



# THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2025

## The Real Estate Purchase & Building Bond Discussions

Volume 19

Issue 2

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### ***SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE*** **BY JON ROTHER**



The Johnson County Central Board of Education voted 5-1 at Wednesday, August 5th's regular meeting to exercise the option to purchase real estate agreement for the 52.3 acres North of the high school football field for the purpose of a future construction of school facilities. The purchase price is set at an agreed upon \$800,000. In the resolution to execute the agreement, the board has stated that:

*"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby directs the Superintendent to research and evaluate the extent to which any portion of the Property may exceed the School District's long-term school facility needs and if any portion of the Property will exceed such needs to provide recommendations, options, and alternatives for the Board to develop, sell, use, or otherwise dispose of such excess portion of the Property."*

This makes it known that, should the district decide that some of the property not be needed for school purposes, it can consider selling any excess property.

The complete resolution can be found here: [JCC Resolution to Exercise Option To Purchase Real Estate](#) [Link also pasted at the end of the article]

The school board continues to discuss what a bond for building a new school will look like and when a vote on the bond will take place. Discussions concerning a building bond have centered around several key points. And, it seems one point cannot be discussed that won't impact the others.

- The scope and size of the project.
- The financial impact of the project (the cost to taxpayers).
- The renovations to any current facilities.

The 2022 and 2023 bond proposals included getting all, or most of, PK-12 educational programming into one building on a new site. They also included a new competition gym and a practice gym. The 2022 bond

(\$43.375 million) however, did not include a wrestling practice facility nor did it include the superintendent and business offices. Those were to remain in the current high school. The 2023 bond (\$49.5 million) included all PK-12 educational programming, a competition gym, a practice gym, wrestling facilities and all offices. This bond would have freed the district from all existing buildings. However, the current high school gym was to be kept and maintained for practice and community purposes.

Feedback received from voters who did not support the bonds had two consistent points:

- The financial and tax impact was too great (It cost too much).
- The scope of the project was too big, as some felt that it was only the elementary facilities that needed to be replaced.

Therefore, the scope of the project has been focused on a PK-6 facility or a PK-8 facility. Of course, lessening the scope of the project means that the cost of the project will also be less.

Along with how many grade levels a new facility will comprise, decisions will need to be made about what other spaces the facility will encompass. A gym, a secondary gym, performing arts center, commons, kitchen and cafeteria, library, administrative offices, wrestling facilities, locker rooms and fitness facilities all need to be considered. If the Tecumseh Site Elementary is demolished, this would mean that the students would be in need of a performing arts center and a wrestling practice facility. Also in the current elementary is the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) classroom. A new home for this offering would also be needed.

One benefit of a PK-6 facility would be to keep costs down on a new build. However, this would mean that more renovations would be needed on the current high school to accommodate programming and space for the seventh and eighth grade students. The benefits of a PK-8 facility would mean fewer renovations to the current high school facility. However, this would mean a higher cost for adding programming on a new facility.

A new gym has also been a topic of discussion. Although gyms are seen as by many to be “just for sports”, this is not the case. Gym spaces are used daily for educational purposes; P.E. classes being the most prevalent. Science classes can often be found in gyms needing space to test various projects. They are also used for recesses and as a common area during lunch for older students (high school and junior high) to socialize or play. Other uses include graduation, Veterans Day Programs, district music performances, Christmas and Spring programs, dances, public meeting areas, youth sports practices and games, adult community sports (volleyball, basketball, pickleball), awards banquets and pep rallies.

The current high school gym (the “competition gym” due to its use for varsity competitions) is the oldest gym in Southeast Nebraska at 59 years old. The data collected includes all 29 school systems in the geographical Southeast of Nebraska, both public and parochial, excluding Lincoln and Omaha schools. The average age of these gyms is 28.2 years. Gym age aside, the current “competition” gym in Tecumseh is not large enough to host district wrestling. District wrestling is a two day event that includes 16 schools (including the host school). District wrestling brings in a large volume of spectators; all looking for places to eat, fuel for their vehicles and possibly even need lodging for the night.

There has also been an ongoing discussion about the materials used for construction of a new build. The question was posed as to whether or not a metal fabrication building would be cheaper than a brick and mortar or precast concrete building. Chief Buildings (known for metal fabrication buildings) was contacted twice with the prospect of a metal construction school. On both occasions, we were told that, by the time all the interior work was completed, the cost



would not be much different. Boyd-Jones conducted a cost analysis between metal fabrication and precast concrete confirming Chief's speculations. Although the metal fabrication would be slightly cheaper, in their opinion, it would not be enough to offset the long-term benefits of precast concrete; durability, longevity, and design flexibility.

Overall, your school board has been doing a wonderful job of listening, learning and having some very tough discussions. As always, I encourage you to reach out to your board members with thoughts and questions. You are also welcome to contact me at (402) 921-0187.

\* The complete resolution can be found here:  
<https://meeting.sparqdata.com/Documents/File-ViewerOrPublic/118?file=9eb37122-ac1a-4f02-9320-da06063d6e01&isFromMeeting=True>

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## Board Goals 2025-2026



At the JCC School Board's July 30 Board Retreat, the following goals were set for the school year:

**GOAL:** *Successful bond initiative.*

**GOAL:** *Make progress toward improving the high school facilities.*

**GOAL:** *Work toward making the lunch program financially solvent.*

**GOAL:** *Maintain a healthy cash reserve.*

As we move through the school year and create the budget for the 2025-2026 school year, you will see agenda items working toward these goals.

# **Thunderbird Golf Classic 2025**

**Sunday, September 28  
Tecumseh Country Club  
9:00 AM**



**Person  
Scramble**

**Contact  
Ben Swanson (402) 921-0870**



# High School News

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL JUSTIN DAMME**

School is off and running, students have their final schedule, and extra-curricular activities are already in full swing. I met with each grade during the first week of school and discussed with the students the Student Handbook and our Activities Handbook. We went over some policies and discussed students' expectations to follow these rules throughout the year. Students were encouraged to read both handbooks so that they were familiar with the school rules. I would strongly encourage parents to view these handbooks which are located on our school website.

