

Jack D. Moles

Superintendent
402-335-3330

Rick Lester

High School Principal
402-335-3328

Rich Bacon

Athletic Director
Middle School Principal
402-864-4171

Jon Rother

Elementary Principal
402-335-3320

Johnson County Central Public Schools



Monthly Newsletter

September 2015

SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



The school year is off and running. I have yet to talk with anyone (other than parents) who was really ready to start the new school year. Most everyone has commented about how fast the summer flew by. Watching staff and kids in the first few days, however, I know they are all excited to begin a new year. I join them as each year brings new adventures, challenges, and rewards.

As part of my opening with our staff this year I shared with them my theme for the year. The theme around which I want to shape this school year is: "CONNECT:BELIEVE:EXPECT". This theme is built around the concept that we must make positive connections with our students before they can have belief. By this belief I really mean three things: (1) before they can believe in us, (2) before they can believe we believe in them, and most importantly, (3) before we can help them to believe in themselves. Once belief happens, then we can raise our expectations for our students. Raising expectations for all students is a goal that we set before our staff members and of ourselves as a school. We have these positive connections with many of our students, but not necessarily with all of them. That is something we work on every year and this year is no difference. Once these positive connections take place truly wonderful things happen for kids. I want to make sure that we do not overlook any students.

The summer brought a great deal of physical change to the school in terms of grounds and facilities. Highlights include:

- Two restrooms in both the Elementary in Tecumseh and the Middle School in Cook received "extreme makeovers". New tile was placed on the floors and walls, along with all new fixtures and dividers. The aesthetic changes are amazing. The goal is to eventually complete two more restrooms in the Elementary, as well as four restrooms and two locker rooms in the High School. Hopefully these projects can be completed over the next three to five years.
- Several classrooms received new paint. I have developed a schedule that will have all classrooms receive new paint jobs over the next five years. Teachers were allowed to choose their own color(s). Some went very conservative while others went a little "less conservative". We had a crew of aides and students who served as paint crews during the summer and they did a very nice job. We also had the goal of repainting the steps on the stairways in the Elementary and the High School but this project proved to be very time consuming when trying to strip down the existing paint on the steps. Hopefully this project can be completed next summer.
- Some classrooms have received new lighting fixtures. This has dramatically improved lighting in those rooms. As with painting classrooms, my plan is to improve lighting in most classrooms over the next several years. Not only is lighting improved, but the fixtures are also more economical.
- The hot water system was replaced at the Tecumseh site. In the past we ran off of two industrial sized water heaters which used a large storage tank. We replaced them with smaller high efficiency units that should not need the large storage tank.
- Some sidewalk work has been done, with more to be completed. A small sidewalk was extended to the south of the Elementary. A parking area at that site did not have access to the sidewalk without walking on grass so we added the extension.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who played a major role in working to complete these projects. Those who worked summer maintenance jobs for us through the entire summer were outstanding in their work. We also had a great deal of volunteer work completed that helped to move things along. To all of you who helped: job well done!

Some other projects are still being planned that will help to improve the conditions of our buildings and grounds. Examples of projects still to come:

- We will be considering roof projects at the Cook site in the next few years. All of the roofs at the Tecumseh site have been addressed over the past several years and now attention needs to turn to the Cook facility. The roof on the old gym was replaced a few years ago, but the others have not been addressed.
- We are in the process of considering a project that would replace a failing steam line to the high school, as well as fixing the chimney coming out of the boiler room at Tecumseh. Hopefully these projects will be completed early this fall.
- We will continue to address painting and lighting in classrooms as we move forward. These projects will be addressed over a series of 4-5 years.
- We have some buildings that need to be removed at both sites. At the Tecumseh site the back modular needs to be removed. This building is no longer active for us due to mold issues. We also have two storage garage sheds at the Cook site. If anyone is interested in removing any or all of these buildings please feel free to contact me.
- A long term goal I have is to replace locks on doors on all classrooms and offices.

Keeping facilities in good shape is, of course, an expensive undertaking. Any homeowner can vouch for that. The Board has done a very good job of supporting the improvement of our buildings. For this purpose we have had a Special Building Fund levy to provide the revenues to address these issues. This fund is not part of the General Fund.

Support Thunderbird Athletics

T-Bird Booster Club Meeting
Monday, September 14, 6:00 pm
High School Cafeteria

We need your ideas & input!

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Welcome Back! I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are rejuvenated and ready for a great 2015-2016 school year.

We are excited to announce that Johnson County Central High School is bringing proven ACT preparation to all our college-bound students. Our goal is to help each student get into the best two or four year college at the least amount financially. JCC has purchased the use of John Baylor Test Prep (JBTP) to be used on-line for JCC students either at school or at home.

We are excited to announce that all JCC students (9th-12th grade) have the option to participate. All participants will be expected to view all 12 sessions (one session = one hour) and to complete all assigned homework (about 20 minutes for each session)

Each student will have full access at school or at home to all the ACT Prep sessions, bonus materials, and college counseling content using their iPad. Students can access the ACT Prep sessions during their study halls or on their own at home.

