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Rick Lester

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Johnson County Central Public Schools



Monthly Newsletter

November 2015

SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

Each summer the Board of Education and I take part in a retreat. In this retreat, which is usually led by a staff member from the Nebraska Association of School Boards, we discuss goals the Board has for the district. The goals are centered in a few key areas:

- Student Achievement
- Learning Facilities
- Communications
- Technology
- Board of Education

In each of these areas we identify some goals that would help the district to improve in each area. We are in the process of taking this process to another level. The Board's Americanism/Curriculum Committee and I are working toward developing action plans that will help to provide evidence that we are making progress on each goal.

I would like to key on the Board goals in the area of Communications. The stated goals of the Board are to (each is shortened for this article):

1. Engage and foster positive working relationships with the community.
2. Study and identify ways to engage parents beginning at the preschool level to create a partnership to support student success.
3. Create a Diversity Advisory Committee consisting of administrators, staff, and community members from our Hispanic and Laotian communities.
4. Grow the cooperative relationship with the business community and leaders.
5. Study the ways to provide Adult ELL classes.

I believe our school has an excellent relationship with the community as a whole. However, there are always ways to improve these relationships. One area we need to work harder on is developing a closer working relationship with patrons from cultures other than Nebraska small town. We have resources available in these cultures that could benefit the school and our students a great deal. Likewise, we can provide more resources for our patrons in these areas. We also have a great relationship with the business community, but I believe there is an excellent opportunity for our students and staff to be more involved in local commerce. There are great "real world" learning opportunities that are available to our students.

As we work through the action plans I will try to keep you updated.

VETERANS DAY

We will again host Veterans Day programs at both the Tecumseh and Cook sites on Wednesday, November 11. Both programs will begin at 10:45 a.m. Both programs will feature guest speakers and musical performances by students. Mr. Tom Rother will provide the address at the Cook site, while Mr. Gary Moles will provide the address at the Tecumseh site. Both of these gentlemen were very active in the Vietnam conflict and have had some of their own children serve in the military. The programs are open to the public. An added feature is that we invite all veterans and their spouses to remain after the programs for lunch, courtesy of the school. If you plan to stay for lunch please call Daisy Mejia at the Tecumseh site (335-3328) or Julie Damme at the Cook site (864-4171).



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Fall is officially here and with that comes the end of our fall sports and the end of the 1st quarter of the 2015-2016 school year. By the time you receive this newsletter JCC will have already hosted the 1st parent/teacher conference. If you were unable to attend, please note that your student will be given their report card. Please feel free to call or email your student's teachers if you have any questions or concerns about your student's academic progress. I encourage every parent to be involved and show interest in their student's academic progress. I know we are all busy, but your student's academic success is linked to your interest. It is a proven fact that the more interest a parent shows in their student's academics, the better the student's desire to succeed. You can ask your student about their classes, or a specific project. Help them set aside a specific time or place to study. Listen to their concerns and praise their successes as well as encourage their struggles. You would be amazed how these small gestures will help your student to improve in the classroom. As always, if you have any question please call.

NEWS FROM RICH BACON

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The first quarter ended on Thursday, October 15th and report cards should be in parents' hands by the time this newsletter is printed. If you have not received your child's report card please contact the school. Hopefully, all parents were able to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 29th or 30th. If you were unable to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences please contact your child's teachers if you have any concerns. Parent-Teacher Conferences give parents a unique opportunity to discuss their child's personal and social development with their teachers. Parental involvement is one of the main ingredients to academic success. Parents need to take an interest in their child's academic performance on a daily basis, talk to their child about school, and praise their child when they do well on a particular academic task. Sometimes this small effort will make a huge difference in a child's academic success.

For the 2nd year in a row, Johnson County Central Middle School qualified for the 2015 Title 1 Distinguished School Recognition Program. Schools nominated must meet the following National and Nebraska Criteria: 1. Have a poverty rate of 35% or higher for the nominated year; 2. Demonstrate high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years; 3. Meet or exceed state-determined criteria based on two or more consecutive years of achievement data, 4. Maintain or Improve academic achievement standards based on NeSA scores; 5. Look at three years of data to ensure the school is closing the gap between different sub-groups; and 6. Look at student performance data over a 3-year period to determine whether the groups scoring below goal have improved. Nice job students and staff. Keep up the good work.

Congratulations to our recently selected Student Council members: 8th grade – Eli Waring-president, Jacob Wolter, Carrie Beethe, Sam Buss, Tanner Kerner; 7th Grade – Saylor Rother, Calvin Antholz, Morgan Moran; 6th Grade – Madelyn Harrifeld, Isabella Wolter, & Madison Pingel. These students were selected by their peers in a secret-ballot election and will be counted on to provide leadership for the student body.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S NEWS

The Junior High volleyball, football and cross country teams have concluded their seasons. The football team finished with a record of 5–1. The volleyball A-team finished with a 1–11–1 record and the B-team finished with a ---3–6 record. The football, volleyball and cross country teams all worked hard and had competitive seasons. Congratulations to the boys and girls who competed for the Thunderbirds this fall and their coaches Mr. Robeson, Mr. Blecha, Mrs. Juilfs, Mr. Fricke and Mr. Weber.

Congratulations to our District Champion, Samuel Saldivar, and District Runner-up, Aleisha McDonald, for qualifying for the State Cross Country Meet in Kearney. The girls team of Aleisha McDonald, Annika McDonald, Angelica Wellman, Erin Hunzeker, Jordan Rodriguez, and Sarai Ares finished 2nd at the district meet and earned a place at the state meet. Great job athletes and coaches!

