



THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

Summer Renovations

(High School HVAC & Fire Code)

Volume 19
Issue 9

Inside This Issue

- 1 - Superintendent Update
- 3 - Retirees
- 6 - Nurse's Office - Summer Tips
- 8 - FFA Updates
- 12 - Summer Weights Info
- 16 - Last set of Senior Spotlights

Jon Rother
Superintendent
402-921-0187

Justin Damme
Principal (9-12)
402-335-7815

Marsha Bacon
Principal (4-8)
402-335-7885

Beckie Robeson
Principal (PK-3)
402-335-7839

Laura Rademacher
Director of Student Services/
Special Education
402-335-7851

Garrett Collin
Activities Director
402-736-5757



SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE

BY JON H. ROTHER

The Johnson County Central Board of Education continues to plan for a future bond election to support new facilities; however, existing conditions need to be addressed in the current buildings. As the high school HVAC system continued to experience failures, this was made a priority.



Due to the extent of HVAC work to be performed, a Fire Code inspection was required. Results of the inspection resulted in required renovations to be completed along with the HVAC repairs.

These included installing:

- **Fire Suppression System in the kitchen**
(completed summer of 2025)
- **Fire Sprinkler System throughout the building**
(started summer of 2025 and will be completed summer 2026)
- **Smoke Seals and updates to doors** to meet fire code

The Johnson County Central Board of Education approved a renovation project through Clark-Enersen Partners after bids went out and were received in March.

The project includes:

- **Variant Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Heat Pump System**
To meet heating and cooling needs.
- **Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems (DOAS)**
To pretreat and provide air to VRF systems.
- **Hydronic Perimeter Heating (fintube)**
Using existing equipment, will use heated water to provide additional heat to classrooms.

**The HVAC system will include an upgraded control system to replace the outdated system (technology and software).*

Superintendent's Article continued from Page 1

- **Ductless Split Air Conditioning Unit**

Will be relocated from the basement to the technology server room on the second floor.

- **Smoke Seals**

All classrooms and hallways will be upgraded to provide a smoke seal.

- **Exhaust Systems**

Exhaust systems will be installed in locker rooms.

- **Interior Doors and Hardware**

Doors leading to corridors upgraded to fire safety code standards.

As bids came in under the budget set by the board, all alternatives included in the bid package were approved for the project. These include:

- Gym HVAC Roof Top Unit replacement.
- Ceiling tile replacement throughout the building.
- Remaining door and hardware replacement (those doors not leading to corridors excepting exterior doors).

Cheever Construction held the winning bid at **\$2,844,500**.

Therefore, the work to the high school will be done during the summer months. Due to the scope and time constraints for the high school renovations, and to ensure work is completed prior to the start of school in August, the high school building will be closed to staff, and to the public, during the months of June and July.

Therefore, all activities that would occur in the high school will be moved to the Tecumseh Site Elementary and the Cook Site. They are as follows:

- Summer Weight Program (Weight Room) - Elementary Gym
- High School Office Operations - Elementary Rooms 201 & 202
- Basketball & Volleyball - Cook Site Gym
- High School Credit Recovery - Elementary Room 206
- Driver Education - Elementary Room 204
- Summer Lunch Program - CANCELLED
- Summer Band Camp - Location TBD

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Jon Rother, Superintendent
jon.rother@jccentral.org
402-921-0187



Retirees

We would like to thank the following individuals and congratulate them on their retirement!



Karen Hunzeker

2014-2026



“I started my teaching career in 1993 at Farragut, Iowa. While there I taught middle school and high school math.

During this time, I was the assistant and eventually head coach of the middle school girls volleyball team, head high school volleyball coach and assistant girls basketball coach.

I loved this farming community and the small size of the school. It was a great first job for me coming from a small community myself.

After traveling from Johnson, where I lived at the time, to Farragut for 8 years I resigned from that position and took a teaching position at Auburn.

During my time there, I taught middle school math and girls PE, Algebra and Advanced Algebra. I was the head coach for softball, assistant coach for middle school volleyball, head coach for middle school girls basketball and the assistant for girls soccer. I remained a bulldog for thirteen years until I took a job at Johnson County Central.

I taught middle school math for seven years and was the technology integration specialist and technology teacher for the last five years. I was

once again able to do what I loved, which was coach.

I was the head coach for middle school volleyball along with the assistant coach and eventually the head coach for girls basketball.

I loved all my positions and learned a great deal from each of them. I was most at home with JCC. I was able to teach/work at the same school my girls attended. I will always cherish the time I had during my twelve years at Johnson County Central.

I have been married to my husband, Greg, for 33 years. We have three girls; Erika, Erin and Jordan. We lived in the Cook area until 2016 when we decided to build a house just south of Tecumseh.