Bringing the Johns Baylor Test Prep program on-line to JCC district and our communities is an investment by the district in your ACT score: an important measure used for college admission and financial aid. Most Test Prep courses cost hundreds of dollars, JCC student's will have access to the John Baylor Test Prep either at school, or at home, absolutely free of charge.

We truly believe the best and efficient way a student maximizes his/her potential on the ACT test is to take challenging core classes throughout their high school career. The John Baylor Test Prep program is another tool to help students reach their potential on the ACT test. We are excited that Johnson County Central High School students will have an opportunity to receive excellent test preparation. We strongly encourage students to participate and to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you are interested in your student to take the John Baylor Test Prep program, please make sure your students fills out the form they received on August 25 and make sure they return it to the high school office: Once the student turns in this form they will receive a packet for the John Baylor Test Prep program.



Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal & Athletic Director

The 2015-2016 school year officially began with the Middle School walk-through and the Preschool and 4th and 5th grade Open House on Monday, August 17th. All of these events were very well attended with over 85% of our students represented. This year we welcome Julie Isaacs to the Middle School. Ms. Isaacs will teach 6th grade Language Arts and Title. As usual, the first day of school arrived with a great deal of anticipation and excitement for both students and staff. The start of a new school year is always refreshing as it provides everyone involved with the opportunity to get the year started on the right foot. Hopefully, that excitement will continue and will help our students to reach their goals and accomplish great things here at Johnson County Central Schools. As we start another school year I encourage all parents to be involved in their child's education. Studies show that children who have parents that are involved in their education generally perform better in school. Simple things such as asking how their day was, taking an interest in their academic progress or simply making sure their homework is finished can pay huge dividends toward your child's academic success. Hopefully, parents and teachers all have the same goal in mind – for your child to have a successful and productive school year. When parents and teachers work together the students will benefit, making it possible for them to accomplish great things. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

Junior High football, volleyball and cross country practices are underway with their first contests rapidly approaching. At the start of any season we should take time to think about the purpose of athletics in a Middle School setting. While everyone wants to win and winning is our goal, it cannot be the purpose of our sports program at this level. Middle School activities need to encourage participation and the development of fundamentals that will help them succeed at the varsity level. Instead of placing the emphasis on winning and losing, we need to focus on hard work, effort and teamwork. If students can learn to work hard, give maximum effort, and put team success ahead of individual glory at a young age they are learning skills that will help them succeed for the rest of their lives. Please support our young athletes this year by attending games and cheering their efforts, win or lose.

ImPACT Concussion Testing Program

Johnson County Central is, once again, utilizing the ImPACT Concussion Testing Program for all athletes grades 7-12 to help improve the school's and coaches' care for athletes with sports-related concussions. This program is being provided by Nebraska Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine, and Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center of Lincoln, through the Nebraska Sports Concussion Network. The ImPACT Test is an online computerized test that is specifically designed for managing sports-related concussions. The test measures brain reaction time, processing speed, memory, attention, and allows medical professionals to obtain a "snap-shot" of how one's brain functions in normal conditions. Athletes are baseline tested in the pre-season, and if an athlete sustains a head injury, they are re-tested. Post-injury scores are then compared to pre-injury, baseline scores. If differences exist between the baseline and post-injury tests, athletes will be restricted from activity until further test results return to normal. As post-injury scores return to baseline, or normal, this indicates an athlete is recovered sufficiently to resume a step-wise progression back into activity and full participation. This form of testing and return-to-play helps avoid prolonging the recovery from a concussion, and prevents athletes returning to play too soon before the brain has had time to fully heal, risking serious or catastrophic injury.

This year Thunderbird athletes in 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th grades and any new athletes participating in contact sports (football, volleyball, wrestling, boys & girls basketball, and track-jumpers) will be tested. The cost of the baseline testing is being funded and implemented by the Nebraska Sports Concussion Network. Post-Injury testing, if necessary, will be conducted by a health care professional trained in ImPACT and usual office visit charges will likely apply. School personnel have been trained to conduct baseline tests at school, and all coaches will have taken an online Concussion Training for Coaches course in an effort to improve the recognition of potential head injuries. Additional information in recognizing head injuries is available for parents and athletes at

www.NebSportsConcussion.org.

Johnson County Central would like to thank Nebraska Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine, Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, Johnson County Hospital, Tecumseh Family Health and our area doctors for making the ImPACT Testing Program available to our athletic programs, and helping us ensure we are doing our absolute best in caring for your sons and daughters

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

My new shoes!



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Wed. Sept. 2—Boy Scouts of America meet with 1st grade boys @ 3:00 p.m. in Elem. Auditorium.
- Thurs. Sept. 3—School Pictures.
- Fri. Sept. 25—1:00 p.m. dismissal.



You will hear me speaking all year of hard work, effort and overcoming adversity. Call it my theme if you will. However, I believe these three factors to be of extreme importance for our children to be successful; not just at school, but in life.