A special thank you goes out to Tom Dieckgrafe and Adam Badberg of the Cook Volunteer Fire Department for speaking to the 4th and 5th grades about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week.

Elementary News

J O N R O T H E R
 E M A I L : J O N . R O T H E R @ J C C E N T R A L . O R G
 T W I T T E R : @ J O N R O T H E R



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Tuesday, Nov. 3—4th Grade field trip to Homestead Nat'l Monument.
- Tuesday, Nov. 10—Picture Re-takes.
- Friday, Nov. 13—1:00 p.m. Dismissal.
- Thursday, Nov. 26—No School!
- Friday, Nov. 27—No School!



Do the Research

Now that we have the Internet at our fingertips, as parents, we can find research on just about anything. If we want to know what the effects of screen time on our children are, we can do a search and find multiple studies on the subject. If we want to find out if the foods we are regularly feeding, or allowing our children to eat, are healthy or are going to have positive or negative effects on their long-term health, we can find research. The same goes with social media, exercise, medications, wearing seatbelts, reading and even the manner in which, and how much, we speak to our children.

The important thing is to discern real and valid research from opinions and speculation. That's the other issues with the World Wide Web; there is so much information out there that it can be hard to find credible sources that provide actual, credible numbers and research.

One way to check a study's validity is to see who conducted the

research. Was it a major university? Was it someone who has experience in the field? You can find out by doing your own searches on the author, or authors, of the study.

Another way to check a study's validity, is to see if there have been any other studies that support the findings. You may discover that there are similar studies that actually dispute the first one.

Check the date. When was the research done? This is huge. Some studies are outdated and new research has shed very different light on some topics. Look at what we know now about eating eggs. For the longest time it was thought that eggs were bad for you. Now, we know different. Try to find the most recent research you can.

Another great area of use for the Internet is to research "how to". How to do certain Math problems. How to help your student be more physically fit, and what

is appropriate fitness wise for their age. How to help your child be a better reader. How to help your child get along with other students. The Web is full of resources for these issues. Some of them are linked on our web-site, such as our month flyer for [Helping Children Learn](#).

A great academic site is www.khanacademy.org. This site covers just about every academic subject, provides videos, practice and feedback. And, it's FREE! You do need to set up an account however.

If you are a movie buff, use www.imdb.com to look up the movie, scroll down to "Parents Guide" and click on "View content advisory" to see if the movie is appropriate for your child.

Happy Web surfing and researching!

CONGRATULATIONS, SEPTEMBER THUNDERBIRDS OF THE MONTH!

K—Angel Buchanan, Conner Gerking, Sofia Golda, Bodhi Klein, Elizabeth Wallace, Riley Wellensiek, Corbin Newcomb, Anthony Orozco, Sophia Schmid, Wesley Schmid

1st—A.J. Rautenbach, Amelia Britt, Brayden Beethe, Dante Gurrola, Harlee Hardesty, Monica Jimenez, Prestin Thomas, Hayleigh Daniels, Trever Bohling, Hope Butterbaugh, Memphis Pingle, Harley Reyes, Harrison Bacon, Addison Borrenpohl, Anthony Campos, Kyler Cruz, Leonel Cruz, Mario Lara Jr., Lane Robeson

2nd—Charlyn Bobadilla, Zeke Burki, Kaiden Dorn, Harley Lubben, Levi Othmer, Trevor Pietzyk, Saige Rother, Robert Schmiegelow, Maisen See, Madison VanLaningham, Jack Waring, Gabe Bernadt, Eli Buggi, Marisol Mandl, Maria Maya-Soto, Wes Swanson

3rd—Juanita Grobler, Avery Houseman, Madison Jansen, Lexi Robeson, Treven Tams, David Campos, Salena Conley, Kali Drake, Maecee Nee-mann, Memphis Newcomb, Maggie Niebrugge, Jocelyn Prado

4th—Arelly Cabrales, Cameron Daniels, Lorie Sofia Durst, Jadelyn Grobler, Bailee Sterup, River White, Kyle Bartels, Michael Bernadt, Ava Buggi, Priscila Cabrales, Mia Castor, Ruby Duarte, Wyatt Ludemann, Nathaly Martinez, Alexis Mullins, Kaitlynn Plager, Sunnie Rother, Keven Silos, Shaylie Thiemann, Sergio Valles

5th—Katelyn Beethe, Karen Canseco, Maileen Maya-Soto, Keiry Najera, Kimberly Orozco, Cole Robeson, Tatum Rutledge, Erika Cabrales, MacKinze Gordon, Hayden Huskey, Chayce Oenbring, Aiden Weber

High School Counselor News by Shelley Moles

“Dedicated to encouraging a Journey of excellence Creating lifelong learners and Citizens for tomorrow.”

Financial Aid Night at Johnson County Central High School on Tuesday, November 10, 2015:

A representative from EducationQuest will share information about financial aid on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the high school building of Johnson County Central Public Schools. Seniors, juniors and their parents are invited to attend to learn about the types of financial aid available to meet educational needs. Topics generally include: applying for grants such as Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), applying for scholarships, loan applications and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.

Parents and students may also visit the EducationQuest website at www.educationquest.com or the EducationQuest Foundation office at 1300 “O” Street in Lincoln for other FREE college planning resources.

ASVAB Testing for Juniors:

JCC juniors will be taking the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Johnson County Central High School. Testing will begin at 8:20 a.m.

The ASVAB helps students identify abilities and compare their test performance to other students at their grade level.

Students may use ASVAB results to explore careers and to judge academic readiness to pursue advanced education. Results may also be used for military enlistment up to two years after taking the test. ASVAB information is not made available to the Selective Service System.

Seniors who are interested in taking the ASVAB should contact Mrs. Moles to be included in the testing.