We love living in this area and have made some lifelong friends.”

Mary Robison

2018-2026



“I have worked in a variety of careers including retail and architecture but my most rewarding career by far has been as an educator.

My career in education began as a substitute teacher for Nemaha Valley, Unadilla, SDA and Nebraska City. Although I enjoyed subbing, my goal was to have my own classroom.

I was blessed with that opportunity

at Lewiston Consolidated School; first as their prekindergarten teacher and later as their kindergarten teacher.

I guided learning opportunities for many years at Lewiston, making many lifelong friendships along the way.

In the fall of 2018, I was afforded the amazing opportunity to teach 7th/8th grade math at JCC. I was so excited to teach a subject that I so dearly enjoyed.

One of my favorite classes allowed me the opportunity to explore the world of architecture with the students. I later moved to the 4th grade position.

I feel that this grade level pulled from so many of my experiences teaching the younger students with their eagerness to learn and teaching the older students with their ability to take responsibility for their educational path.

For me, this was the best of both worlds. What a wonderful grade level in which to end my teaching career.

I feel so very blessed to have had all the wonderful experiences I did as an educator.

I want to thank everyone from parents, students, administration and staff for everything you have all done for me during my years as an educator.

My future plans are to enjoy time with my husband, my four adult children and their families, including my five amazing grandbabies.”

Retirees continued onto Page 4

Shirely Schwartzkopf 2017-2026



“I have worked with kids for forty plus years, beginning with in-home day care moving on to head start as a family support worker.

I did several classes in child development and also attended Head Start conferences that were always educational. I have certificates in early childhood development. From Head Start, I moved to the youth shelter for troubled and homeless teens.

While there I attended trainings on how to recognize different mental disorders and how to implement different techniques while dealing with each individual child. I also had several training sessions on drug and alcohol use in children and adults.

During the time I was working these jobs, I spent ten years working for domestic violence at night and on weekends. This also required specific training that I completed.

When I left Scottsbluff and moved to Tecumseh I went to work at JCC where I spent the last 9 years as a para-professional.”



High School Renovations Summer Changes:

As mentioned in this month's superintendent update, the following activities usually held in the High School, will be moved as following:

Summer Weight Program (Weight Room)

- Elementary Gym -

High School Office Operations

- Elementary Rooms 201 & 202 -

Basketball & Volleyball

- Cook Site Gym -

High School Credit Recovery

- Elementary Room 206 -

Driver's Education

- Elementary Room 204 -

Summer Lunch Program

- CANCELLED -

Summer Band Camp

- Location TBD -

2026-2027 School Calendar

July 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

January		Student Days = 16	Teacher Days = 18
1	New Year's Day - NO SCHOOL		
4	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
11	NO SCHOOL		
18	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
25	NO SCHOOL		

February		Student Days = 16	Teacher Days = 19
1	ESU4 In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
8	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
15	NO SCHOOL		
22	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences 11a-7p		

March		Student Days = 18	Teacher Days = 20
1	NO SCHOOL		
8	Teacher In-Service - ECNC Quiz Bowl @ JCC		
12	End of 3rd Quarter		
15	NO SCHOOL		
22	Teacher In-Service - MUDECAS Music @ JCC		
26-29	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break		
Total 3rd Qtr. Student Days = 40, Teacher Days = 46			

April		Student Days = 18	Teacher Days = 20
5	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
12	NO SCHOOL		
19	Teacher In-Service - District Music		
26	NO SCHOOL		

May		Student Days = 12	Teacher Days = 15
3	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
8	JCC High School Graduation		
12	Last Day for 3-Year Old Preschool		
13	NO SCHOOL for students - District Track		
17	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
21	Last Day for Students - End 4th QTR		
	11 AM Dismissal - Teacher In-Service		
21-22	Class C State Track & Field		

Total 4th Qtr. Student Days = 39, Teacher Days = 45
Total 2nd Sem. Student Days = 79, Teacher Days = 91
2026-2027 TOTAL = 154 Student Days
2026-2027 TOTAL = 177 Teacher Days



Summer Checklist

- Annual Wellness/physical appointment with your student's healthcare provider.
- Submit your physical document to school nurse (required for Kindergarten & 7th graders)
- Review your child's vaccination record with the provider.
- Submit immunization records to the Nurse's office if new vaccinations are given.
- If your child has a medical condition, fill out the needed action plans, provide any needed medical orders and supplies to the nurse in the fall.
- Have a safe SUMMER!

Medication

All student medication needs to go home prior to the end of the school year. Please work with the School Nurse to make plans for medication, inhalers, epi-pens and student supplies to be picked up or sent home.

Any medication left after the last day of school will be destroyed.