I don't know about you, but I have always loved getting new shoes! Even as a child, those bright shiny new shoes brought with them the dream of being faster. They felt lighter. They hugged my feet in a way that made me feel that they really cared for me. They smelled like...well...they smelled like new shoes! Nothing like it! Anyway, they brought with them a sense that I *could* be faster, stronger and, somehow, better at what I wanted to do.

However, I came to realize it was a false sense of confidence. Those shoes were a rip-off! I was no faster. (Although I felt a little cooler getting outrun!) I was no stronger. They didn't gain me any respect or give my authority at school more

“oomph”. What I came to know, was that the shoes didn't matter. It was what I *did* in those shoes that mattered.

While playing indoor football with all the pads and everything, I've seen (no joke here) a running back running over people, hitting as hard as anyone I've ever seen, and scoring touchdowns in a pair of brown high-top work boots! Amazing! I've seen kids outrun the field in track in a pair of old, tattered basketball shoes, while the competition was lagging behind in one-hundred dollar, or more, track spikes! How does that happen?!

It happens through hard work. It happens knowing that the curriculum, the bat, the shoes, the offense, the whatever, is just a small part of the equation. It happens because the person putting on the shoes knows that it will be their effort that propels them across the finish line, regardless of the symbol on the side of the shoe. It happens because the

feet in the shoes did not stop when their muscles started to ache, when the rain came down, or when they nay-sayers shouted, “It can't be done!” No. Instead, they dug deep, they redoubled their effort and they ran on.

Don't get me wrong. Change can be a good thing. However, those who believe, those who desire, those who persevere, will grow, they will aspire to greater things, and they will achieve. And, in the end, they will have a sense of pride and accomplishment knowing they *earned it*.



“How do you make sure your kids will be successful?”

This is a question that was asked of my wife by a gentleman with young children. First, it needs to be determined what one means by “successful”. Content with life? Lots of money? A big house or fancy car? A prestigious job or job title? Lifelong health? Respect? The possibilities and combinations are as vast as the number of people on the planet.

Really, there is no way to “make sure” or “guarantee” success. But, we can help our children to prepare. Here are a few of my suggestions from a professional in the education world.

1. Read. The more you read the better you get at it. An individual's ability to take in

information and use it independently is a great skill. Reading creates independence because now you can read to learn how to do anything.

2. Hard work & perseverance. The ability to keep going and try again in the face of failure. Let your children learn by doing. Let them learn from mistakes and understand that mistakes and failures are normal. But, they have to keep going/trying.

3. Health/Exercise. Teach them how to eat right, in moderation, and to choose foods that will help them. Also, the more active children are, the healthier they are. If you want them to be runners, play games that require them to run. Play catch. Bump the volleyball. Go bowling. Ride bikes together.

4. Communication/Social Skills. The ability to speak clearly and get along with others

can make or break someone in the world of careers, work and relationships.

The key to all these is to model them and discuss them frequently with your children. Of course there are more, and there are no guarantees. But, at least they will be more readily prepared and able to take life on.

Counselor News by Shelley Moles

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

National Honor Society to Host Red Cross Blood Drive September 18:

National Honor Society members will host a "Sweet 16" Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, September 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students, staff, parents and community members who wish to give to help save a life should contact National Honor Society members to schedule a donation time. You may also call Mrs. Moles at (402) 335-3328 during school hours to schedule a donation time or register online at www.redcrossblood.com. One unit of blood given can help save up to three lives!

The entire donation process takes about 1 ¼ hours, from registration through refreshments. The actual donation takes about eight minutes. Drinking plenty of fluids the day of and the day before the donation and eating a good breakfast help ensure a positive experience. Please bring Red Cross Donor Card and/or Picture Identification. Students who are 16 will also need a signed parent consent form to be able to give.

Walk-ins are welcomed but appointments are preferred. Contact Mrs. Moles or register online to be a lifesaver!

NWEA-MAP Testing for grades 9-11 on September 10 and 11, 2015:

Johnson County Central students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will be taking the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests on September 10, and 11. Each student will take a Science, Math, Language Usage, and Reading test. These tests will help teachers and parents have a measure of each student's reading, science, math and language usage skills this fall. This will help students and teachers set learning goals for the school year. Then in the spring, each student will again be taking the MAP assessments to measure the student's progress.

This year JCC will again be using their iPads and the online version of the MAP assessment. This makes the testing a more positive event for students and teachers.

Explore It! Career Fair:

Johnson County Central High School sophomore students will have the opportunity to attend the Explore It! Career Fair! held at the Southeast Community College-Beatrice on September 29. High school students from area schools will also be in attendance.

Sponsored by Nebraska Department of Labor and Southeast Community College, the program will help students plan their futures beyond high school. Mr. Lamarr Womble, Founder of "Passion for Leadership," will be the guest speaker. Students will have the opportunity to visit with future employers, short term training programs, 2-year and 4-year college programs in the career portion of the program.

Sophomore students who are interested in attending will need to complete the Nebraska Career Connections Assessments and register with Mrs. Moles, Counselor. If there is space, other students from JCC may also attend, see Mrs. Moles!