Accepting Nominations for Leadership Seminars:

Nebraska Leadership Seminar (NLS) is now accepting nominations for its four-day summer seminar at Midland University, Fremont, NE, **June 16-19, 2016!** Through interactive activities, NLS helps students grow as leaders by developing their own strengths and working with the strengths of others.

To be eligible, students must be:

- a high school sophomore
- able to attend the entire seminar
- willing to become a leader in our community

If you or your child is interested in learning more about this great opportunity, please contact Shelley Moles, JCC Counselor at 402 335 3328. Student applications are due November 11, 2015. The \$150/student cost includes lodging, meals, transportation, and guest speakers. Johnson County Central may nominate two representatives to attend.

Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Seminar: June 3-5, 2016, at Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska. The HOBY seminar is a summer leadership development experience for sophomore students. To be eligible, sophomore students must demonstrate leadership in their school and/or community and be nominated by their school. The cost of \$195 for the 1st delegate and \$350 for the second delegate includes lodging, meals, and guest speakers. Johnson County Central High School may nominate one representative and one alternate or 2 delegates and an alternate. Students who are interested need to return their application to Mrs. Moles by November 11, 2015!

For an application or more information about either the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Seminar or the Nebraska Youth Leadership Seminar, please see Mrs. Moles.

Nebraska Career Connections:

Students, parents, educators, other adults and job seekers are welcomed to use the educational and career planning resources found on the Nebraska Career Connections website www.nebraskacareerconnections.org. Designed for Nebraskans, Nebraska Career Connections is a collaborative effort of several state agencies and non-profit organizations including the NE Dept. of Education, NE Dept. of Labor, NE Dept. of Economic Development, EducationQuest, Future Force NE and others to coordinate resources and services through efficient and effective online access for all Nebraskans.

Some of the goals of Nebraska Career Connections are to connect Nebraskans to a variety of career exploration, planning, and management resources, create an awareness of high-demand Nebraska occupations, connect interest, skill, and work value inventories to educational options and occupations, help develop 4- or 6-year educational plans, write professional-looking resumes, and guide occupational exploration and selection of postsecondary schools and majors.

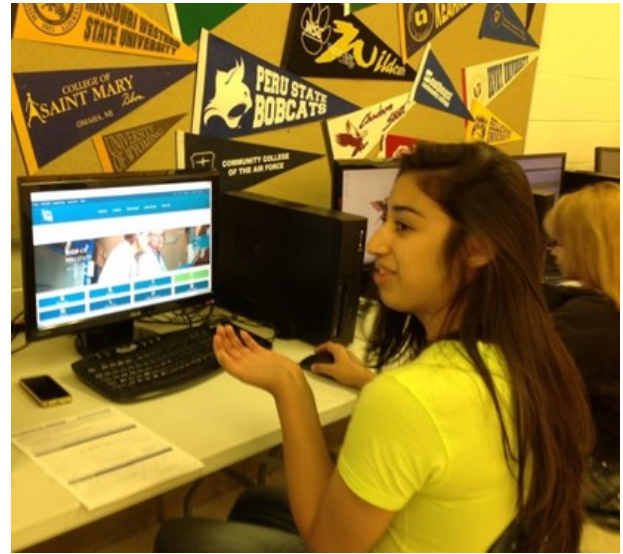
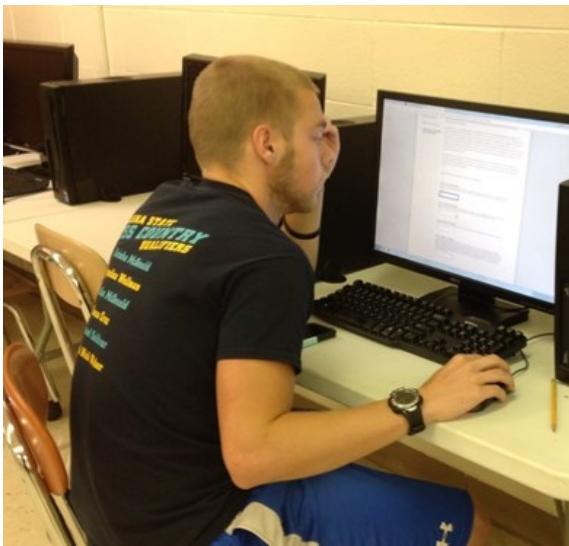
Many resources are available without logging into the site such as career clusters and searches, postsecondary options, and financial aid information.

Students at Johnson County Central High School who want to “Get Connected” (build a resume, develop a 4 year high school plan, or take an interest, skills, or work value survey and save results to an online portfolio) should use handout information received from Mrs. Moles (user name, school access code) and then log on to the Nebraska Career Connections website at: www.nebraskacareerconnections.org!

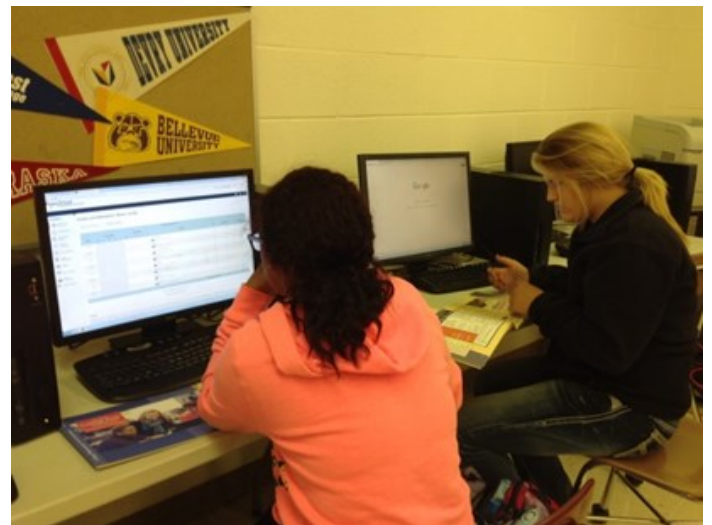


Apply2College Day at JCC:

Sixteen Johnson County Central High School seniors participated in Apply2College Day promoted by the EducationQuest Foundation.