High School News

From Principal Justin Damme

Congratulations to our **Senior Graduates!** Your time here has shown hard work, growth, and countless contributions that have helped shape our school community. You've led by example, in the classroom, on the field, on stage, and throughout everyday acts of kindness and leadership. We will miss your presence, and are excited to see where your journeys take you next. **Congratulations to the Class of 2026!**

Summer vacation is sneaking up on us! For our JCC students, summer means conditioning and working on their preferred sport skills for the upcoming year.

Summer is also the time for JCC students to take advantage of Driver's Education. There was a meeting held for high school students and middle school students who were interested in Driver's Education. As well as a Remind message sent out to parents.

All interested students can pick up an informational sheet that explains the qualifications for students who want to take Driver's Education from the office. **Driver's Education classes will be held from Tuesday, June 2, 2026, through Friday, June 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** with a thirty-minute lunch break. Classes will be held in the elementary building, room 204.

We have a maximum of 28 JCC students who can take the Driver's Education class. With this in mind, the first 28 JCC students who pay the cost of the class (\$250.00) will be admitted to the summer Driver's Education class.

In February and March, all students pre-registered for the 2026-2027 school year. Once the official class schedule is complete, every student will receive a letter around the end of July, which will include their schedule showing their classes and periods.

Driver's Education

- Elementary Room 204 -
Tuesday, June 2nd - Friday, June 5th

Summer School (Credit Recovery)

- Elementary Room 206 -
Monday, June 1st - Thursday, June 25th



Another item that needs to be addressed is our summer school. Summer school is designed for students for **credit recovery**. **Summer school begins Monday, June 1, 2026, and ends on Thursday, June 25, 2026.** Classes are from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Summer school is administered through a software program called OdysseyWare. Each student will be working independently on the computer. Mrs. Little will be monitoring and assisting the class and will be available for questions and help.

Each class has a required number of assignments each day (approx. 10-13 assignments) that need to be completed with a passing grade. All required assignments need to be completed by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

All parents of students who lost credits in the first semester or who are in jeopardy of losing credits for the second semester were sent a letter on April 24th, 2026, explaining this opportunity. I will meet with these students to encourage them to take summer school and to discuss the importance of utilizing this program.

Summer school needs to be registered for and fees paid for before the first day of class on Monday, June 1, 2026. Students may only take summer school to recover the 1st or 2nd semester of a class, and the fee is \$50.00 per semester class.

Johnson County Central FFA

by Briana Robeson

As the school year is wrapping up for JCC FFA, the achievements and awards have been raining in. An abundance of success was seen at district CDE's with over 20 members qualifying for the State Convention. The chapter brought in teams for Agriscience Fair, Agriscience Contest, Agronomy, Ag Sales, Ag Demo, Biotechnology, Environment & Natural Resources, Nursery Landscape, Food Science, Proficiency, Livestock Management, and Livestock Judging. Many students competed in numerous events at State, keeping the week busy! Five students received their State Degree this year, which is the highest honor that Nebraska FFA can bestow on a member. And lastly, perhaps the biggest accomplishment of the year, Levi Othmer was selected as a 2026-2027 Nebraska State Vice President!



District CDE's & More!

In February, the FFA Chapter took several members to two District CDE competitions. On the 16th, students traveled to Lincoln and competed in Ag Sales, Biotechnology, and Poultry Evaluation. The Ag Sales and Biotechnology teams both advanced to state from there! The remaining CDE's took place at SCC Beatrice on the 24th. These District competitions brought 6 more state qualifying teams. Four students carried on Mrs. Hodges legacy of winning the district Agriscience competition again, making this the 28th year in a row she has sent students to dominate the competition. In March, the chapter sent 6 members out to Kearney to represent JCC's FFA Chapter for the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Annual Conference.

State Qualifying Teams

- **Agronomy:** Levi Othmer, Draven Campbell, Kaiden Dorn, & Wesley Schmid
- **Natural Resources:** Levi Othmer, Kaiden Dorn, AJ Rautenbach, & Heidi Reyes
- **Nursery/Landscape:** Ashley Beethe, Wes Swanson, Briana Robeson, & Catherine Wendt
- **Food Science:** Stefani Peters, Abigail Burki, Payton Brandt, & Wes Swanson
- **Livestock Management:** Wesley Schmid, Molly Weber, Cameron Werner, Sophia Schmid, Riley Wellensiek, & Saige Rother
- **Ag Biotechnology:** Catherine Wendt, Ashley Beethe, Levi Othmer, & Cooper Jones
- **Agriscience:** Heidi Reyes, Grace Frederick, Abigail Burki, & Ashton Huskey
- **Ag Sales:** Levi Othmer, Wesley Schmid, Cameron Werner, & Cooper Jones
- **Livestock Evaluation:** Hadley Hartman, Ashton Huskey, Wesley Schmid, & Sophia Schmid
- **Ag Demo:** Riley Wellensiek & Briana Robeson