October College Fairs and Educational Planning Programs:

College fairs allow students (usually grades 9-12) and their parents to visit with representatives from many 4-year and 2-year colleges in one location. Military representatives are also available representing military academies and the armed services. Financial aid sessions at the college fairs offer information on applying for the FAFSA, scholarships, loans, and grants. Educational Planning Programs are similar but usually smaller in size. These programs are FREE to students and parents.

Some tips to follow to make the most of your College Fair experience:

1. Prepare a list of questions to ask college representatives, such as the school's academic programs, admission application deadlines, or scholarship opportunities.
2. Determine what you are looking for in a college or university you plan to attend. This will help you decide which to look at more closely and perhaps follow-up with a campus tour. Take notes to keep track of the schools that interest you.
3. Before you go, register for a college fair barcode! If you plan to attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program, register for a barcode that will streamline your visits with college representatives. Visit NebraskaCollegeFairs.org and select the event you plan to attend. Complete and submit a confidential online form providing details such as contact information, age/gender/ethnicity, year in school, academic information, extracurricular activities, and ACT/SAT scores. Print the barcode that appears on your screen. **Important!** Take the barcode to the College Fair(s) and/or EPP(s) you attend. College representatives participating in the barcode/scanner process will scan your barcode to retrieve your information-and you won't have to complete information cards!

Local area College Fairs and Educational Planning Programs for this fall are listed below so you can schedule them on your calendar.

- **Lincoln Area College Fair** – Sunday, October 18 at Southeast Community College-Lincoln, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Financial aid sessions by EducationQuest. FREE!
- **Omaha Area College Fair** – Sunday, October 25 at University of Nebraska-Omaha, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Financial aid sessions by EducationQuest. FREE!
- **Auburn Area Educational Planning Program** - Monday, October 19 at Auburn High School, 9:00-10:30 a.m. FREE!
- **Beatrice Area Educational Planning Program** - Tuesday, October 20 at Southeast Community College-Beatrice 8:30-10:30 a.m. FREE!

Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program:

Authorized by the Nebraska Legislature in 2007, the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program Act (LB 192) pays tuition and mandatory fees for qualified, low-income high school students to enroll in college courses from Nebraska's colleges or universities, either through dual-enrollment or early enrollment agreements with these institutions. High school student may apply for funding under this program by completing the ACE Student Application, which is reviewed by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) for award consideration.

There are two basic criteria for high school students to qualify for the ACE Scholarship. Students must either be eligible to receive assistance under a variety of federal government programs or the student and his or her family must have experienced a recent hardship.

For students to find out more information on the ACE Scholarship and to complete an application, please go to www.ccpe.state.ne.us or see Mrs. Moles. Students must create an account, then complete and submit an online form.

Scheduling a Campus Visit:

Seniors and their parents may wish to schedule a campus visit to help make a decision about which college or university to attend. The following are some hints to help:

1. Please schedule your visit in advance – some colleges do regular morning and afternoon tours, some only on certain days. Some colleges offer preview days for particular majors. Call the Admissions Office of the college you are interested in and request a campus tour or you may be able to schedule a visit online (Mrs. Moles is available for help). If possible, arrange for a meeting with faculty in your intended major or with coaches about a particular sport.
2. Seniors should bring a written request from a parent for the college visit that states date, the college visiting, and time of tour and submit it in advance to the Principal's office. Seniors will receive a make-up slip to let teachers know they intend to be absent. This allows missed classroom work to be made up before the absence.

Juniors and PSAT Testing:

The PSAT-NMSQT (Preliminary SAT –National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is scheduled for Wednesday morning, October 14, at Johnson County Central High School. The PSAT is an optional test. Juniors may choose to take the PSAT/NMSQT because it allows students to measure their skills in critical reading, verbal reasoning, writing and math problem solving, to compare their academic skills with those of other college-bound students, and to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs.

Juniors who are interested in knowing more about the PSAT test and its opportunities may request a copy of "Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT" from Mrs. Moles. They can then decide if they wish to take the PSAT and enter competition for the National Merit Scholarship.

High ability sophomore students may also take the PSAT by registering and paying the testing fee. Taking the PSAT as a sophomore may help students prepare for the PSAT /NMSQT as juniors. Sophomores who are interested in taking the PSAT should request an "Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT."

All students who wish to take the PSAT, need to register with Mrs. Moles by October 1 and pay the \$15.00 testing fee. A limited number of fee waivers may be available for qualifying junior students.

Mark Your Calendar - Financial Aid Meeting at JCC for Parents, Seniors and Juniors:

Johnson County Central will be hosting the EducationQuest Financial Aid meeting for juniors, seniors and their parents at the high school on November 10 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will last about one hour. More information to follow next month.

Student Records and Release of Information:

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)* is a Federal law that requires Johnson County Central School, with certain exceptions, to obtain a parent's written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a child's education records. However, Johnson County Central School may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless parents have advised the District to the contrary.