Students have been logged into OntoCollege ACT prep program during the first week of school. This is a great resource for students to fine tune their academic skills before they take the ACT test. This gives our students quick tips, prep sessions, and bonus materials to prepare them for the test. This resource is there to help students maximize their potential on the ACT test and is an investment that our district finds important. This resource is available 24/7 at school/home free of charge.

- All Juniors will take the ACT during the mandated state ACT test on March 24, 2025
- Sophomores take the Pre-ACT on Nov. 5th
- All students will be granted one additional ACT test by the district at no cost (see Mrs. Reuter for more information)
- Mrs. Rother will be doing ACT prep on Thursdays during Study Session for those students interested.

## Important Dates/Reminders\*

- Picture day is scheduled for Friday, August 29, 2025
- First Volleyball Games are August 28th vs. Nebraska City @ Home starting at 5pm
- Girls Golf kicks off the season on August 28th @ Syracuse at 9 am
- Cross Country is off and running on August 28th @ Cass County Fairgrounds at 10 am
- Varsity Football kicks off August 29th vs. Tri County @ Home, starting at 7pm
- HS Map Testing starts September 3rd
- Tailgate Pep Rally is September 14th at 6pm at the football field to kick off homecoming week

*\*Check the calendar on our website for more events taking place this month*



# EXTRA DUTY ASSIGNMENTS

**Activities Director**..... Garrett Collin  
**Girls Golf**..... Ben Swanson  
 Asst. Golf..... Linsey Meints  
**Cross Country**..... Nick Weber  
 Asst. Cross Country..... Angie Huskey  
**Football**..... Ryan Haughton  
 Asst. Football..... Brad Gabriel  
 Asst. Football..... Neil Bowman  
 Asst. Football..... Lance Beethe  
 Asst. Football..... Jon Rother  
 Asst. Football..... Keaton Kleespies  
**Volleyball**..... Tim Hedger  
 Asst. Volleyball..... Cody Franklin  
 Asst. Volleyball..... Leah Phillips  
 Asst. Volleyball..... Anna Gyhra  
**Wrestling**..... Neil Bowman  
 Asst. Wrestling..... Brad Gabriel  
 Asst. Wrestling..... Mendell Rulla  
 Asst. Wrestling..... Carlos Prado  
 Asst. Wrestling..... Tanner Erdman  
 Asst. Wrestling..... Larry Kuhl  
**Boys Basketball**..... Kirk Faris  
 Asst. Boys Basketball..... Ben Swanson  
 Asst. Boys Basketball..... Ryan Haughton  
 Asst. Boys Basketball..... Keaton Kleespies  
**Girls Basketball**..... Garrett Collin  
 Asst. Girls Basketball..... Justin Damme  
 Asst. Girls Basketball..... Reid Genuchi  
 Asst. Girls Basketball..... Zadi Plager  
**Boys Track**..... Angie Huskey  
**Girls Track**..... Nick Weber  
 Asst. Track..... Reid Genuchi  
 Asst. Track..... Brad Gabriel  
**Boys Golf**..... Ben Swanson  
 Asst. Boys Golf..... Russ Waring  
**Unified Bowling**..... Skye Grafton  
 Asst. Unified Bowling..... Maggie Rother  
**JH Football**..... Keaton Kleespies  
 Asst. JH Football..... Aaron Turner  
**JH Volleyball**..... Ashley Juilfs  
 Asst. JH Volleyball..... Zadi Plager  
 Asst. JH Volleyball..... Jami Gabriel  
**JH Boys/Girls Wrestling**..... Neil Bowman  
**JH Girls Basketball**..... Randy Miller  
 Asst. JH Girls Basketball..... Jacy Pollard  
 Asst. JH Girls Basketball..... Eryn Snethen

**JH Boys Basketball**..... Keaton Kleespies  
 Asst. JH Boys Basketball..... Casey Fricke  
 Asst. JH Boys Basketball..... Marsha Bacon  
**JH Boys Track**..... TBA  
**JH Girls Track**..... TBA  
 Asst. JH Track..... Bri Pfeiffer  
 Asst. JH Track..... Madison Moran  
**Cheerleading**..... Amber Baehr  
**Cheerleading**..... Andrea Jaquez  
**Academic Decathlon**..... Tina Richardson  
**National Honor Society**..... Olivia Reuter  
**Skills USA**..... Olivia Reuter  
**Skills USA**..... Connor Bartels  
**HS Academic Quiz Bowl**..... Tina Richardson  
**MS Academic Quiz Bowl**..... Jennifer Straka  
**Elem Academic Quiz Bowl**..... Mandy Goodrich  
**Instrumental Music**..... Braden Hawley  
**Summer Band**..... Braden Hawley  
**Vocal Music**..... Emily Fricke  
**Annual**..... Amy Little  
**HS Student Council**..... Nick Weber  
**MS Student Council**..... Marsha Bacon  
**Musical**..... Emily Fricke  
**Drama**..... Matt Dierking  
 Asst. Drama..... Amy Little  
 Asst. Drama..... Freedom Steele  
**Speech**..... Freedom Steele  
 Asst. Speech..... Amy Little  
**Art Club**..... Brittney Teeman  
**BUDS**..... Amber Baehr  
**HOSA**..... Maggie Rother  
**HOSA**..... Jeanne Wolken  
**FBLA**..... Angie Huskey  
**FFA**..... Christy Hodges  
**FFA**..... Connor Bartels  
**Striv**..... Marcus Scheer  
**Freshman Sponsor**..... Angie Huskey  
**Sophomore Sponsor**..... Kirk Faris  
**Junior Sponsor**..... Brad Gabriel/Amber Baehr  
**Senior Sponsor**..... Maggie Rother



