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## Superintendent Report

December 2019/January 2020

by Dr. Galen Boldt



Greetings!!! As we enter the last month of 2019, we enter the time period where weather can play havoc on the ability to keep school in session. Depending on which service you believe....long term weather forecasts, internet news/fake news, the occasional bad knee acting up or the Farmer's Almanac, you can get a prediction on worst-ever or best-ever potential for bad weather from about any source that you want. The best practice, however, is to make sure that you are prepared no matter what may happen. I will tell you that I hate calling off school because I know what kind of headaches that creates for our parents who need to organize supervision of their children when school is out. This includes late starts or early outs, which I try to avoid at all costs. However, when conditions warrant these decisions need to be made. I rely on our county road crews to help me determine what conditions are like on our county roads as well as the National Weather Service out of Omaha to get the best information. Our county road gang is simply as good as it gets, and I am very appreciative of their hard work to get and keep our roads open, but sometimes the timing and amount of snow makes travel too unsafe. Please make sure that you have made arrangements now for delays or cancellations so that you don't have to rely on last minute pleas. I know that is not always possible, but do the best you can to make sure that your children are not unsupervised. This is one of the biggest reasons, beside travel conditions, that I hate calling off school. When school is in session we know that our kids are supervised and safe, but when we call off school we have no idea how all of our kids are supervised.

As in other years, we will always announce our delays or cancellations with an all-call announcement including an email and text message. In addition we will use the following media sources to make our announcements: KOLN/KGIN TV, KNCY radio, KFAB radio, KETV TV, KLKN TV, KTGL radio, WOWT TV, KNZA radio and KWBE radio.

The Board of Education continues to move forward in our discussion about the future of our school and have chosen an architect to help us look at what that might look like. The Clark Enerson Partners was chosen out of 3 firms who were interviewed, and their expertise and experience will provide us an excellent resource to help with next steps. They have made it clear that no fees would be required as they do pre-bond work to outline actual plans and costs of any project that would either be new building or renovation. We will be meeting and forming a leadership team with a timeline ready for our December Board meeting. No matter what, the Board of Education has final authority to determine if and when a bond project will go before the district patrons and will be seeking input from the community to guide our next steps. Here's hoping that the Holiday Season is a memorable one for all with a large dose of family time together.....including lots of good food 😊

# 2019-2020 School Event Calendar 2nd Semester

## SEE CHANGES TO FEBRUARY CALENDAR

January 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January	
1 - 3	No School Christmas Vacation
3	Teacher Workday
6	2nd Semester Classes Begin
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 student days	21 teacher days

February 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

February	
14	Teacher In-Service - <b>No School for Students</b>
19	Parent Teachers Conferences 12:00 pm- 8:00 pm <b>No School for Students</b>
21	Early Dismissal 1:00
18 student days	20 teacher days

March 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March	
5	End of 3rd Quarter
6	No School - Spring Break
9	No School - Spring Break
20 student days	20 teacher days

April 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April	
3	Early Dismissal 1:00
10	Easter Break - No School
13	Easter Break - No School
20 student days	20 teacher days

May 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May	
9	Graduation
21	Last Day of Classes - End of 4th Quarter
22	Teacher Workday
15 student days	16 teacher days
Total 2nd Sem. Student Days - 93	
Total 2nd Sem. Teacher Days - 97	

## **NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER AND COUNSELOR OLIVIA REUTER**

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break and ate just enough turkey and stuffing. The weather has turned cold and that means the beginning of our winter sports season for basketball and wrestling. The student athletes have been practicing hard and are ready to compete.

We're getting close to the end of first semester and Christmas break, which brings up the topic of semester exams. Semester exams are given in the core curriculum classes and count as 5% of the student's final grade. Once your student knows their exam schedule, I encourage you as parents to assist them in their preparation for these exams. Urge your student to study ahead of time instead of cramming their studying into the night before the exam. Help them by providing a quiet environment in which to study and encourage them to get plenty of rest and to eat good meals as they prepare to take their semester exams.