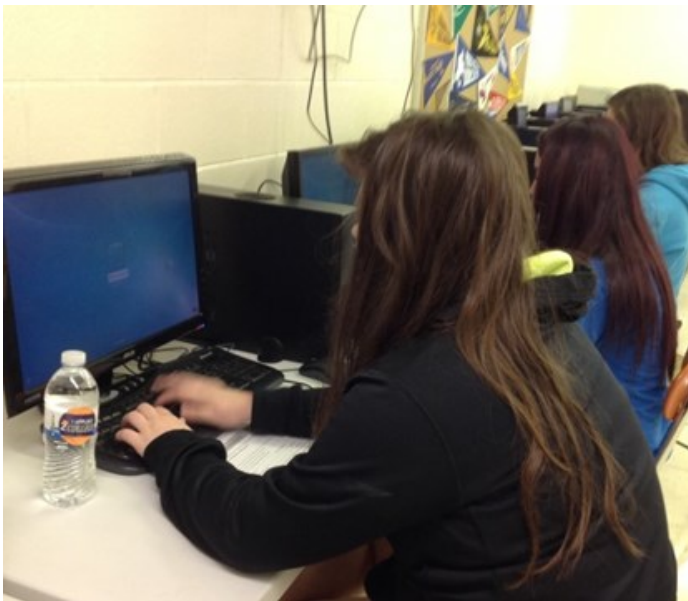
Students were invited to complete applications in the high school computer lab during periods 1, 2, and 3 (from about 8:15 to 11:00 a.m.). Mrs. Moles, school counselor, and Mrs. Kris Brase, retired JCC counselor, answered questions and assisted students while they completed college applications.



A variety of refreshments and promotional material was available to students.



Several students completed more than one application. Students reported completing 35 college applications



NCAA Division I and Division II: A Note to Athletes

Students wishing to compete in college athletics or receive an athletic scholarship from NCAA Division I and II colleges should check out the requirements for participation from the college they plan to attend. Student athletes must meet Eligibility for Academics and Amateurism. Academic eligibility is based on GPA in accepted college-preparatory core courses and a combined ACT English, Math, Reading, and Science score or combined SAT Critical Reading and Math score.

In determining Amateurism, any benefit received prior to enrolling in college may be reviewed. Activities that may be reviewed include contracts with a professional team, prize money, play with professionals, benefits from an agent or prospective agent, agreement to be represented by an agent, tryouts, practice, or competition with a professional team.

Academically, for students to be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during their first year at a Division I school, they must meet standards for core courses, core-course grade-point average (GPA) and test scores. Students must graduate high school and meet ALL of the following requirements: 1) complete 16 core courses - 4 years of English, 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural/physical science (including 1 year of lab science), 2 years of social science, 4 additional years of English, math, or natural/physical science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy, 2) complete 10 core courses, including 7 in English, math or natural/physical science **before** the start of 7th semester (Once students begin 7th semester, they may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses to improve their core-course GPA), 3) earn at least a 2.3 GPA in their core courses, and 4) earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching their core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances test scores and core-course GPA. If students have a low test score, they need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. For example a student with a 3.0 GPA would need an SAT of 620 or an ACT of 52, a student with a 2.5 GPA would need an SAT of 820 or an ACT of 68, while a student with a 3.5 GPA would need an SAT of 420 or an ACT of 39. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding the English, math, reading and science subscores. The combined ACT score is calculated by adding the critical reading and math subscores.

Students who enroll full-time at a Division I school, and have not met all the Division I academic requirements, may NOT compete in their first year at college. However, if they qualify as an academic redshirt, they may practice during their first term in college and receive an athletic scholarship for the entire year. The academic redshirt qualification is only for students who enroll full time in college after August 1, 2016. To qualify as an academic redshirt, a student must graduate high school and meet ALL the following academic requirements: 1) complete 16 core courses (see list above), 2) earn at least a 2.0 GPA in core courses, and 3) earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching his or her core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.

Students who want to participate in Division II college and universities and to receive a scholarship, must 1) graduate from high school, 2) complete **16** core courses that include 3 years of English, 2 years of math (Algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural or physical science, 2 years of social science, 3 additional years of English, math or natural or physical science, and 4 additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy, 3) have a minimum 2.0 core GPA and 4) earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division II competition sliding scale.

Students wanting to participate in Division III college athletics should contact the college for its policies on admission, financial aid, and athletics eligibility.

The core courses from Johnson County Central that meet the definition of approved core courses are available at www.eligibilitycenter.org. That website also contains more detailed information about NCAA participation and registration.

Plan to attend the T-BIRD Booster Club Meeting!

Monday, November 16th

High School Cafeteria

6:00 pm

The kids want your support!