Johnson County Central's Community

# ***Tailgate Bonfire Pep Rally***

***Sunday  
September  
14***

***High School  
Football Field  
6:00 PM***



# Athletic Button Order Form

**Forms need to be turned in  
to Mrs. Baehr, Mrs. Jaquez, or at the HS Office**

Person making the order information:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



3 inch button: \$5.00 each

**Athlete's Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Number of buttons:**

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Due at the time of order!**

**\*\* Make checks payable to JCC Cheerleading \*\*\***

**Buttons may be brought with coaches to games, or sent home with  
your athlete.**

**Please use 1 form per student.**



# Middle School News

By Marsha Bacon

The 2025-2026 school year officially began with the Middle School walk-through and the 4th and 5th grade Open House on Wednesday, August 6th. We appreciate all the students and parents who were able to attend. The start of a new school year officially began on August 11 when 170 4-8 grade students arrived for class. While summer gives everyone a much needed break, it is always good to have the building full of people and settle into the routine of the school year once again.

## 1:1 iPad Information

### Expectations and Responsibilities for all students:

- Students and parents need to read and understand the JCC iPad Policies and Procedures handbook and return the signed handbook receipt.
- Students need to use the device in a responsible and ethical manner.
- As with all technology, parents should supervise their child's use of the iPad at home. Any inappropriate use of the iPad may result in loss of iPad and school network privileges.
- Students who take their iPad home need to make sure they bring the iPad to school every day, fully charged.

Please refer to the iPad handbook for a more complete list of iPad expectations for our students. As always, if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

## Reminders:

- All 7th graders and new students who enrolled from out of state are required by Nebraska State Law to have a physical on file at school.
- 7th and 8th grade students who plan to participate in athletics this year have several forms to turn in:
- Sports physical
  - NSAA Parent Consent form
  - Student insurance form
  - Student handbook receipt
  - Student activity handbook receipt
  - \$25 activity fee

Please call the office if you have any questions about this.

## Junior High Athletics

Junior High sports seasons have begun, with good numbers of athletes participating this fall. We have 15 athletes out for football, 26 participating in volleyball and three out for cross country.

At the start of any season we should take time to remind ourselves what the purpose of athletics in a Middle School setting should be. While everyone wants to win and winning is one of our goals, it cannot be the purpose of our sports program at this level.

Middle School activities should encourage participation and the development of fundamentals that will help our student-athletes succeed at the varsity level. Instead of placing the emphasis on winning and losing, we should celebrate hard work, being coachable, improving skill level and effort every day and putting team before self.

If students can learn to work hard and give maximum effort at a young age they are learning character traits that will help them be successful in high school and will serve them well for the rest of their lives. Please support our young athletes and their coaches this year by attending games and cheering their efforts, win or lose.

1st Semester Music Dates 2025-2026			
Month	Date	Day	Event
August	28	Thursday	PB - VB vs. Nebraska City
	29	Friday	PB - FB vs. Tri County
September	3	Wednesday	5th Grade Instrument Night - Cook
	12	Friday	Richardson County Fair (7th/8th) - Humboldt
	14	Sunday	Community Pep Rally
	19	Friday	PB - FB vs. Johnson Brock - Homecoming
	20	Saturday	Applejack Parade - Nebraska City
	24	Wednesday	Doane Froshmore - Crete (9/25)
	30	Tuesday	PB - VB Triangular
	9/30 - 10/14	2 Weeks	Candle Sales
October	2	Thursday	PB - VB vs. Johnson-Brock
	3	Friday	PB - FB vs. OCA
	4	Saturday	Peru Homecoming Parade - Peru @ 10:00
	7	Tuesday	PB - VB vs. Conestoga
	9	Thursday	PB - VB vs. Auburn
	16	Thursday	PB - FB vs. HTRS
	21	Tuesday	PB - VB vs. Diller Odell
	23	Thursday	Pie Night @ 7:00pm - Tecumseh Aud/Cafeteria
November	6	Thursday	Crete Choral Clinic - Crete
	8	Saturday	Doane Fall Festival of Winds
	10	Monday	ECNC Honor Choir - Auburn
	20-22	Thurs-Sat	NMEA Conference/All State Groups Perform
December	2 OR 1	Tues or Mon	HS Christmas Concert - Auditorium @ 7:00
	12	Friday	4-8 Christmas Concert @ 7:00 PM - Cook
	15	Monday	K-3 Christmas Concert - Auditorium @ 7:00
	16	Tuesday	PB - BB vs. Palmyra

# Greetings From the Elementary!

August flew by in a flash! It's hard to believe we are already in September. As the school year continues, more events begin within the district. I encourage all of you to attend these activities and support our students. This is an excellent opportunity to show school pride, meet other community members, and get involved with the school. Student activity passes can be purchased through the school. For \$15 (PK-6th-grade students), your child can attend all **regular-season** extracurricular events. Adult passes can be purchased for \$65.

We do ask that students be accompanied by a parent or other adult, and are expected to remain in their seats and cheer for our teams during the competition. When attending football games, the playground is closed for the safety of the children.

September 2025



## After School Program

- Our after-school program started on August 19. If you are interested in participating, you can still contact the school to enroll.
  - Available after school until **6:15 p.m.**
  - **\$25/week** for each student
  - **\$15/week** for each additional child

## Paperwork Reminder

- If you haven't already, please make sure all required paperwork is current, including your phone numbers. Remind is our main communication tool for the district. If your phone number isn't correct or up-to-date, you won't receive those messages.
- Remember, meals and milk snacks are to be paid in advance.