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

State Convention

May 2026

At the State Convention, three days were packed full of workshops, competitions, and sessions. The chapter sent 17 members to walk across the stage in front of thousands of Nebraska FFA members. Ashley Beethe & Catherine Wendt, Saige Rother & Molly Weber, Adree Case & Cooper Jones, Reese Baderstcher & Sophia Schmid, Bri Robeson & Riley Wellensiek, Wesley Schmid, and Levi Othmer all walked across the stage to receive top-three Agriscience Fair Project awards. Saige & Molly, Adree & Cooper, Reese & Sophia, Wesley, and Levi all brought home first-place medals. These 8 will now advance to Nationals for a chance to walk the stage at Lucas Oil Stadium this fall. Wes Swanson and Cameron Werner had the opportunity to receive a 2nd place "I Believe in the Future of Ag" banner for the chapter. Kaiden Dorn accepted a 5th-place team award for the Agronomy competition. That team consisted of Kaiden Dorn, Levi Othmer, Draven Campbell, and Wesley Schmid. Ashley Beethe, Catherine Wendt, Draven Cambell, Levi Othmer, and Bri Robeson all walked the stage to receive their State Degrees. Heidi Reyes earned 3rd place individually in the Agriscience competition, competing against 553 other competitors. Levi Othmer finished third for his Proficiency award. Everyone's hard work towards these successes paid off, and JCC FFA couldn't be more proud of everything they have accomplished.

Our very own State FFA Officer....

The grade finale of the State Convention is always the announcement of the new state officer team. The entire chapter was on the edge of their seats as JCC's very own Levi Othmer was called up onto stage as a new 2026-2027 State Vice President. Levi has been working hard at this since mid-February. He spent a week in Kearney, going through intense interviews, and was selected as a finalist to advance to a final round of interviews at the State Convention. During the final session, it was announced that Levi had been selected, along with six others, to serve on the new officer team. He will be the first in JCC history to serve as a State FFA Officer and will proudly represent the JCC FFA Chapter during his time in office. Everyone looks forward to seeing Levi's success as a state officer and wishes him the best of luck!



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

FFA Farm is in Full Swing

May 2026

The FFA Chapter is now breaking ground on its new spring project!

Two FFA members have been brainstorming how to get a farm up and running for an SAE project for the past several months. This project will use the land recently purchased by the district, which is intended for the new school. With the land transitioning between the previous owner and the school, two FFA members saw an opportunity and came up with an idea to farm the land until the school needs it. Levi Othmer & Wesley Schmid are the two driving forces behind the farm's production and look forward to dedicating countless hours to making this project a success. They started planting corn in late April with assistance from AKRS. Tyler Werhbein offered his services by applying anhydrous to the ground in late March. We are very grateful for this opportunity and for all the donations from local agricultural producers that helped make this project possible! A special thanks to Mr. Bartels, Andy & Kim Wellensiek, Mark Baderstcher, and Tyler Werhbein for their assistance with the farm. GO THUNDERBIRDS!!!



Students meeting with crop specialists to discuss land topography.



The land intended to be used for farming



MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES

By Marsha Bacon

As we move into the month of May, we are entering the final stretch of the school year. There are many important activities, celebrations, performances, and end-of-year responsibilities for students in grades 4 through 8. We encourage families to keep a close eye on the calendar as we work toward a successful finish.

NSCAS testing should be completed for students in grades 3-8 by the end of April. MAP testing will begin at the completion of all NSCAS tests. NSCAS & MAP assessments give us valuable information about student growth and help us celebrate the progress our students have made this year.

Our junior high track athletes will be busy through the first part of May. The season continues with meets at Tri County on Monday, May 4, the ECNC Meet at Auburn on Friday, May 8 and the Auburn Relays on Tuesday, May 12.

IMPORTANT YEAR END DATES

- Wednesday, April 29th is future fourth grade orientation at the Cook site.
- The Junior High JCC Invitation at Tecumseh is Thursday, April 30.
- Tuesday, May 5th Cook Site begins MAP testing for students grades 4-8.
- Wednesday, May 6th is the 8th grade orientation at the high school for incoming freshmen.
- Thursday, May 7th is the 8th grade picnic and the Cook site, grades 4-8, spring concert.
- Monday, May 11th is the ECNC Honor Band at Freeman Schools.
- Wednesday, May 13th is the Middle School Science Fair for 8th grade students.
- K-6 Field Day is Friday, May 15th.
- Cook site Honors Day is Monday, May 18th.
- The end of 4th quarter is Thursday, May 21st.