Another topic we need to discuss is about students changing classes for second semester. Students that are interested changing their classes for second semester need to see Mrs. Reuter any time before the end of Christmas break. Students will also have five school days to make changes to their class schedule at the beginning of second semester from January 6 through January 10.

We've had a great fall in the high school academically. All seniors participated in Apply to College day on September 20th. We had representatives here from Wayne State College, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Southeast Community College, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Peru State College, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Northwest Missouri State University, Metropolitan Community College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Doane University to talk to seniors individually or in small groups, and help the students fill out applications who wanted to. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, all seniors attended an EducationQuest financial aid presentation from Les Monroe of the Lincoln EducationQuest office. Many students and some of their parents stayed after the presentation to receive help in filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

There have been several opportunities for our students to explore colleges and universities so far this fall. We've had groups of students go to SCC-Lincoln for healthcare career day, to UNL for college access day, to SCC-Beatrice for agriculture career day, to SCC-Milford for manufacturing career day, and to Peru State College for Connect the Dots career day, not to mention all conferences, trips, and activities participated in by our students in various school organizations including FFA, HOSA, and FBLA. Additionally, the Academic Decathlon team is busy preparing for their competition in January. Upcoming campus visits to the University of Nebraska-Kearney and Wayne State College. Spring visits are also planned to Midland University, SCC-Beatrice, Peru State College, and Doane University.

All high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors took the MAP assessments. The juniors will be taking the ACT here at school on April 7, 2020 as their state assessment. Junior language arts, math, and science teachers have been implementing ACT practice activities into their regular classroom throughout the year, everything from the “On to College” program with John Baylor to activities in ACT practice books to actual ACT subject area practice tests. Within the next month, all juniors will have an ACT online prep account which they can use on their own or with activities in classes assigned by teachers to further study for the ACT.

All sophomores, juniors, and seniors who were signed up for the October 24<sup>th</sup> ACT were invited to participate in ACT study sessions the evenings of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, October 16<sup>th</sup>, and October 23<sup>rd</sup> taught by core curriculum teachers, Mrs. Tina Richardson, Dr. Vicky Boone, Mrs. Amy Little, and Mr. Kirk Faris. We had an average of 16 students participating in each session, which was very positive in our first attempt at hosting optional evening sessions. We have not received our official school reports from October ACT testing, but many of the students who have shared their score reports with us have improved their scores from prior testing, or if it was their first time testing, scored in the proficient range or above.

This fall we have had 30 high school students enrolled in SENCAP or DC Advantage college courses through Southeast Community College and five students enrolled in dual credit Psychology through Peru State College. So far, we have 35 students enrolled in courses for Spring from Southeast Community College, we will also have approximately 20 students enrolled in dual credit Anatomy/Physiology, Chemistry II, and Physics through Peru State College. Many of our students are doing very well in these courses and are earning general education and elective credits that they can transfer to most all if not all colleges and universities that they plan to attend after they graduate high school.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL & ATHLETIC NEWS

BY RICH BACON

On November 11, an assembly was held at the middle school honoring local veterans for their service to our great country. The Bryan-Holtgrewe American Legion Post #246 of Talmage presented the colors. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade band performed the National Anthem and 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Keven Silos led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Dave Armknecht did an outstanding job sharing his thoughts about Veterans Day. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes performed patriotic musical number and Maya Straka performed Taps. At the conclusion of the program, 38 veterans and the spouses were treated to dinner in the school cafeteria. Thank you to all veterans for their service to our country.

The Junior High Boys Basketball team has started their season with 16 boys participating. Fans will have a good opportunity to watch them play as they have 4 home games through the month of December. Come support the Thunderbirds!