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL
2015-2016

Seniors

Spencer Dorsey
***Mitchell Faris**
Humberto Gonzalez
Nathan Liberty
***Grant Moles - All A's**
Natalie Roddy
Bryce Sahs
Austin Valenzuela

Juniors

***Marissa Borrenpohl**
Jonathan Cruz
***Schylar DeFreece - All A's**
Erin Hunzeker
***Sara Kettelhake**
***Keaton Kleespies - All A's**
***Sopha Kongmanyvong - All A's**
Jesse Reyes
Alejandra Rojas
Samuel Saldivar
Mark Splichal
Mary Alice Sterup
Angelica Wellman

***Honor Roll with Distinction**

Students earn at least a 94%
average with all A's and a
maximum of one "B"

Sophomores

Johan Arellano
***MacKenzie Eltiste**
***Nicholas Gorake**
Vanhna Kongmanyvong
Celina Lambelet
***Sierra McClintock - All A's**
***Aleisha McDonald**
Madison Moran
Emalee North
Tia Parrish
Macey Pietzyk
***Hannah Swanda - All A's**

Freshmen

Sarai Ares
Josh Bailey
***Connor Bartels**
***Tyler Bartels - All A's**
***Andrew Beethe - All A's**
Haley Beethe
Hailey Clark
Erika Cruz
Alexis Graham
***Kole Kleespies - All A's**
Nadia Klein
***Corral McClintock - All A's**
***Diego Reyes**
Jordan Rodriquez
***Simon Rother**
Tyler Sedersten

Honor Roll:

Students earn no class
grade lower than a "B"

**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
First Quarter 2015-2016**

Grade 8

Carrie Beethe (All A's)

***Samuel Buss**

Gabriel DeFreece

Tanner Kerner

Andrew Stafford

Eli Waring (All A's)

***Jacob Wolter**

Grade 7

Calvin Antholz (All A's)

Dalton Berkebile

Kylie Kleespies

Kyle Laue

Katie Little

Ashlei McDonald

Morgan Moran

Zadie Plager

Saylor Rother (All A's)

Grade 6

Kaita Baird (All A's)

Logan Barras

Ava Berkebile

Jazmine Cabrales

Jonathon Duncan (All A's)

Gina Golden

Saydee Hardesty

Madelyn Harrifeld (All A's)

Treyton Holthus (All A's)

Vanessa Jimenez (All A's)

Dakotah Ludemann

Lane Othmer (All A's)

Madison Pingel (All A's)

***Emma Straka**

Emma Swanda

Emma Walters

Isabella Wolter (All A's)

Fransisco Xayaphonesongkham

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B.

***Honor Roll with distinction is based on student's having all A's with only one B**

The JCC High School Drama Department
proudly presents

The Comedy of Errors

A Play in One Act Adapted by
John Minigan

From the Original by
William Shakespeare

Two sets of twins separated at birth are reunited through a comical sequence of events based on mistaken identity after landing in the same town.

Produced by special arrangement with Theatrefolk (www.theatrefolk.com)

Performance Schedule:

All performances are open to the public. Admission prices vary.

Saturday, November 7 @ 10:30 AM:

ECNC @ The Loft, Manley

Friday, November 13 @ 7 PM:

Pop, Popcorn & a Play @ JCC Elementary Auditorium, Tecumseh

Monday, November 23 @ 7 PM:

Pop, Popcorn & a Play @ JCC Elementary Auditorium, Tecumseh

Monday, November 30, Time TBD:

C1-1 Districts @ The Loft, Manley

Thursday, December 10, Time TBD:

NSAA State One Act @ Norfolk HS Johnny Carson Theatre
(upon qualification at districts)

Please visit the web site www.jccentral.org for more details and updates. Thank you for your support!

Six Grade Science and Math News by Alta Bohling

The sixth graders are learning about plants. The focus at the beginning of the year included cells and cell organelles involved in photosynthesis. The sixth graders learned clues needed to identify trees and spent several days going outside and identifying trees. Last week, they learned the parts of the flowers and then dissected flowers to find the different parts.

In math, sixth graders continue to learn basic math using Saxon Math program. Each day a new concept is taught. Students practice this concept, but then review previously taught concepts with each day's assignment.



Preschool-The importance of beginning reading and writing

Introducing and supporting reading and writing at an early age is very important. Reading to your child beginning at birth helps to build vocabulary and introduce print concepts. Reading also helps introduce writing. In preschool we read often and support our reading with writing. Some of the ways we write in preschool is by having the students draw pictures. When they are finished we help them dictate their pictures to bring deeper meaning to their work. We also create many picture books in our classroom using these pages which helps the students “read like writers” (K. W. Ray & M. Glover, 2008). When children “read like writers” they are not only reading the words that they have created or dictated, but they are also looking at the meaning of the words connected to their pictures. Another way to support writing with reading is to allow your students to write in their own creative way. At the preschool age it is common for students to be in the beginning process of stringing letters together. Allowing students to create their own words/story after reading to them helps them become more intentional when using their emerging writing skills. Teaching reading and writing should be a fun process done at home and at school and there are many, many creative ways to encourage your students during this learning process. During conferences in October I will be handing out a packet to help give some examples of games and other strategies to help teach and encourage reading and writing, along with a few other skills. Have fun!

Ms. Jackson

Hello Everyone!

I am the new PE teacher this year and it is my pleasure to teach here at Johnson County Central! I grew up and went to high school in Auburn, then I went to Wayne State College, and now I am very happy to be back in the area!

The K-3 students have physical education every day. It is good for the students to get exercise every day as it helps students improve their academics. I give the kids homework every weekend to get outside and play! They tell me I give the best homework! The students go through daily exercises and I choose a different student every day to lead them through those exercises that include push-ups, sit ups, grasshoppers, heel touches and jumping jacks. We have been working on improving locomotor skills such as running, jumping, hopping, galloping, and skipping.

The freshman class switches every day between weight training with Mr. Kuhl and physical education with myself. We have played games such as soccer, ultimate Frisbee, ultimate football, volleyball and kick ball. The freshman class enjoys competing and playing all sorts of activities.