IPAD CHECK-IN/STUDENT CHECK OUT

Student iPads will be turned in during the week of May 18.

- Students must return the school-issued iPad, lightning-to-USB cable, and 12W charger block.
- Families may be responsible for repair or replacement costs for damaged or missing items.
- Students also need to return all textbooks, library books, athletic uniforms and equipment, and pay any outstanding fees or fines. Please help your child check lockers, backpacks, and classroom materials so everything is returned before the last day of school.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE BY GARRETT COLLIN

Greetings Thunderbird Family

You can start to see the light at the end of the tunnel for the school year and things are quickly winding down. It has been a year full of challenges and adversity for our athletes and coaches and they should be acknowledged for a job well done! Everyone should be proud of what they have accomplished!

We have a busy month of May ahead of us with some more home events where you can come out and support your Thunderbirds. They include:

May 3rd: Athletic Banquet

May 7th: High School JCC Boys Golf Invite
@ Tecumseh Country Club

May 8th: High School Track JCC Invite

May 14th: District Track

May 15th: K-6 Track & Field Day

As we head into summer, keep an eye out for summer schedules and information such as weight room hours and specific-sport open gyms and camps. It is extremely important that our athletes take advantage of these opportunities to hone their skills. Please encourage them to attend.

Here are some important dates and times for the summer weight room:

SUMMER WEIGHT ROOM SCHEDULE

Dead week: Monday, May 25th through Sunday, May 31st

Opening day: June 1st

CLOSED: Friday, July 3rd

Closing date: Friday, July 31st

Dead week: Monday, August 3rd - Sunday, August 9th

Fall practice begins: Monday, August 10th

Session 1: 6:30am-7:30am (*High School Athletes*)

Session 2: 7:30am-8:30am (*High School Athletes*)

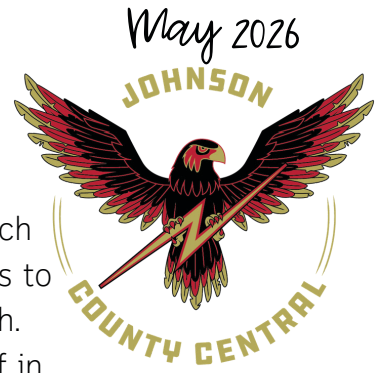
Session 3: 8:30am-9:30am (*Junior High Athletes*)

Session 4: 6:30pm-7:30pm (*All Athletes*) *except Fridays

****Please note:** *all sessions will be a mix of boys & girls.*

Greetings From the Elementary!

by Beckie Robeson



As we prepare for the final events and activities, let's continue to support each other and celebrate our students' successes. From field trips and track meets to graduations, each occasion is a milestone in their path of learning and growth. We are grateful for the unwavering partnership of parents, teachers, and staff in supporting an environment of encouragement and excellence.

Here's to a wonderful conclusion to the school year and a bright future ahead for all our students. Let's make these last few weeks memorable and filled with joy!

Elementary Thoughts

Preschool

- "I learned how to plant grass this year!" - Burke Kuhl
- "My favorite thing at school is snack time!" - Riley Borrenpohl
- "I learned about the Earth." - Morgan Campbell

Kindergarten:

- "My favorite memory from this school year is making a playdough volcano for the letter Vv week." - Boone Lada
- "My favorite memory from this school year was meeting new friends." - Lana Mahoney- Pletcher
- "When we went to the pumpkin patch, I got to pick out my own pumpkin!" - Joleen Fink

First-Grade:

- "I loved our fire station field trip!" - Cassidy Russell
- "I love working with Mrs. Kling and Ms. Snethen." - Leena Dinan
- "I really liked writing our book." -MaKayla Sell
- "I learned about Pilgrims and the Mayflower." - Beckett Bauman

Second-Grade:

- "My favorite memory is when Mrs. Robeson brought hot cocoa around to my class. It was really good." - Emmarie Shullaw
- "This year, I learned to add bigger numbers and how to multiply." - Beckett Gist
- My favorite memory from this school year was visiting the FFA petting zoo." -Merida Britt
- "I liked making a Christmas craft with the high school students." -Journey Flores Rentas

Third-Grade:

- "My favorite memory from school this year is when the guy with the yo-yos came and taught us about NED." - Penny Barnes
- "Something I learned this year is that the Earth's crust is the first layer of the Earth." -Colton Bailey
- "My favorite memory from this school year is coming into class to meet Mrs. Gyhra." - Rainey Neemann