## Sportsmanship

The beginning of the winter sports season is a good time to review the fundamentals of sportsmanship. Johnson County Central is required by the NSAA to maintain proper crowd control and enforce the principles of good sportsmanship and ethics during all interscholastic contests. The East Central Nebraska Conference also encourages schools to promote good sportsmanship. During each game against a conference school our players, coaches, fans and administration are being judged by our opponent for our behavior exhibited during the game. Points are given for positive examples of sportsmanship or deducted for instances of poor sportsmanship. At the conclusion of each season schools are given the results, along with comments detailing what each school did well and what it may need to work on. It is important to remember that the game is played for the enjoyment of the athletes. Spectators should be there to support their child, their team and enjoy the contest.

The following information was taken from the NSAA Sportsmanship Manual.

### THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

The following may help everyone understand their responsibilities at an athletic contest.

- 1. Gain an understanding and Appreciation for the Rules of the Contest.** The necessity to be well informed is essential. Know the Rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials, coaches, or administrative decisions. The spirit of *Good Sportsmanship* depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.
- 2. Exercise Representative Behavior at All Times.** A prerequisite to *Good Sportsmanship* requires one to understand his/her own prejudices that may become factors in his/her behavior. The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior that is representative of a sound value base. A proper perspective must be maintained if the educational values are to be realized. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
- 3. Recognize and Appreciate Skilled Performances Regardless of Affiliation.** Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents *Good Sportsmanship*, but also reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
- 4. Exhibit Respect for the Officials.** The officials of any contest are important arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. The rule of *Good Sportsmanship* is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later applications in life.

5. **Display Openly a Respect for the Opponent at all Times.** Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially, provided with the best possible accommodations, and accorded tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your school, team, or family. This fundamental is the Golden Rule in action.
6. **Display Pride in Your Actions at Every Opportunity.** Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a school representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, student, athlete, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

#### **ATHLETES FAIR PLAY CODE**

1. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving my skills, making
7. friends and doing my best are also important.
8. I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and my opponents.
9. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions, show them respect, and understand they have given their time to be with me.

#### **FAN'S FAIR PLAY CODE**

1. I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
4. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide activities for our young people.
5. I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.
7. I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
8. I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

***“Leaders are like eagles – they don’t flock. You find them one at a time.”***  
***--Knut Rockne, Notre Dame Football***



**Go Thunderbirds!**

## NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR Ms. Olivia Reuter

### 2019/2020 ACT Test Dates

The remaining ACT testing dates and registration deadlines for the 2019-2020 school year are listed below.

<u>ACT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
Saturday, February 8, 2020	Friday, January 10, 2020
Saturday, April 4, 2020	Friday, February 28, 2020
Saturday, June 13, 2020	Friday, May 8, 2020
Saturday, July 18, 2020	Friday, June 19, 2020

Students must electronically submit a photo with the application and the admission ticket will have the student's picture printed on it. When students go to take the test, they must have a state or school issued picture ID (driver's license, school ID card, etc. and their ACT admission ticket. They will not be allowed to test without those two items. All students must also indicate the school they attend when registering. Johnson County Central High School's **school code number** is **282-319**. Students choose their testing location as a part of the registration process. Many JCC students test in Auburn, but there are other test center options in other area locations.

Students may register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Online registration is possible 24/7 on any computer connected to the internet. A credit or debit card must be used to pay fees online. (Fee Waivers are available for juniors and seniors who qualify-see Mrs. Reuter for waiver eligibility).

### Apply Now: Susan Buffett Scholarship

Seniors who qualify should apply now for a Buffett scholarship. To learn what it takes to qualify and to apply, visit

<https://buffettscholarships.org>

In order to finish the application, seniors must have their FAFSA form completed, an official seven-semester transcript from their high school counselor (available the first week back to school in January), and two references (a teacher, a school counselor or administrator, or another non-family member that they feel meets the scholarship's criteria as a reference.) Students need to ask their references ahead of time if they will be a reference for them and send them the form from the scholarship as soon as possible so they have several weeks to complete the questions. The application deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Southeast Community College Scholarship Help- December 2nd

A representative from Southeast Community College will be here at our school on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM. She will help all students planning on attending SCC in Beatrice, Lincoln, or Milford apply for SCC scholarships. All students planning to attend SCC should attend this session. Most every student who attends and completes their form will earn at least one scholarship to SCC.