My advanced class consists of 9 students. We have played games such ultimate Frisbee, badminton, volleyball. We just finished up with tennis and will be starting ping pong very soon!

Thanks for your time and have a great holiday season!

Garrett Collin

STUDENT COUNCIL

High School Student Council by Kris Farris

Student Council Focuses on Community

The JCC Student Council members are focusing their effort this year on providing community service and promoting school involvement. The group has volunteered to help with the Food Backpack Program. Each week students pick up all the food for the backpacks at SENCA and delivery it to the elementary building. This service has been a great project for the group, as it has brought an awareness of the needs of families in our community.

As of way of promoting school spirit, the council sold JCC spirit wristbands. Proceeds from the sale of the bands and additional fundraising activities during second quarter will help with the purchase of Christmas coats and toys for needy elementary students in our district. This year's members include: **Freshman:** Jordan Rodriguez, **Sophomores:** Charla Eggleston, Nick Gracke, **Juniors:** Sara Kettelhake, Keaton Kleespies, Samuel Saldivar, and **Seniors:** Mireya Avita, Bert Gonzalez, Natalie Roddy, and Rudy Pooch. The group is sponsored by Kris Farris.

Middle School Reading by Linsey Meints

We have had a great first quarter in the middle school. On October 2nd the 7th grade class went to the Plum Creek Literacy Festival in Seward, Nebraska at the Concordia University campus. The students listened to two authors talk about their lives and the importance of reading.

In the 7th grade this year I have incorporated the Wordly Wise vocabulary books that only the 8th grade did last year, so these are now used in both grades. Both the 7th and 8th grade are currently working on a unit about fiction and nonfiction.

AR points are still required and due at the end of each quarter. The points each student needs varies by grade. These points count as a test grade in the grade book and are important for the students to achieve.





NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

This November, the UNL Department of Art & Art History will exhibit the artwork of the best high school artists from Southeastern Nebraska. This will be the second year for UNL "Nebraska's Best" exhibition series. Last year's show featured the work of schools in Omaha and Lincoln, and this year the show will include high schools in the 18 counties in southeast Nebraska. The show will be entitled "**Nebraska's Best: High School Artists from Southeast Nebraska**". Area high school Art teachers were invited to select a student to take part in this exhibition in the beautiful Eisentrager-Howard gallery at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. This large, 3-room professional gallery is located in Richards Hall, just south of Memorial Stadium at UNL.

Southeast Nebraska art teachers from high schools in the 18 counties were invited to send a piece of artwork by *one student*. The student chosen will be the only exhibitor from each school. Art teachers were encouraged to choose a promising student who's work would best represent their schools art program. The work could be in any medium, and either 2D or 3D.

Art Instructor Ms. Joni Fox chose Art II student Sierra McClintock's drawing, Free Perspective, to represent J.C.C. art department.

The show will be open to the public from November 6 to November 24. There will be a formal opening reception for the show on Friday, November 6, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Awards will be announced at 7:00pm.

November 6: Opening reception, 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
Doors open at 6:00pm and awards will be announced at 7:00pm.

Hours and tours: The show will be open M-F, 12:30pm to 4:30pm or by appointment.
Please contact Andrea Maack (amaack@unl.edu) to set up a time.



Building Life Skills in Horizon II Reid Genuchi

Since the beginning of the school year the students have been working towards learning how to build their life skills for the future. The students are learning that our hands are an integral part in our everyday routine from eating to covering our mouth or nose when we cough or sneeze to shaking hands with others. They can either pass germs on or receive germs from people or objects that have germs on them already. We have decided as a class to help battle the upcoming flu season by sanitizing surfaces and doorknobs throughout the school that are used daily. Other skills they have currently been working on are personal hygiene care, daily household chores, communicating with others, purchasing needed items from a store, and managing emotions in stressful situations.

October News – Fourth Grade – Mrs. Naber

It is already second quarter. First quarter flew by so quickly. We have been busy covering many new topics in all of our subjects

This year we received new Saxon Math books. These new books are proving to be very challenging. We are working on multiplication facts, square roots, perfect squares, and addition and subtraction problems with missing numbers. Not only do we work out math problems, but we are also being asked to explain how we got many of our answers. WOW, do we have to think sometimes!

For Language Arts we are working with nouns. We have studied singular and plural nouns, common and proper nouns, and will soon look at possessive nouns. It is very important that we use nouns correctly in our writing.

Our Reading Street books are filled with exciting stories. We read a variety of genre as we meet many different characters. Ask us to share some of the stories we have read.

We are finding out that Nebraska is a state filled with many hidden surprises. We are currently studying what our state was like in prehistoric times. It is unbelievable that so many strange animals roamed where we walk today. Did you know that at one time it was common to see camels, rhinos, and three-toed horses in what we now call Nebraska?

As fourth grade progresses we will continue to face many new and exciting challenges. This is what makes school a fantastic place to meet every day.

Fifth Grade News

By Mrs. Tubbesing

The fifth graders have had an awesome start this fall! They have been working hard on the NESAS science standards which have been introducing them to a broad number of science concepts. So far this school year, they have studied life science. The students planted bean seeds to learn about the parts of the plants and why each section of the plant is necessary for the plants survival. Currently, the students are trying to establish a mini meal worm farm. The purpose of this activity is to watch the mealworms go through their life cycle. So far the students have seen the larva (the mealworms) turn into the pupa stage, the adult stage (darkling beetles), and the laying of the eggs. The students are waiting for the eggs to hatch in larva. The entire lifecycle has been a true learning experience!