Important Dates

- **Monday, May 4:** No School
- **Wednesday, May 6:** Preschool Track & Field Day, 2:30 PM
- **Friday, May 8:** 3rd Grade Field Trip to Morrill Hall
- **Friday, May 8:** JCC Track Invite
- **Saturday, May 9:** JCC HS Graduation 2:00 PM
- **Monday, May 11:** School in Session
- **Tuesday, May 12:** First State Bank to visit 3rd Grade
- **Wednesday, May 13:** LAST DAY for 3-year-old preschool
- **Wednesday, May 13:** Elementary Students attending Middle School Science Fair
- **Thursday, May 14:** No School, District Track Bake Goods/Burrito Sale, Coffee Truck Fundraiser
- **Friday, May 15:** K-6 Track & Field Day
- **Monday, May 18:** School in Session
- **Tuesday, May 19:** Preschool to Bee Me Sensory Gym
- **Tuesday, May 19:** Kindergarten Graduation in Elementary Auditorium 6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, May 19:** K-3 Spring Program 7:00 PM
- **Wednesday, May 20:** Preschool Graduation 6:30 PM
- **Wednesday, May 20:** 2nd Grade Field Trip to Arbor Farm
- **Thursday, May 21:** LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 11:00 AM dismissal

Contact Info:

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

email: beckie.robesson@jccentral.org phone: 402-335-7839

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

Wrapping up the year...

Summer School

Once again, we will be offering our Summer Reading Program to students in grades K-5. As a team, teachers and building principals look at student test scores, classwork, grades, and teacher recommendations to determine who would benefit from attending the JCC Summer Reading Program. This is a great opportunity for students to continue working with teachers on skills to help them succeed.

We are excited to see the positive impact this program has had in previous years, and we look forward to another successful summer filled with learning and growth. The program is designed to be engaging and fun, incorporating activities that foster a love of reading while strengthening essential literacy skills. Parents will be kept informed about their child's progress, and we encourage open communication to ensure each student receives the support they need.

Enrollment information and specific dates will be shared in the upcoming weeks. We are committed to providing a supportive and enriching environment for all participants. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's educational journey.

Summer Break

Summer is a time to enjoy family and friends and to recharge. It's a season to explore new interests and embark on adventures, whether it's through travel, hobbies, or simply enjoying the great outdoors. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to relax and unwind, embracing the warmth and longer days. As you plan your summer activities, remember the importance of balancing fun with preparation for the upcoming school year. Encourage your children to pursue their passions and perhaps even discover new ones. We hope you have a wonderful summer filled with joy, laughter, and memorable experiences. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another successful academic year.

Thank you

Lastly, I want to personally thank all of the students, parents, staff, and community members for your unwavering support. Reflecting back on the school year, I have had the opportunity to meet wonderful people who support our students and contribute to our wonderful school community. Your involvement and dedication make a significant difference in the lives of our students, helping to create an environment where they can thrive. Whether through volunteering, attending school events, supporting fundraisers, or providing feedback, your engagement is invaluable.

As we move forward, let's continue to work together to cultivate a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere for every student. Your commitment to education and community spirit is truly inspiring, and I am grateful for the unwavering support you provide.

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall for another exciting and productive school year. Let's continue to journey together, creating opportunities and striving for excellence.

Contact Info:

Please feel free to contact me at anytime during the school year
 email: beckie.roberson@jccentral.org phone: 402-335-7839



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

NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

SCC Dual Credit Courses at JCC High School: HS Students Can Register Now

All JCC juniors and seniors (this year's sophomores and juniors) are eligible to take dual credit courses both online and in the classroom through Southeast Community College.

Sophomores (this year's freshmen) who have at least a 3.5 GPA may also take dual credit classes.

Students and parents can find more information on this in the JCC registration handbook (all students were emailed this on Friday, February 13th and it is also available on the JCC website.

SCC also has a guide to classes available that students can get from our SCC dual credit rep, Nick Herrington, or from Mrs. Reuter.

Students need to meet with Mr. Herrington to get signed up for dual credit classes. He usually comes to our school on Wednesdays around lunch time.

To create an SCC account, they will need their iPad and will need to know their address, social security number, phone number, and other basic information.

After they have an SCC account, they can then register for classes.

Peru State College- Summer College Opportunity for High School Students

Peru State College is offering a summer opportunity for high school students to take online college courses this summer. These are online courses.

If a high school student is responsible and can navigate a class without a teacher guiding them every step of the way, these classes may be a great option for them to earn college credits in high school.

The cost is \$60 per credit hour (significantly lower than students in college pay). Most classes are 3 credit hours. Students are responsible for paying the costs of these classes and buying your own books and materials for their classes.

If a student wants to take a class, they should sign up right away as some classes are filling fast. Go to this web page to learn more and sign up. <https://my.peru.edu/psummerdualcreditenrollmentform/inquiryform>



Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026

Introducing the Class of 2026: Each month, I will feature some of our seniors at JCC HS. This month, meet Annamarie, Ashley, and Jorge.