## Important Dates

- **Monday, September 1:** No School
- **Monday, September 8:** Teacher In-service, no school for students
- **Sunday, September 14:** Community Pep Rally & Bonfire starting at **6:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, September 15:** No School
- **Tuesday, September 16:** Homecoming Little Cheer Camp **4:15 p.m.**
- **Thursday, September 18:** Homecoming Little Cheer Camp **4:15 p.m.**
- **Friday, September 19:**
  - Homecoming Little Cheer Camp **4:15 p.m.**
  - Varsity Football with coronation following the game **7:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, September 22:** Teacher In-service, no school for students
- **Monday, September 29:** No School

## Contact Info:

Please feel free to contact me at anytime during the school year

email: [beckie.roberson@jccentral.org](mailto:beckie.roberson@jccentral.org) phone: 402-335-7839

***Journey Together...Creating Opportunities...Committed to Excellence***

# Agencies & Anxiety Parent Series

Helping Families Navigate the Transition Maze



**Key:** Underlined words are registration links

**Professional Events** **Parent Events** **Student Events** **Professiona/Parent**

**September  
10**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **Hard Conversations-PTI Nebraska**

[Event Evaluation](#)

**October  
15**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **CTE Pathways; Why and How students benefit**

[Event Evaluation](#)

**November  
12**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **Functional Literacy for Transition Aged Youth - Accessing Systems of Support**

[Event Evaluation](#)

**January  
14**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **ATP into Adulthood**

[Event Evaluation](#)

**February  
11**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **Enhanced Choice Model-ASD**

[Event Evaluation](#)

**March  
18**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **MTSS; Layered supports for all Students**

[Event Evaluation](#)

**April  
15**  
5:30-7:00pm  
CT

## **A Parents' Journey-Parent Panel**

[Event Evaluation](#)

### **Registration:**

**<https://bit.ly/AgenciesAnxietyRegistration>**

**\*\*You must register to get the ZOOM link and the recording after the event.**

**Please ensure you complete the evaluation linked in each topic!**



# Greetings Thunderbird Family

The 2025 fall season officially got underway on Monday, August 11th with the beginning of practice. Our athletes have been working hard and are ready to get out and compete. We are excited to have people back in the stands cheering on our Thunderbirds.

Here is a list of the number of participants we have in each activity along with our September home events.

## Fall Activities Participants

HS Volleyball - 20  
HS Football - 30  
HS Cross Country - 14 boys, 2 girls  
HS Girls Golf - 13  
JH Football - 15  
JH Volleyball - 30  
JH Cross Country - 2 boys, 3 girls

### VOLLEYBALL

9/18 - JH vs. Wilber-Clatonia (4:30pm)  
9/25 - JH vs. Syracuse (4:30pm)  
9/30 - JH vs. HTRS (4:30pm), Varsity Triangular vs. Louisville/Weeping Water (5:00pm)

### FOOTBALL

9/15 - JH vs. Freeman (4:00pm), JV vs. Freeman (6:00pm)  
9/19 - Varsity vs. Johnson-Brock (7:00pm) \***Homecoming**  
9/29 - JH vs. Johnson-Brock (4:00pm), JV vs. Johnson-Brock (6:00pm)

### CROSS COUNTRY (Tecumseh Country Club)

9/4 - JCC Invite (9:00am)

### GIRLS GOLF (Tecumseh Country Club)

9/2 - Triangular vs. Auburn/Syracuse (1:30pm)  
9/18 - Thunderbird Invite (9:00am)

Going into the new school year, there always come by-law changes. I have attached the new by-laws for the upcoming year. I have also fielded some questions on NIL (name, image, likeness) and high school athletes and payment. Below are some FAQ's.

Page 12 – Changes in By-Laws & Approved Rulings

Page 13 –Frequently Asked Questions – Name, Image, Likeness (NIL)

# 2025-26 NSAA Constitution & Bylaws

## CHANGES IN BYLAWS & APPROVED RULINGS

- **1.5.3.5 – Eliminate From the Floor Proposals.** NSAA member schools shall consider ONLY proposals which are submitted and placed on the agenda for the November meeting by the October Deadline. Proposals are no longer accepted from the floor of the October District Meeting or Representative Assembly.
- **1.5.4.2.1 – Class Caucus Criteria.** This approved ruling was amended to allow the Class Caucus Review Committee to consider proposals materially affecting member school/NSAA finances if a plan to account for the cost(s) is included in the proposal.
- **1.10 – Due Process.** The due process procedure for member school violations was streamlined by eliminating a hearing officer, clarifying who can file a complaint against a member school and adding language to eliminate the ability for an anonymous person to trigger an investigation of a member school.
- **1.10.3.10 – Hardship Eligibility Criteria.** The criteria was amended to remove mention of physical harm and add language about mental health, prioritizing the need to address a student’s mental health prior to a request for a hardship waiver.
- **2.13.2 – Opting Up Classifications.** This approved ruling was amended to allow a school to opt-up one or more classifications in all NSAA activities.
- **3.2.4, G. – Organized Practice for Wrestling.** An organized practice in boys wrestling and girls wrestling shall mean more than eight students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. The previous number was four.
- **3.11.1.3 – Basketball Contest Limitations.** In Classes B, C1, C2, D1 & D2, the contest limitation will now be 24 total contests in addition to the postseason. Tournament play-in games are not to be counted toward the limit of 24 contests.
- **3.11.5.5 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at Golf Practice.** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are now allowed to practice with the high school team.
- **3.11.11.4 – Student Managers at Volleyball Practice (C1 & C2).** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade female students at Class C1 & C2 schools in good academic standing and who carry out duties of a student manager for their high school team on a daily basis are now allowed to participate in practice.
- **3.11.12.3 – Boys Wrestling Team Match Limitation.** Teams that are unable to fill 8 weight classes in Class D or 10 weight classes in Classes A, B & C can schedule additional tournament dates and opt-out of qualifying for the NSAA Dual Wrestling Championships. No team opting out may participate in more than 18 events.
- **3.11.12.7 – Student Managers at Wrestling Practice (All Classes).** 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in good academic standing and who carry out duties of a student manager for their high school team on a daily basis are now allowed to participate in practice.
- **7.7.2, F. – Digital Copies at District Music.** Digital copies of music are permitted for accompanists and directors for purposes of rehearsal and contest performances, provided copies utilized are compliant with copyright law.