In math, the fifth grade students continue to review previous skills learned as they are introduced to new concepts. At the present, they are working with geometry, fractions, and percents. They have learned about angles, polygons, scales, and comparing and converting fractions to percents. The fifth graders in the near future will learn how to classify triangles, measure angles, work with mixed numbers, and add and subtract fractions.

Some of the language arts activities are very challenging for the fifth graders. Each week they write to prompts that help them analyze and synthesis the week's reading selection. Then at the end of the week their writing test pushes them to use their higher-order thinking skills.

The fifth graders have been taking part in the DARE program that is taught by Deputy Lyon since September 4. Every week, Deputy Lyon teaches each fifth grade class for about an hour in the area of drug and alcohol prevention. Graduation for DARE will be Tuesday, December 8, at 2:30 p.m. It will be held in the middle school's new gym. DARE graduation is opened to the public and parents and grandparents are encouraged to attend.

Speech-Language News by Kim Ellicott

The speech-language program is off and running. Students from all grades enjoy coming to speech to work on articulation, language, fluency, and social skills. The students utilize iPad apps for speech sound practice. Books, worksheets, and games are used to teach the many rules of the English language. Students who stutter are learning the facts about stuttering as well as strategies to facilitate smooth speech. The majority of the social skills instruction occurs in the context of the classroom during free play time. It is a pleasure working with all of the students.



Hello!

The first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year has come to an end. All of the students at JCC have been hard at work throughout the high school and the district as a whole. In terms of the social studies department, Mr. Weber and I have had the students working hard!

In the geography classes we have done a bevy of research projects to start the year – from papers to presentations. Students have handled the projects very well and adjusted quickly to the ever-increasing demand placed on them. Currently, we are looking at the basics of various types of landforms, water features and also natural resources seen throughout the world. The introductory unit of geography is coming to a close and we will soon begin the study of the various countries of the world, their cultures and their people. I look forward to seeing the students take on the more challenging material soon to come.

The world history classes have also been hard at work with various projects. World history can be very challenging for some students to take an interest in, simply due to the fact that it entails a lot of very old information. However, the study of this subject area is important to the development of a students' understanding of the outside world. We are currently looking at the world of Islam! Students have learned a great deal about Islam and we have cleared up some of the stereotypes that follow the religion. It has been fun to see them connect past information with what is going on around the world today – I hope to continue this trend.

As for United States Military History – it has been going very well. This is a small class of two gentleman that take an interest in the military side of U.S. history. I have enjoyed getting to see these two make their own connections with the information we have discussed. We recently finished up our first unit – The Revolutionary War. At the current time, we are looking at the War of 1812. The class is also working on a group project. This project is a VLOG, or video-blog, over Chief Tecumseh and his role in the War of 1812. I look forward to seeing the final product at the end of the current unit.

Thanks for your time!

Mr. Kuhl

2015-16 FBLA

By Angie Huskey

JCC's 2015-16 FBLA Chapter has 39 members. We have a great group of kids this year. They are eager to put in the needed hours of dedication and preparation in order for our organization to grow in our successes. Our current officers are: President-Grant Moles, Vice President-Natalie Roddy, Treasurer-Mitch Faris, Secretary/News reporter-Courtney Klaasmeyer, and Parliamentarian-Paige Kraus. We also have four dedicated members serving as our class representatives for the year. They are as follows: Senior- Bryce Sahs, Junior- Sara Kettelhake, Sophomore- Mackenzie Eltiste, and Freshman- Hailey Clark.

Our members are filling their schedules with many fundraising, community service, and leadership opportunities during the school year. The following are a few of the activities that are keeping our members busy:

Fundraising:

- Club's Choice Food Fundraiser: This is our major annual fundraising event. We plan to complete this fundraiser at the beginning of December this year. This fundraiser enables many FBLA members to attend conferences and competitions through the year with minimal out-of-pocket expenses.
- Pastry Puffins: In the Spring of 2015 we will again be selling Pastry Puffins to help fund our State and National Competitions.

Community Service

- Trick-or-Treat for the area food pantries:-FBLA members are asked to dress up and go "trick or treating" around the area asking for a non-perishable food item that will be donated to the local food pantries. This year, we plan to also involve the elementary and middle school students with a fun competition to bring in canned foods to donate.
- Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce-Christmas/Santa visitation: Our FBLA members will be helping the area businesses in making the Christmas/Santa day a success, by helping to fill treat bags and donating time/service to aid the Chamber of Commerce members make this a successful event each year.
- Individual service hours-Students continually work on individual service hours that are counted toward our state goal of total hours worked/donated each year.

Leadership:

- Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) in Omaha: The FBLA officers attended FLC, in Omaha at the end of September. FLC is aimed at jumpstarting the students' desire and willingness to lead their fellow students. We listened to a variety of inspirational and upbeat speakers as well as attended some very important officer seminars before heading back to JCC to share what they learned and the ideas that blossomed while in Omaha.

Conferences/Competitions

- Path to Success Conference-November 5, 2015
- American Business Competition at UNL- February TBA, 2015
- Peru Business Contest-February 10, 2015
- State Leadership Conference-in Omaha-April 7-9, 2015
- National Leadership Conference-June 29 – July 2, 2014 in Atlanta, GA

Coming December 19, 2015

First Bi-Annual

Johnson County Central

Madrigal Dinner

Tickets on sale soon!

For More Information contact

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tom.doran@jccentral.org

Emily Fricke –

emily.fricke@jccentral.org

School Improvement Newsletter Article

November 2015

“Johnson County Central Public Schools will improve reading comprehension through the direct and explicit teaching of vocabulary.”