Annamarie May Russell
JCC Class of 2026

Annamarie May Russell is the daughter of James and Kelley Russell of Tecumseh. She has four younger sisters.

Her favorite classes in school have been her life skills, work-based learning, and music classes. Her favorite school lunch is pizza.

During high school, Annamarie has been involved in choir and cheerleading. She also works for the after-school program here at school.

Outside of school, she likes to hang out with friends. Her favorite music is K-pop music and the band, Skillet. Her favorite TV show is Maya and the Three, and her favorite book is Fourth Wing.

In ten years, Annamarie sees herself living in Florida, married, with one child, and working at a daycare center or in any other job where she gets to work with little kids.

Ashley Beethe is the daughter of Allan and Carolyn Beethe of rural Tecumseh. She has one older brother, Andrew, who is 25, and one older sister, Carrie, who is 23.

Ashley has been involved in many activities during her high school years including volleyball, basketball, track, FFA, FBLA, HOSA, NHS, One Act, play production, band, choir, FCA, and jazz band.

When asked about her favorite class, Ashley said, “My favorite class was Food Science because we always got to make and taste test a variety of different foods.” When asked about her most challenging class, Ashley replied, “Physics was probably my most challenging class due to the high-level math and complex scenarios being solved.”

Ashley’s favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Ashley likes to play volleyball.

After high school, Ashley plans to attend Midland University to major in Biology and play volleyball. Her career goal is to become a biomedical research scientist.



Ashley Beethe
JCC Class of 2026

Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026



Jorge Uriel Prado-Sanchez is the son of Jorge Prado and Josefina Sanchez of Tecumseh. He has two brothers, Damian, age 16, and Axel, age 11.

Jorge's favorite high school class has been Jag because it has helped him to stay on top of his school work, and is a very welcoming class. His most challenging high school classes have been his math classes because of the many varieties of work that would stack up over time in those classes.

His favorite school lunch is cheese sticks. Outside of school, Jorge likes to work, drive around, and go places with friends. His favorite music artist is Drake, his favorite movie is Fast and Furious, and his favorite author is Alan Gratz.

Jorge plans to enlist in the Navy after high school, and then in the future, he would like to attend either the University of Nebraska-Omaha or Bellevue University.

When asked about his life ten years from now, Jorge said, "I plan to have many houses that I rent out while having my own business in the career that I choose."

Jorge Uriel Prado-Sanchez
JCC Class of 2026

Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026



Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Damme Photography
Not pictured: Jaquelin Duarte

May Newsletter - Mrs. Faris - First Grade

Can you believe that it's May? Wow! The school year went by so fast. We have put a lot of work into this year, but we still aren't finished with all of our lessons and projects. I'd like to share one project the students loved.

We had a story in our reading texts that taught us about many different types of bridges found around the world. It was just fascinating to learn about beam, cable-stayed, suspension, truss, arch, and one-of-a-kind bridges. Then, we had a project to draw a bridge between our pretend home and our pretend school, with a river between them. They were all wonderful! The students shared their choice or design, the materials needed, what made their bridge sturdy, whether people or cars could go over it, whether a boat could sail under it, and finally, what color they chose and why.

After that, we got our building materials. They worked in teams to build sturdy, well-designed bridges. Thank you to the parents and community members who donated these materials to our classroom over the past few years. I put them on the Christmas tree, and I'm so thankful for those who donated to us. Here are a few pictures of our building bridges. Thanks again!!



*News from the Director of Student Services
and Special Education*

Dr. Laura Rademacher

May 2026



May is a time when we want to go outside and just relax. The school year is nearing a close and SUMMER is just around the corner! There are still days of school remaining which means attendance is crucial.

Attendance Matters- the state of Nebraska requires children between ages 6 and 18 to attend school regularly. Schools must keep accurate attendance records and communicate expectations to students and parents. Attendance is a key driver of academic success. At JCC we work with families and communities together to identify and remove barriers, with a strong emphasis on prevention and support for chronically absent students. A student is considered chronically absent if they miss 18 or more days in a school year — about 10% of the school year — for any reason. Chronic absence is linked to lower graduation rates, reduced test scores, and higher dropout risks (reconnect.sbps.net)

Families are responsible for ensuring regular attendance, establishing routines, and addressing barriers such as illness, mental health issues, or family crises ([Nebraska Department of Education+1](#)). If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please contact your school's office.