### Frequently Asked Questions – **Name, Image, Likeness (NIL)**

**Q:** Can a student be paid to play in an NSAA sanctioned sport?

**A:** *No, students are still subject to NSAA Bylaw 3.7 Amateur Rule.*

**Q:** Can a student have compensation from NSAA permitted NIL activities put into a 529 College Savings Plan?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Can a student use an image of themselves wearing school colors?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Students cannot use school facilities for NIL activities. What if the member school doesn't own the facility, i.e., bowling alley, city tennis court, city baseball/softball field, golf course?

**A:** *For purposes of NIL activities, school facilities are defined as those facilities owned and operated by the school.*

**Q:** Can a student use an image of themselves as an athlete in a social media post advertising for a car dealership?

**A:** *Yes, if the student is not using school facilities, school equipment or school-issued uniforms or gear.*

**Q:** Can a member school booster club offer or otherwise engage a student in an NIL contract or agreement?

**A:** *No, member schools and/or anyone affiliated with the member school may not engage students in NIL activities.*

**Q:** If a student plans to transfer to another school, can the student engage in NIL activities wearing gear from the new school?

**A:** *If the gear is not owned by the school, yes.*

**Q:** Can a student or his/her NIL representative use a highlight video from the member school's game film for NIL activities?

**A:** *No, highlight videos used for NIL activities must be from non-school sources. Highlight videos must not include footage shot from school owned facilities or show student-athletes using school-owned equipment or wearing school owned uniforms.*

**Q:** Do students need to inform their schools about their NIL activities?

**A:** *NSAA Approved Ruling 3.7.1.c does not require a student to inform their school; however, students are strongly encouraged to discuss any NIL activities with their school administration to prevent loss of eligibility.*

# Johnson County Central Schools Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Our Mission: Support individual student success—academic, social, and emotional—preparing all students for constructive citizenship.

*School Improvement Goal: Improving Student Learning Through a Growth Mindset*

**Goal 1: Provide comprehensive educational opportunities birth through 21 to all students addressing academic, emotional and social needs.**

- Expanded early interventions and services.
- Strengthen MTSS implementation and refinement of Tier 1-3 interventions.
- SEL PK-12 programs including Character Strong and Second Step.
- BIST training and implementation grades PK-12.
- Student access to college courses & ACT preparation.
- Summer school for students grades K-5.
- High school summer credit recovery opportunities.
- Provide staff training on student inclusion practices & accommodations.
- Staff & student growth Mindset lessons.
- School employed School Psychologist and small group student support.
- Online staff training through ALICAP.

**Goal 1 2: Support student growth in literacy, increased reading comprehension and academic vocabulary.**

- Recipient of the CLSD Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant.
- Implementation of Wonders curriculum grades K-6.
- Implementation of StudySync curriculum grades 7 & 8.
- District state standard alignment.
- John Baylor test prep courses available for students in middle school and high school.
- Promote vocabulary and fluency through cross-content instruction.
- Adoption of Envision math curriculum grades K-8 to support student growth & application of academic vocabulary.
- Professional Development for staff on academic vocabulary and reading interventions.
- District partnering with ESU4 for staff training, curriculum implementation & support.

**Goal 1 3: Enhance school culture and student participation.**

- Expanded student organizations including the addition of Skills USA, JAG, HOSA and Unified Sports and Art Club.
- Co-op athletic programs to add student involvement in soccer and baseball.
- Increased elementary and high school/elementary middle school interactive activities.
- Establishment of the after school program.
- Support of community youth programs.
- Book Bingo and Title 1 activity nights
- Cheer camps, youth camps offered throughout the year.
- House groups and student engagement activities.

**Goal 4: Improve facilities to support student, academic and extracurricular success.**

- Strategic planning to support all students in the district, PK-12.
- Enhanced accessibility and technology resources.
- Community facility access:
  - Youth sports
  - community organizations
  - weight room
- District collaboration to provide support for shared staff in all three buildings.
  - Additional staff to support student needs including Director of Student Services, additional building administration and janitorial staff.
- Improved transportation access and shortened bus routes.

**Goal 5: Strengthen parent and community communication.**

- Remind messaging system.
- Active social media presence.
- Weekly bulletins.
- Monthly newsletters.
- Google classroom and PowerSchool parent communication.
- Staff email and paper communication.
- Updated school website with parent and community links.
- Event streaming through STRIV and Hudl.
- Community engagement initiatives.





# JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL

## *After School Program*

### **JCC's After School Program is here!**

Our staff will provide homework tutoring, reading opportunities, snacks, and varied learning activities while caring for students.

**AVAILABLE AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 6:15PM**

- \$25 / WEEK FOR EACH STUDENT
- \$15 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD



**CONTACT 402-335-3328  
TO ENROLL**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
AMBER.BAEHR@JCCENTRAL.ORG  
JON.ROTHER@JCCENTRAL.ORG**

# Johnson County Central Cheer Camp

## Homecoming September 19th @ 7 pm

### Students preK - 5th grade

are invited to attend the  
JCC Homecoming Little Cheer Camp  
Tuesday, September 16th and  
Thursday, September 18th  
from 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm.



First 10 registered  
for the Little's Camp get a  
FREE  
JCC THUNDERBIRD  
T SHIRT  
to wear at the game!  
See form for details!

### Students 6th - 8th grade

are invited to attend the  
JCC Homecoming Middle School  
Cheer Camp Tuesday, September 16th  
and Thursday, September 18th  
from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.



Each group will have special opportunities during the game - review the  
registration form/s for clarification.

**Register your future cheerleaders TODAY!**

Send \$25 (\$20 for each additional family member), either cash or check,  
to Amber Baehr by September 12th.  
Have checks written to "JCC Cheerleading".