The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Johnson County Central School to include directory information from a child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

1. A music program showing a student's name and grade;
2. The annual yearbook;
3. Honor roll or other recognition lists;
4. Graduation programs;
5. Sports activity sheets, such as football, volleyball, or basketball programs showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEA) receiving assistance in the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* to provide military recruiters upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Johnson County Central School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by September 15, 2015. Please direct your request to Mr. Moles or your student's building principal. Johnson County School has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Photograph
- Grade level
- Dates of attendance
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Honors and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended.

Parents and students wishing Johnson County Central School to release additional information contained in a student's education record to outside agencies need to present a signed, written request or complete the appropriate student record release form.

Requesting a High School Transcript:

Current High School Students applying for postsecondary institutions, educational programs and scholarships need to bring a written request signed by student and parent to Johnson County Central School in order for a transcript or other information such as class rank, grade point average, or ACT/SAT score to be released. Transcript Request Forms may be picked up from the guidance office and are available on the JCC Website (under forms).

Graduates of Johnson County Central Public Schools, Elk Creek Schools, Nemaha Valley Schools or Tecumseh Public School need to submit a written request stating: a) information to send (such as a transcript of grades), b) the year of graduation and/or attendance (such as graduated 2012), c) name and address of institution or program to receive requested information and finally, the printed name and signature of the former student making the request. Requests may be mailed (Johnson County Central High School, Attn: Mrs. Shelley Moles, 358 N. 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450) or given to Mrs. Moles in the counselor's office.

The Thunderbird Way

By Marsha Bacon, K-8 School Counselor

When at school or at school events, encourage your student to follow the Thunderbird Way. The Thunderbird Way is part of the Johnson County Central curriculum in the elementary and middle school. It is a pro-social behavior program that promotes positive behaviors, social skills, and problem solving strategies and is utilized by all JCC staff in grades PK-8.

Below is the Thunderbird Way poster that explains what the school expectations are in different areas in school. These posters can be found throughout the school; in classrooms, hallways and offices. Students are excited to be Learners as well as Safe, Respectful and Responsible Thunderbirds. We want our students to enjoy coming to school and to learn something new every day.



Johnson County Central Behavior Expectations
"It's the Thunderbird Way!"

The Thunderbird Way: Will create a successful learning environment!

Area	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet and objects to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow adult directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow school rules • Bring all necessary items to class every day
PE/ Free Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use equipment appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play fairly with everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow playground rules
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk on the right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet voices
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands & put paper towel in the trash container 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give people privacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush toilet & return to class
Lunchroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet and objects to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use good manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up

B
E
A
L
E
A
R
N
E
R



The Thunderbird Way also encourages students to be positive leaders. All students are leaders and can help those around them make appropriate behavior choices through their example. The purpose of a positive behavior program is to support and promote appropriate and exceptional behaviors. To encourage positive behaviors, staff members may compliment students with their choice or provide students with ticket which can be used for rewards in both the elementary and middle school. There are many ways students demonstrate positive behavior choices. It may be when a student picks up trash in the hall, is kind to another student who needs a friend, or when a student brings their homework every day. A component of the Johnson County Central mission statement is to create lifelong learners. The Thunderbird Way provides students the tools they need to be successful at school and life by promoting safety, responsibility, education, respect and leadership.

Last year the school received funding through the Johnson County Coalition from a Region V Federal Block Grant to purchase posters for the Tecumseh elementary and Cook site as well as a welcome banner for each building. The new posters look awesome throughout the halls of the buildings. They will serve as a wonderful reminder to help students make responsible and respectful choices when at school.

The Thunderbird Way is part of student life at Johnson County Central. Encourage your student to be the best Thunderbird they can be every day at home and at school by discussing the importance of the components of the Thunderbird Way.





Together We Transform Lives

I am excited to announce that Johnson County Central officially has begun a partnership with TeamMates. TeamMates board members Ken Tubbesing, Nancy Thies, Barb Gottula, Mary Teten, Marsha Bacon, & Jack Moles have dedicated their time and energy to making sure our chapter will be effective. We are currently recruiting mentors!! Our first mentor training will be held on September 23, 2015 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the middle school in Cook. Please consider being a part of this amazing program. If you would like more information please contact the program coordinator Maggie Rother by email at maggie.rother@jccentral.org or by phone at 402-335-7567.

The Mission of TeamMates *is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring*. Established in 1991 by Tom and Nancy Osborne, TeamMates was formed in an effort to provide support and encouragement to school-aged youth. The goal is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. TeamMates has touched the lives of thousands of youth and currently provides a mentor for more than 7,000 youth across 131 chapters in Iowa and Nebraska.

The impact of the TeamMates match on the mentee is profound.

- 54% of mentees showed improved academic achievement after being matched with their mentor.
- 85% maintain or experience fewer disciplinary referrals at school.
- 75% maintained or had fewer unexcused absences.

More than 95% of mentees report that they are happy when they meet with their mentor, that their mentor talks to them about what they do well, they feel important when they are with their mentor and that they trust their mentor.