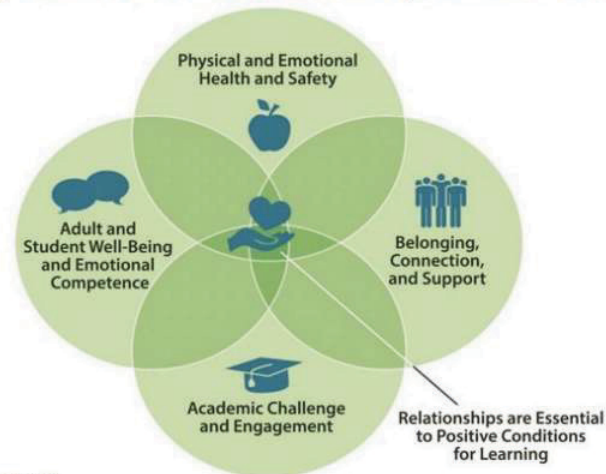
Resources

- **211 Nebraska** – Connects families to community resources.
- **Unite Us** – Builds coordinated care networks for at-risk students.
- **MyLink App** – Provides access to education, health, and basic needs resources Nebraska Department of Education.

As summer is blowing in- be sure to keep reading with your child and giving them opportunities to learn and connect with others.



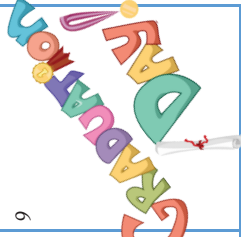


Absenteeism is a Sign that Positive Conditions for Learning are Missing, Whether Classes are In Person, Distance or Blended



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>QR Code for JCC Event Calendar on Google!</p>	<p>ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p>	<p>ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p>	<p>ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p>	<p>1 HS Honors Day Program HS Gym - 2:30 PM Varsity Baseball @ Ralston - 4:30 PM HS Spring Music Concert Auditorium - 7 PM</p>	<p>2 Varsity Track ECNC @ Palmyra - 10 AM</p>	<p>2 Varsity Track ECNC @ Palmyra - 10 AM</p>
<p>3 Athletic Banquet HS Gym - 4 PM</p>	<p>4 NO SCHOOL JH Track @ Tri County - 10 AM Varsity Baseball @ DC West - 4:30 PM</p>	<p>5 Varsity Track @ Freeman - 9 AM Varsity Boys Golf @ Grandpa's Woods - 10 AM</p>	<p>6 Preschool Track & Field Day 2:30 PM</p>	<p>7 Varsity Boys Golf @ Tecumseh CC - 9 AM Grades 4-8 Spring Music Concert @ MS Gym - 7 PM</p>	<p>8 3rd Grade @ Morrill Hall Field Trip Varsity Track @ JCC - 10 AM JH Track ECNC @ Auburn - 10 AM</p>	<p>9 High School Graduation @ HS Gym - 2 PM Senior Art Show @ HS Cafeteria Following Graduation</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11 ECNC Honor Band (HS & JH) @ Freeman - 8:30 AM Varsity Boys Golf @ Hidden Valley CC - 9 AM FFA Banquet @ 7 PM</p>	<p>12 JH Track Relays @ Auburn - 4 PM</p>	<p>13 Middle School Science Fair @ 9 AM JCC School Board Meeting - 6 PM @ HS Computer Lab (Rm 204)</p>	<p>14 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service Varsity Track District Meet @ JCC - 10 AM</p>	<p>15 K-6 Track & Field Day @ Football Field - 1 PM</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18 FFA State Horse Evaluation @ Norfolk Cook Site Honors Day Elementary - 10:30 AM Cook Site Honors Day Middle School - 3:00 PM</p>	<p>19 Varsity Boys Golf Districts @ Hidden Valley 6th Grade @ Zoo Field Trip Pre-K @ Bee Me Sensory Field Trip Kindergarten Graduation @ Auditorium - 6:30 PM K-5 Spring Music Concert @ HS Gym - 7 PM</p>	<p>20 2nd Grade @ Arbor Farm Field Trip PreK Graduation @ Auditorium - 6:30 PM</p>	<p>21 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester Early Dismissal</p>	<p>22 Teacher In-Service Varsity Track State Track Meet @ Burke</p>	<p>23 Varsity Track State Track Meet @ Burke</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Varsity Boys Golf State Meet @ TBD</p>	<p>28 Varsity Boys Golf State Meet @ TBD</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

May 2026

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	NO SCHOOL	Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Fiestada Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Hotdog/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Patty/WG Bun Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	 16
10	11	12	13	14	15	
 17	Meatball Sub Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Fajita Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Last Day 3 yr. old PK Cream Chicken over Biscuit Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	NO SCHOOL District Track Meet @ JCC	Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Hoagie Hot Veggies Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Crispito Black Bean Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pizza Hot Veggies Ice Cream Cup Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Early Dismissal-11:00 a.m.	NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	
24	25	26	27			

Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice

"This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PO Box 338 PO Box 225
Tecumseh, NE 68450 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

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.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3
Cook, NE 68329
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.