[https://www.facebook.com/  
johnsoncountycentralcheer](https://www.facebook.com/johnsoncountycentralcheer)



358 N 6th St  
Tecumseh, Ne 68329



[amber.baehr@jcccentral.org](mailto:amber.baehr@jcccentral.org)  
[andrea.jaquez@jcccentral.org](mailto:andrea.jaquez@jcccentral.org)

# JCC SENIOR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 21, 2025

**WELCOME TO YOUR SENIOR YEAR- AN EXCITING, YET POTENTIALLY OVERWHELMING TIME AS YOU MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO YOUR FUTURE.**

**Here are some things that you should do now...**

- 1) **Apply to colleges/ universities/ apprenticeship programs and/or talk to military representatives or places of business about future opportunities.** For most colleges and universities, there are application links on their websites that are fairly easy to find. If you are unsure on how to do these things, please see Mrs. Reuter and she will help you.
- 2) **Fill out your senior information on this google form <https://forms.gle/teaiZCfdmsfkWx6p7>** Also, email Mrs. Reuter a senior picture or any other close-up picture that you want to use as your **newsletter picture.** I want to recognize all seniors in the district newsletter this year. In order to do that, I need information and a senior picture from all of you.
- 3) **Register with EducationQuest to get information on Nebraska scholarships and other opportunities.** <https://educationquest.org/login> When you get to that page, in the green box on the right side of the page, click on sign up. After you sign up, you will be matched with scholarships for students in the state of Nebraska.
- 4) **Take an individual visit (preferably with at least one parent) to a college or university that interests you, preferably on the Mondays you have school. For most colleges and universities, you set these up on their**

**websites on the admissions page.** If you need help setting up a visit, please see me and I will help you.

- 5) **Set up some job shadows in career fields you are interested in to see the different types of work in various career opportunities.** It is preferred that you do this on a Monday, if it is at all possible. If you need help setting up an opportunity like this, see Mrs. Reuter.
- 6) **Check your email often.** Mrs. Reuter will send all scholarship opportunities directly to your email. Do not delete or ignore these emails. Scholarship Emails will have Scholarship as the first word in the subject line. Make sure you know when all scholarship deadlines are. Work on scholarships far ahead of when they are due, do not wait until a few days or the day before to start a scholarship. Many require several steps.
- 7) **Set up a FAFSA account, both the student and one parent need to have an account.** The actual 2026/2027 FAFSA (the FAFSA form that this year's seniors need to complete to go to college next year will not be available until October, however you can create your account before the FAFSA is available to be ready to go when it is. Here is information that you should read before you set up your account.  
<https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/creating-your-account>  
Here is where you create your FAFSA account <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- 8) **Sign up for online EducationQuest events to learn more about the next steps for planning for higher education.** EducationQuest offers many online webinars and events for parents and students. See what they are, when they are, and register here if you are interested in any of them.  
<https://educationquest.org/professionals/events>
- 9) **Sign up to take the ACT again at [act.org](https://act.org) to try and get a higher score to qualify for more scholarships.** You can still sign up for the October ACT without a late fee until September 12th.



# SEL Curriculum Update

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*Timothy Hedger*  
[timothy.hedger@jccentral.org](mailto:timothy.hedger@jccentral.org)

*Olivia Reuter*  
[olivia.reuter@jccentral.org](mailto:olivia.reuter@jccentral.org)

Greetings parents, families, and other community members. We are so grateful you are a part of the school community this year.

One of the aims at our school is to equip young people with the skills and knowledge to live happy and healthy lives outside of school. In fact, it is required by the state of Nebraska for all schools to provide district-wide SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) curriculum. With that in mind, we have partnered with Character Strong, an organization that provides training for educators and curricula for students, for our weekly K-12 SEL curriculum this year.

At the elementary level, each month's curriculum will focus on a specific character trait (ex: respect). Monthly newsletters from Character Strong will be sent out to parents about how to encourage these traits at home, and we would love for your family to make these traits a regular part of your child's behavior and vocabulary.

Additionally, the lessons in grades 6-12 will also focus on 3 main outcomes: increasing a sense of belonging for all students, improving skills that support student well-being, and deepening student engagement in their academics and broader community.

Here's what the data tells us about these elements. First of all, a sense of belonging in school is one of the most important conditions for learning and a fundamental support for social and emotional well-being. Nearly a third of all students report a weak sense of belonging in their schools. Roughly half of 6th-12th grade students say they don't enjoy coming to school most of the time.

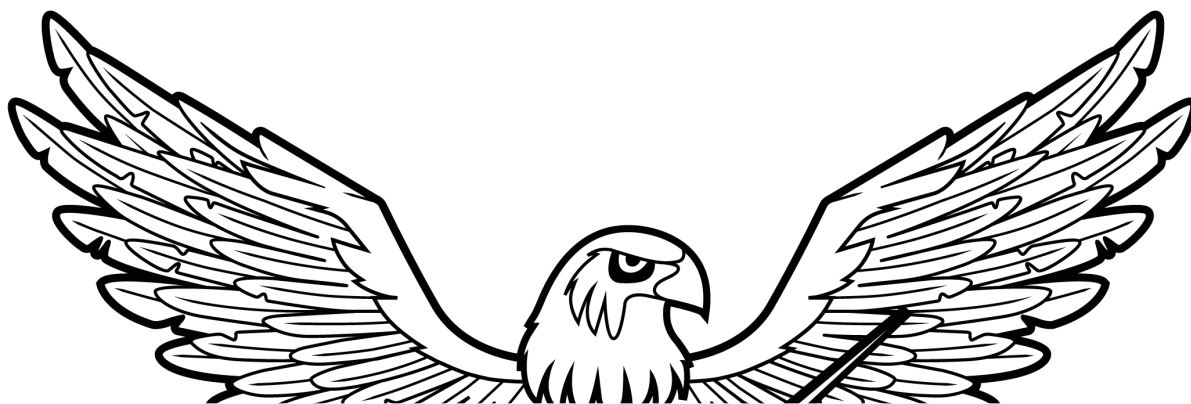
Additionally, mental health challenges for teens have been increasing, and seven out of ten teens in the U.S. (between 13 and 17 years old) have named anxiety or depression as a major problem among their peers.