Data collection from Gallup's Clifton Strengths Project has helped affirm what TeamMates had already believed to be true:

- Strengths-based mentoring positively influences student engagement with school.
- Students in the control group who received no strengths training as part of their mentoring program were significantly less likely to strongly agree that they looked forward to seeing their mentor over time.
- There is a positive correlation between a student looking forward to seeing their mentor and overall levels of hope, engagement and well-being.

TeamMates has been recognized as a "Best Practice" mentoring organization which means the structure, policy and procedures are in place for a safe and consistent program. TeamMates adheres to *the Elements of Effective Practice* which were developed by the National Mentoring Partnership as the national standards for running a quality mentoring program.

A New Marching Season is Upon Us!

By: Emily Fricke

As many of you may already know, a decision was made at the end of the last school year to discontinue field marching. Let me reassure you that this does not mean that we no longer have marching band. We are still very much marching. The only area that is not continued is the field portion; the competitions that we participated in through the month of October in Lincoln. At this time, we just simply didn't have enough bodies to be able to make field marching work.

The high school band students have still been practicing parade marching and we have added a few new events to our fall months. We marched at both the Otoe and Johnson County fairs. We have been able to add the Applejack Parade back into our schedule as well as the Richardson County Fair and Peru State College's homecoming parade (see details below).

Our theme for marching band this year is punk rock. We have been working on three different selections including "Seven Nation's Army" by the White Stripes, "Sing" by My Chemical Romance, and "Are You Gonna Be My Girl" by Jet. Each of these songs the students and myself have been very excited to work on and a couple of the them will probably be added to our pep band repertoire.

The middle school is also preparing music for JCC's homecoming half time as well as a trip to the Richardson County Fair again this year. The sound quality from both high school and middle school is fantastic and I can't wait to see where we will be by the end of the marching season.

Lastly, to help inspire my high school students for the upcoming marching season, we attended the UNL Marching Band Exhibition on the 21st. It was held at Memorial Stadium where UNL ended their own band camp with a performance of their warm up show, some drill exercises, a couple of songs by the pit, drumlines, and color-guard and their first weeks worth of music selections. It was a great experience for the students and one that I hope to continue in the years to come.

Listed below are this fall's upcoming marching events and a picture of the band students at the UNL exhibition (Special thanks to Marcus Scheer for helping chaperone and snapping the shot!).

September	4 Friday PB - FB vs. Southern 10 Thursday 5th Grade Instrument Night 11 Friday PB - FB vs. Wilber/Claytonia 18 Friday Richardson County Fair (MS and HS) 19 Saturday Applejack Parade (Nebraska City) 25 Friday PB - FB vs. Syracuse
October	1 Thursday PB - VB vs. Pawnee City 5 Monday PB - VB vs. Malcolm 8 Thursday PB - VB vs. Auburn 9 Friday PB - FB vs. Falls City 16 Friday PB - FB vs. Conestoga/MS Homecoming Performance 20 Tuesday Pie Night 22 Thursday PB - VB vs. Conestoga 31 Saturday Peru Homecoming Parade

High School Band @ UNL Marching Band Exhibition



2015 Thunderbird Cross Country by Nick Weber

The 2015 Johnson County Central Cross Country team is entering the season very motivated for success. A record number of athletes are on the team this year and are looking to continue the success that the team has seen the last two seasons. The girl's squad comes back this season after qualifying for the state meet last year and the boy's team is looking to return to the state cross country meet again after a one year hiatus.

The girl's team returns the four runners who made up last year's state qualifying team and has also added some new members. The returners from last year's team are Annika McDonald, Angelica Wellman, Aleisha McDonald and Diana Cruz. The newest members to the team are Jordan Rodriguez, Megan Schultz, Sarai Ares, and Tashayla Dorn. Success for this year's team is going to hinge on the ability of the girls to work together to bring down the overall team score through pack running. This team should be one of the better groups in our class in the area, if they can continue to improve.

The boy's team comes back this season very motivated after last season. Only one senior graduated last year the team has a lot of experience returning and also many new members who should add to the success of this team. Samuel Saldivar is the only returning state qualifier from last year and has shown that he is ready to lead the team and also should be one of the top runners in Southeast Nebraska. Also, coming back from last years' team are: Aaron Johnson, Wyatt DeRoe, Grant Moles, Eddie Li, Roberto Silos and Jesse Reyes. New runners are: Kole Kleespies, Bryan Murphy, Tyler Sedersten, Daymon Francois, and Diego Reyes. This is a highly competitive group who will be fighting over varsity spots early in the season.

The first meet of the year will once again be at the Tecumseh Country Club on Friday, September 4th, starting at 9:00 am. We hope to see you there.

Girls Golf 2015, Coach Ben Swanson

Fourteen girls make up the JCC girls golf team this 2015 season. Practices began on August 10th, and the girls and I have been enjoying the nice weather and great course conditions. With plenty of rain this summer, the Tecumseh Country Club is in the best late-August condition I can remember. I would like to thank the TCC board and members for letting us on the course, and also Jeff Mahoney who does a great job taking care of the course.

