovery Day—9:15 am C Team Girls/Boys BB vs ElmwoodMurdock @ JCC HS—6:00/7:30 pm	11 V Bowling State Tourney @ Sun Valley Lanes, Lincoln JH Girls BB vs Weeping Water @ JCC MS Cook Site—4:00 pm JV Boys BB @ ElmwoodMurdock Elementary—4:30 pm JV Girls/V Girls/Boys BB @ ElmwoodMurdock HS—4:30/6:00/7:30 pm	12 JCC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING @ JCC HS Computer Lab—6:00 pm Cheer Camp Practice @ JCC HS—4:30 pm	13 Wesleyan HS Honor Band @ Lincoln—1:00 pm JH Girls BB @ Plattsmouth MS—4:00 pm Cheer Camp Practice @ JCC HS—4:30 pm & VBB game 1/2 time perform @ VBB game 1/2 time JV/V Boys BB vs Elkhorh Mount Michael @ JCC HS—6:00/7:30 pm	14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! Wesleyan HS Honor Band @ Lincoln 	15 Wesleyan HS Honor Band @ Lincoln V W Boys District Meet @ Tekamah-Herman C Team Girls & Boys BB Tourney @ JCC MS Cook Site—9:00 am
16	17 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Parent Teacher Conferences—11:00 am—7:00 pm FFA District CDE's Part 1—Lincoln—8:00 am V Girls Sub District Tourney—TBD	18 V Girls Sub District Tourney—TBD V W Girls State Championship @ CHI Health Cr Arena—Omaha	19 V W Girls State Championship @ CHI Health Cr Arena—Omaha Week—February 15-22	20 V W Boys State Championship @ CHI Health Cr Arena—Omaha V Girls BB Sub District Tourney—TBD JH Girls BB vs Syracuse @ JCC MS Cook Site—4:00 pm	21 V W Boys State Championship @ CHI Health Cr Arena—Omaha JCC State Cheer Competition @ Grand Island JV/V Boys BB vs Auburn @ JCC HS—5:30/7:00 pm	22 V W Boys State Championship @ CHI Health Cr Arena—Omaha JCC State Cheer Competition @ Grand Island JH Girls BB Tourney @ Palmyra—8:00 am
23	24 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS V Boys BB Sub District Tourney—TBD JH Girls BB @ Pawnee City—4:00 pm	25 V Boys BB Sub District Tourney—TBD FFA District CDE's Part 2—Beatrice—8:00 am JH Boys W Tri @ Syracuse—4:30 pm	26 ECNC Speech Districts @ ElmwoodMurdock—9:00 am	27 V Boys BB Sub District Tourney—TBD JH Boys W Invite @ Falls City—4:00 pm JH Girls BB vs Falls City @ JCC MS Cook Site—4:00 pm Title 1 Book Bingo @ JCC HS Cafeteria—6:30 pm	28 V Girls BB District Finals – TBD JH Boys W Invitational @ Weeping Water HS—10:00 am	



ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Bus Drivers Wanted!



JCC is seeking route, shuttle and activity drivers for the current school year and upcoming 2024-2025 school year.



\$35 per route
\$35 per shuttle
\$25.00 per hour for activities



Contact Mr. Rother or Laurie Badertscher if interested.
402-335-3320

Johnson County Central is an equal-opportunity employer.

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.

SCHOOL IN SESSION
Monday, February 3rd

NO SCHOOL

Friday, February 7th
Teacher In Service

Monday, February 10th

Monday, February 17th
Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, February 24th