Finally, student engagement drives learning and supports school success.

This curriculum was created to support school communities as they engage in the work of preparing young people to thrive in the 21st century. The research supports the effectiveness of this content to increase student's academic success and college & career readiness. The lessons focus on developing skills and mindsets around building positive habits, understanding your emotions, improving teamwork, and increasing empathy.

If you are curious about the Character Strong curriculum, you can always view the curriculum through your student's account. Also, feel free to contact either counselor with any additional questions (email: [timothy.hedger@jccentral.org](mailto:timothy.hedger@jccentral.org) or [olivia.reuter@jccentral.org](mailto:olivia.reuter@jccentral.org)).





# JCC Apparel

NOW AVAILABLE



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The JCC Thunderbird Store is up and set to close on **Thursday, September 4th!**

We have several different store options to choose from this year!

**Custom Sports Designs** offers a spectacular selection of JCC Thunderbird Apparel to include t shirts, polos, and cardigans.

<https://jccthunderbirds2025.itemorder.com/>



**Custom Sports Designs** also developed an amazing selection of JCC Cheer Apparel that includes hats and customizable t shirts and sweatshirts.

<https://jcccheer2025-2.itemorder.com/>



**X-Grain** developed eye-catching apparel to include jackets, polos, and t shirts.

<https://stores.inksoft.com/WS122991>



**HYPE Socks** provides fun JCC socks for any reason (including PINK OUT)!

<https://johnsoncountycentralhighschoolsocks.itemorder.com/>





# JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## PARTNERSHIP PACKAGES



We are excited to offer your business an opportunity to showcase your school and community support while taking advantage of prime advertising during every game. But your support goes beyond game night. Your sponsorship also contributes to:



### ACADEMICS

students can get hands-on experience beyond the classroom



### ACTIVITIES

band, cheer and student government can all see benefits from your sponsorship



### BUDGET

your business can help pay for the video board itself, and add to school funds



### ATHLETES

students get pumped up when they see themselves in lights

### GAIN THE HOME-FIELD/COURT ADVANTAGE PARTNER WITH JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH

- 1 Stimulate sales
- 2 Increase brand loyalty
- 3 Drive traffic to your business
- 4 Create brand awareness and visibility
- 5 Set yourself apart from the competition
- 6 Show support for our community and students
- 7 Help keep athletic programs healthy and competitive
- 8 Enhance the fan experience and leave a positive impression about your business and our team
- 9 Reach local and out-of-town customers more effectively

### CONTACT INFORMATION

MARCUS SCHEER  
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY  
[MARCUS.SCHEER@JCCENTRAL.ORG](mailto:MARCUS.SCHEER@JCCENTRAL.ORG)



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# JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PACKAGES

## FOUNDING PARTNERSHIP (4 TOTAL, \$7,500/YEAR)

### STATIC SIGNAGE

One (1) logo on an ad panel on side of the outdoor video board, approximate size TBD.

One (1) logo on an ad panel above or below a scoreboard in the gym, approximate size TBD

### OUTDOOR DIGITAL CONTENT

PRE-IN-POST GAME rotating business name, logo, and/or tagline on video display. Messages will rotate with other partners for each regular season home event.

Two (2) in-game full screen static ad exposure per regular season home event

One (1) quarter of first down sponsorships per every home varsity football game. Sponsor logo will play on the Eagle's first down graphic on the video board for a whole quarter. Sponsors will each take one of the four quarters.

One (1) :30 second IN-game sponsor supplied video commercial OR full color logo with corresponding announcement per regular season home varsity game

### MULTI-MEDIA/PRINT/PROMOTIONS

One (1) grouped PA announcement at all home varsity events (boys and girls)

One (1) ad exposure on the JCC athletics live stream per regular season varsity event

### PROMOTIONAL GAME SPONSORSHIP

One (1) game day sponsorship per year. School and sponsor will choose (1) home indoor varsity game per year. Game day sponsorship could include:

- Additional PA announcement and digital content recognizing sponsor
- Opportunity for promotional giveaway or contest
- Opportunity to promote or distribute specialty items
- On field recognition

### INDOOR DIGITAL CONTENT

PRE-IN-POST GAME rotating business name, logo, and/or tagline on video display. Messages will rotate with other partners for each regular season home event.

One (1) in-game full screen static ad exposure per regular season home event

One (1) :30 second IN-game sponsor supplied video commercial OR full color logo with corresponding announcement per regular season home varsity game

One (1) in game sponsor feature entitlement per home varsity basketball or volleyball game. Sponsor logo can play on animated graphics such as National Anthem, Starting Lineups, Halftime, Timeout, etc.





# JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PACKAGES

## ANCHOR PARTNERSHIP (6 TOTAL, \$3,500/YEAR)

### OUTDOOR DIGITAL CONTENT

PRE-IN-POST GAME rotating business name, logo, and/or tagline on video display. Messages will rotate with other partners for each regular season home event.

Two (2) in-game full screen static ad exposure per regular season home event

One (1) :30 second PRE-game sponsor supplied video commercial OR full color logo with corresponding announcement per regular season home varsity game

### PROMOTIONAL GAME SPONSORSHIP

One (1) game day sponsorship per year. School and sponsor will choose (1) home indoor varsity game per year. Game day sponsorship could include:

- Additional PA announcement and digital content recognizing sponsor
- Opportunity for promotional giveaway or contest
- Opportunity to promote or distribute specialty items
- On field recognition

### MULTI-MEDIA/PRINT/PROMOTIONS

One (1) grouped PA announcement at all home varsity events (boys and girls)

One (1) ad exposure on the JCC athletics live stream per regular season varsity event

### INDOOR DIGITAL CONTENT

PRE-IN-POST GAME rotating business name, logo, and/or tagline on video display. Messages will rotate with other partners for each regular season home event.