Of the fourteen golfers, eleven return from last season. Included in these eleven are returning varsity letter winners Rudy Pooch, Missy Aldana, Sharon Albers, Taylor Gerdes, Alejandra Rojas, and Charla Eggleston. Other returning golfers from last season are Marisela Cabrales, Lis Kessler, Trinity Mahoney, Emalee North, and Macee North. New to the team this year are Evelyn Chavez, Mireya Avitia, and Erika Cruz. We had a successful season last year, winning the HTRS and Auburn Invites, as well as placing 2nd at our own JCC Invite. With so many experienced players returning, the outlook for this season is very good.

High school golf is both an individual and a team sport, much like Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track. Five golfers make up a varsity team, and the four best (lowest) scores are kept to accumulate a team score. Golfers play 18 holes in a tournament, and must walk and carry or pull their own clubs...no golf cars are allowed. Many of the courses we play are three to four miles long, and unfortunately we aren't always walking it in a straight path as we follow our shots! Additionally, the rules of high school golf do not allow much player/coach interaction during the round. A coach may only offer advice to a player in between the green of the hole the player just finished and the tee box of the following hole. This makes the players responsible for making their own judgements on the best way to play the course, and to accurately interpret the rules of golf. So while you may not see a high school golfer exerting the same amount of energy over a short time period like in other high school sports, completing a golf tournament under these conditions is a very physically and mentally draining event.

Several of our girls put in extra time this summer playing golf and improving their skills. This could have been playing a round at the course, taking lessons from a golf pro, or simply hitting "whiffle" golf balls in their own backyard. I have seen the improvement in many of the players and I look forward to seeing the results they earn this upcoming season.

Horizons Tecumseh Site- Mrs. Julifs

POW! CRASH! BOOM! Summer was here and gone in a flash, but we are excited to soar into another fun-filled adventurous school year in the Horizons classroom. Our motto this year is, "Be Your Own Super Hero." We are learning that any one ordinary person can do extraordinary things to be a hero for themselves and those around them. The Horizon Heroes are already busy sharpening their academic skills and preparing to become more independent individuals. As it is with many Heroes, they like to help others, which we have multiple opportunities to help a variety of individuals around the school. Throughout our day we are in charge of the school-wide recycling program, elementary milk break, and cafeteria cleaning, just to name a few. Our classroom is full of heroes ready to make a difference. "There is a superhero inside all of us. We just need the courage to put on the cape."-Anonymous



Library News

By Mrs. Joan Peters

Welcome back to the JCC libraries where we take reading very seriously! Seriously fun that is! You will see a new face at the library in Cook this year as I will be there two and half days every week. Mrs. Diane Wilken and Mrs. Lavinia Doeden will also be helping out at the Cook library. Mrs. Linda Goracke will be helping out at the elementary library in Tecumseh.

I'm really looking forward to helping the middle school students find books of their interest. There are wonderfully exciting chapter books at that level. I'm excited to be reading some of the new books that we have there. I love adventure books so reading *The Lost Treasure of Tuckermuck* by Emily Fairlie was a fun place to start and I would recommend it to anyone.

We hope to make room for more chapter books in the Accelerated Reader program as well so that grades 4-8 have a huge variety to choose from. Reading books that are of a student's own interest is so important for reading success. I want to share some e-books with the students as well.



Hello!

For those with kids in Spanish class, you have already received and signed a letter that I had sent home. This briefly outlined the opportunities for those with a second language and a glance of what will be happening in class this year.

I would like to stress that positivity and production will be important. The hardest part about learning a second language is speaking. I hope to make a comfortable environment where students feel confident sharing and speaking in Spanish. As for the positivity aspect, saying things like "can't", "I don't have the ability," or anything similar will not be tolerated. Students need to believe in their abilities.

Keep an eye out for those pesos! Students earn them for participation when they speak in Spanish.

--Señorita Schleif



Discover the Treasure in Learning!

The 2029 Kindergarten class have been very excited about starting school! All 21 boys and girls in Mrs. Grotrian's class are busy learning about school and rules and getting used to a full day of learning and fun! On the first day the students went on a "Pete the Cat" Hunt and explored all the new places in our school building. We found the Music Room, the Nurse's office, the Lunchroom, Library, and the Computer Lab! It was a fun tour! "Treasures" was our theme for the first week of school. The students brought some of their special treasures to school and then we learned lots about each other by seeing what is special to us. This year we will explore Reading, discover Science, master Math, dig into Writing, hunt for History as we find the treasure in learning! We had a different "Treasure Hunt" every day to find special things. On Friday, we became 'Pirates' and used a map that we followed to find our special treasure. We are very happy and excited about starting our educational adventure called *School!*

By Kathie Grotrian



Johnson County Central Public Schools

2015-2016



July 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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					

March 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	13
13	16	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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		

Aug 13 Data Retreat
 Aug 17 Teacher Workday
 Aug 18 Teacher Workday
 Aug 19 Classes Begin