This school improvement goal was selected and then implemented during the 2012-2013 school year and has continued to be the focus of student learning and achievement in our district. The staff development team from the Educational Service Unit #4 in Auburn has been leading the administration and faculty through this improvement process. Using the work of Dr. Robert Marzano, and the steps in teaching and learning academic vocabulary, the faculty has worked across the curriculum to align key terms in not only core subjects, but also in elective classes. Teachers have developed pretests, posttests, action plans, classroom and digital resources, and spreadsheets as part of this process.

To monitor the progress of vocabulary acquisition, and the effect on student learning, a measureable goal was created. This measureable goal is as follows: Each grade level will increase the percent of students who are proficient (At or Above the Mean RIT) from the Fall MAP scores to the Spring MAP scores by 5 percentage points. MAP, which stands for Measures of Academic Progress, is an assessment used school-wide in the fall and spring to gauge student progress. According to the Northwest Evaluation Association or NWEA, “student MAP testing results are reported in RIT scores (short for Rasch Unit). A RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level and also measures student progress or growth in school.” This information is helpful in making informed decisions about the programs or strategies that help students learn.

Over the past 4 years, JCC administration and faculty have kept their vow to increase reading comprehension by teaching academic vocabulary specific to

content areas and elective classes. The documentation included below illustrates how the focus on vocabulary has impacted student learning.

The numbers show the percentage of students in each grade level At or Above the Norm Mean RIT score on fall and spring tests. The **highlighted numbers** show where students have met the school improvement goal.

Grade	F= Fall semester and year						S= Spring semester and year								
	F 11	S 12	% +/-	F 12	S 13	% +/-	F 13	S 14	% +/-	F 14	S 15	% +/-	F 15	S 16	% +/-
K	*	32		*	44		*	61		*	60		*		
1	38	47	+9	51	61	+10	62	63	+1	50	64	+14	39		
2	43	60	+17	58	53	-5	65	68	+3	31	70	+39	59		
3	68	71	+3	72	73	1	47	71	+24	51	68	+14	64		
4	54	58	+4	64	81	+17	65	61	-4	53	64	+11	64		
5	83	79	-4	61	57	-4	75	75	0	49	67	+18	45		
6	51	33	-18	68	74	+6	42	54	+12	65	83	+18	62		
7	59	47	-12	44	50	+6	65	75	+10	33	45	+12	68		
8	70	49	-21	39	63	+24	40	47	+7	70	65	-5	55		
9	70	65	-5	57	52	-5	44	67	+23	47	52	+5	70		
10	57	66	+9	57	67	+10	57	50	-7	47	53	+6	54		
11	67	59	-8	81	75	-6	74	74	0	65	58	-7	72		

* Kindergarten classes do not test in the Fall.

This data along with data from NeSA tests and classroom assessments has shown that JCC's students are improving in reading comprehension skills.

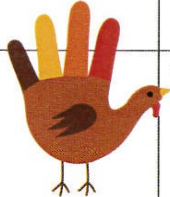

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 	2 Chicken Nuggets Corn Casserole Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll WG Milk	3 Chili / Crackers WG Fruit & veggie Bar Cinnamon Roll WG Milk	4 Cheeseburger WG Bun SP Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 Sloppy Nacho's Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	6 Hotdog WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7	
8	9 Crispy Chicken Wrap Corn Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Cowboy Cavatini Fruit & veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk	11 Veterans Day Br. Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll WG Milk	12 Chicken Patty WG Bun French Fries Fruit & Veggies Milk	13 Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Pudding Milk	14	
15	16 BBQ Meatballs Cheesy Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Turkey Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Dinner Roll Milk	18 Ham & Turkey Sub Cron Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Taco Salad Black Bean salsa Fruit & Veggies Milk	20 Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21	
22	23 Chicken Qusadilla Spanish Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Sh. BBQ Pork WG Bun Baked Carrots Fruit & veggie Bar Milk	25 Chicken Noodle Soup Cheese Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 Thanksgiving No School 	27 No School	28	
29	30 Ch.Chunk Fritters Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		THIS INSTITUTION IS A EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER"				
			Menus are subject to change				



November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 V VB Sub-Districts	3 4th Grade to Homestead National Monument V VB Sub- Districts	4 SENCA MS Poverty Simulation @ MS Gym	5 UNL Path to Success Conference NeSA Assembly in Cook Middle School Gym 2:00	6 V VB Districts 8th Grade to Sportsmanship Assembly @ Devaney Sports Center	7 One Act @ ECNC, Lofte Theatre, Manley
8	9 ECNC Honor Choir	10 Picture Retakes EducationQuest Financial Aid Meeting	11 Verteran's Day Program 10:45 both sites Striv Meeting @ Tec. Site Computer Lab 6:30 pm Board of Ed. Mtg. @ Cook Library 7:30 pm	12 Regional Coalition Meeting @ Lincoln 9:00 am	13 Early Dismissal @ 1:00-Teacher Workday Regional Coalition Meeting @ Lincoln NE 9:00 am Pop, Popcorn, & a Play @ Elem. Aud. 7:00 pm	14
15	16 T-Bird Booster Club In H.S. Cafeteria@ 6:00 pm	17 District Livestock Judging @ SCC Beatrice	18 Leadership Summit @ Ne Wesleyan	19 All State & Music Conf. Johnson County Coalition Banquet @ Tecumseh Comm. Building 7:00 pm	20 All State & Music Conf.	21 All State & Music Conf.
22	23 Pop, Popcorn, & a Play @ Elem. Aud. 7:00 pm	24 JH B BB @ Louisville 4:30	25	26  Thanksgiving Break	27 Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30 One Act Districts @ The Lofte Theatre in Manley County Government Day G & B V BB @ Nebr. City 6:00 & 7:30 pm					

Johnson County Central Public Schools

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

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

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Non-Discrimination

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

Child Find

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