Two (2) in-game full screen static ad exposure per regular season home event

One (1) three point sponsor feature entitlement. A founding partner logo will play on the three point animation and founding partners will rotate the turns as three pointers are made.

One (1) :30 second PRE-game sponsor supplied video commercial OR full color logo with corresponding announcement per regular season home varsity game

## PREMIER PARTNERSHIP (8 TOTAL, \$1,500/YEAR)

### OUTDOOR DIGITAL CONTENT

PRE-IN-POST GAME rotating business name, logo, and/or tagline on video display. Messages will rotate with other partners for each regular season home event.

One (1) in-game full screen static ad exposure per regular season home event

### INDOOR DIGITAL CONTENT

PRE-IN-POST GAME rotating business name, logo, and/or tagline on video display. Messages will rotate with other partners for each regular season home event.

One (1) in-game full screen static ad exposure per regular season home event

### MULTI-MEDIA/PRINT/PROMOTIONS

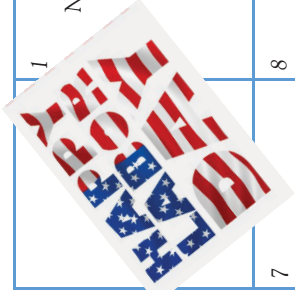




One (1) grouped PA announcement at all home varsity events (boys and girls)

One (1) ad exposure on the Eagle Eye Broadcasting stream per regular season varsity event





# September 2025 Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	NO SCHOOL Labor Day	2 Crispito Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 Shredded Pork/WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 Chicken Alfredo Hot Veggie Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 Hoagie Sun Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	6 
7	8 NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	9 Thai Meatballs Fried Rice WG Brounie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Pizza Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 Sloppy Nacho Breadstick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	12 Chicken Patty/WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL	16 Chicken Tender Baked Beans Dinner Roll-MS/HS Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Spaghetti w/Meatsauce Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18 <b>NATIONAL CHEESEBURGER DAY</b> Cheeseburger/WG Bun Sweet Potato Fries Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk 	19 Hotdog/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	20
21 	22 NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	23 Crm Chicken over Biscuit Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Meatball Sub Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 Hot Ham/Cheese Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 Fiestada Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
28	29 NO SCHOOL	30 Soft Shell Taco Refried Beans Apple Churro-MS/HS Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"			

# A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION



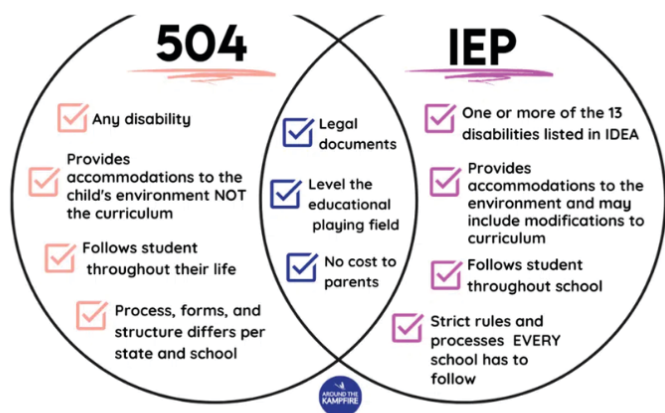
Last month I stated I would explain what Special Education is and the key differences between an IEP and 504 plan. The way education, especially special education- looks and works has changed and keeps changing as our society evolves to be more inclusive and accepting of all individuals. Special Education comes from the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA); it has been in effect since 1975. Within the state of Nebraska, we must also follow Rule 51- our state Special Education Law; a QR code below if you are interested in learning more. Both of these laws state that students with disabilities have a right to a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE).

Students must qualify for special education. The way this happens is through an evaluation completed by a school psychologist. Parents must consent to this evaluation. Once parents' consent to the evaluation, the school district has 60-days to complete the evaluation. Once the evaluation is complete there is a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting with the parents. Parents are to be an active team member in every step of the process. The team will determine given the evaluation, data, and documentations to either verify the child with a disability which "adversely affects" the students education. Student may verify in one of 13 areas. IF a student verifies as a student with a disability and it affect their education, then as a team we determine what the students' needs. Is it the environment that needs changed or the instruction?

If a student needs special instruction, then they may need an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This identifies them as a student with special education services which included instruction and accommodations. If the environment needs to change, the student may need a 504 Plan which provided accommodations. Determining between what and if any plan is needed is a TEAM decision. It is important to remember ALL students are general education students first, approximately 25% of students in JCC qualify for additional services (15% is state average).

A 504 Plan is a formal plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. The plan outline accommodations and modifications to support students with disabilities.

**Both an IEP and 504 plan are legal documents designed to support students with disabilities.**



## PARENT RESOURCES

Parents play a critical role in you students educational experience. You know your student best. It is ok for you to advocate for them, at the same time stress the importance of education and being present engaged

**Here are a couple resources if you are looking for more information:**

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

<https://pti-nebraska.org/>



**RULE 51**



**IDEA INFO**

## 13 VERIFICATION AREAS

1. Specific learning Disability,
2. Speech/ Language Impairments,
3. Other Health Impairment (OHI),
4. Autism,
5. Intellectual Disability,
6. Emotional Disturbance,
7. Developmental Delay,
8. Hearing Impairment,
9. Orthopedic Impairment,
10. Visual Impairment
11. Traumatic Brain Injury
12. Deaf-Blindness
13. Multiple Disabilities

**CONTACT DR. RAD IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS**

## **JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

PO Box 338  
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 225  
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

Website: [www.jccentral.org](http://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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ECRWS

## **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.