Sept 7 Labor Day (No School)
 Sept 25 Teacher Workday - 1:00pm Dismissal

Oct 15 End of 1st Quarter
 Oct 16 Teacher Workday - No School
 Oct 29 P-T Conferences (4:00 PM - 8:00 PM)
 Oct 30 P-T Conf (8 AM - 12 PM) No School

Nov 11 Veteran's Day
 Nov 13 1:00 PM Dismissal-Teacher Workday
 Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day - No School
 Nov 27 No School

Dec 18 End of 1st Semester
 Dec 21-31 Christmas Break-No School
 Dec 23-27 NSAA 5-Day Moratorium

Jan 1 New Year's Day - No School
 Jan 4 Teacher Workday - No School
 Jan 5 Classes Resume

Feb 12 Teacher Workday - No School

Mar 4 End of 3rd Quarter
 Mar 11 Spring Break - No School
 Mar 18 Teacher Workday - No School
 Mar 25-28 Easter Break - No School

May 7 Graduation
 May 19 Last Day of School- 11:00am Dismissal
 May 20 Teacher Workday

School Closed
 Early Release

Teacher InService (no school for students)

Parent Teacher Conferences
 First & Last Day of School

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

September 2015




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THIS INSTITUTION IS A EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER"		1 Corndogs WG Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Italian Pasta Bake Fruit & Veggie Bar B&B WG Milk	3 Chicken Patty/WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	4 Fiastada Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 
Menus are subject to change						
6	7 Labor Day No School	8 Cr. Chchicken / WG Biscuit Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Ham & Cheese wg Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	10 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	11 Meatball Sub Fruit & Veggie Bar Rice Crispy Bar Milk	12
13	14 Sloppy Nachos Black Beans Salsa Fruit & Veggie bar Milk WG Garlic Bread HS	15 Hot Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Dinner Roll WG Milk	17 Ch.Burger WG Bun Baked Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18 Br. Cheese Stix Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	19
20	21 Oriental Chicken Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie bar Milk	22 Soppy Joe WG Bun SP Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Chicken Quesadilla Tortilla Chips / Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Spaghetti Meat Sauce Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Bread Stick Milk	25 Cheese Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Jell-O Milk	26
27	28 Turkey & Cheese Wrap Sunchips Fruit & Veggies Milk	29 Br. Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Fruit & Veggie Milk	30 Cheese Ravioli Calif. Blend Veggies Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk			



September 2015



shutterstock - 127084001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 School Pictures JV & V VB @ Falls City 5:00 pm	4 V XC @ Tecumseh CC 9:00 am V Golf @ Hidden Acres, Beatrice 9:00 am V FB @ JCC 7:00 pm	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY 	8 V Golf @ Kirkman's Lakeview Golf Course 4:00 pm JH FB @ JCC HS 4:30 pm V VB @ Syracuse 6:30 pm	9	10 Regional Coalition Mtg @ Lincoln 9:00 am V XC @ Fremont 4:00 C Team, JV, V VB @ Palmyra 4:45, 6:00, 7:15 5th Grade Band Info. Mtg w/Dietze 6:30 pm	11 V FB @ JCC 7:00 pm	12 JV VB @ Syracuse 8:30 am
13	14 V VB @ SCC Beatrice T-Bird Booster Club @ JCC HS 6:00 pm	15 V Golf @ Stone Creek, Omaha 9:00 am V VB @ SCC Beatrice JH VB @ Bennet Elem. 4:00 JH FB @ Falls City 4:30 pm	16 Husker Harvest Days @ Grand Island	17 V Golf @ Tecumseh CC 9:00 am V VB @ SCC Beatrice JH VB @ JCC MS 4:30 V XC @ Hidden Hills, Geneva 5:00 pm	18 NHS Red Cross Blood Drive HS Band @ Richardson County Fair 11:00 am V FB @ Fairbury 7:00 pm	19 JH VB @ Louisville HS 8:00 am HS Band @ Applejack Parade 1:00 pm
20	21 V Golf @ Kirkman's 9:00 am C Team VB @ Johnson Brock 5:30 pm	22 V XC @ Branched Oak 4:00 pm JH FB @ Auburn 4:30 pm C Team, JV, V VB @ Elmwood-Murdock 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 pm	23 District Range Judging @ Wahoo	24 V Golf @ Syracuse CC 4:00pm JH VB @ JCC MS 4:30 V XC @ Hebron 5:00 pm JV & V VB @ Southern 6:00, 7:00 pm	25 School Dismissed @ 1:00 Teacher Workday V FB @ JCC 7:00 pm	26 V VB @ Louisville 9:00 am
27 	28 V Golf @ Auburn HS 9:00 JH VB @ JCC MS 4:30 JV VB @ Sterling HS 6:30	29 JH VB @ HTRS @ 4:00 pm JH FB JCC HS 5:00 pm JV @ V VB @ Weeping Water HS 5:00 pm	30 FBLA Fall Leadership Conf. @ Ramada Plaza, Omaha 9:00 am			

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

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

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3
Cook, NE 68329
ECRWS
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 Jack Moles, Superintendent at 402-335-3320