## Meet the Class of 2020

Here are the next six senior profiles.

### **Cody Bartels**

Cody Bartels lives on a farm near Tecumseh and is the son of Dan and Kim Bartels. He has one brother, Kyle (14). During high school, he has been involved in FFA and choir. His favorite high school classes have been shop and math because he enjoys those classes. His most challenging class has been chemistry and his favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. His advice to JCC freshmen is, "Enjoy high school because it goes by fast." Cody's favorite thing about being a senior is knowing that he will soon enter into the real world. After high school, Cody plans to farm with his dad. In ten years, Cody sees himself living in a nice house by Tecumseh and possibly married.



### **Gwen Goracke**



Gwen Goracke is the daughter of Travis and Jaclyn Goracke of Tecumseh. She has two brothers, Austin (14) and Max (11). Gwen has been involved in FBLA, Track, Golf, Cheer, Choir, and Journalism during her high school years. Her favorite classes at JCC have been: her art classes with Ms. Fox because she always encourages her abilities when she doubts them, American Government with Mr. Weber because he's funny and his class is a good way to stay educated on current matters, and Student Assistant with Coach Collin because he motivates her every day to do better and try her hardest. Her most challeng-

ing classes have been her math classes. Some of her interests and hobbies outside of school are baking and hanging out with friends. Her advice to JCC freshmen is, "Find a solid group of friends and stick with them because it's good to have a stable support system throughout high school." According to Gwen, the best thing about being a senior is, "Making memories with her friends." In the future, Gwen plans to attend Wayne State College and major in Fashion Merchandising. In ten years, Gwen sees herself working with a large company in the fashion or cosmetics industry in their marketing division. She hopes to be living in California, Colorado, Texas, or New York, but she will be fine with wherever her job takes her.

### **Amber Lowther**

Amber Lowther is the daughter of Richie and Stephanie Lowther of Tecumseh. She has two siblings, Melissa (14) and Cameron (12). Her favorite classes at JCC have been her science classes and her most challenging classes have been her English classes. During her high school years, she has been involved in band choir, one act, cheer, volleyball, and basketball. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. After high school, she plans to attend Southeast Community College in Beatrice and major in horticulture. Her advice to JCC freshmen is, "Hand your homework in on time." According to Amber, the best part about being a senior is, "I'm finally close to graduating." In ten years, she hopes to be working in a flower shop.







### **Gisselle Manriquez**

Gisselle Manriquez is the daughter of Adrian and Laura Manriquez of Tecumseh. She has two sisters, Jailine (14) and Nayeli (11). Her favorite high school classes have been Biology because she found it interesting to learn about DNA and Art because she got to be creative and have fun at the same time. Her most challenging classes have been her dual credit high school classes. Her school activities have been Track, FFA, FBLA, Striv, and One Act, and her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. According to Gisselle the best thing about being a senior is, "Knowing you are one step closer to achieving your dream." Outside of school, Gisselle enjoys volunteering at her church. Her advice to freshmen is, "Don't create any drama and pay attention in class." After high school, Gisselle plans to attend SCC, Peru State, Wayne State, or another college or university

that offers Radiology so she can become a Radiological Technologist. In ten years, Gisselle sees herself working at a hospital as a radiological technologist, living in a nice apartment, and maybe married but with no kids yet.

### **Samuel Buss**

Sam Buss, of Tecumseh, is the son of Jody Schultz and Paul Buss. He has two brothers, Jacob (28) and Isaac (22). During his high school years, Sam has been involved in FFA, FBLA, Striv, HOSA, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Student Council, band, Speech, One Act, Musical, Spring Play, Golf, and Unified Bowling. He has also been a class officer. His hobbies and interests outside of school include golf, baseball, and maintaining his personal golf hole. His favorite classes during his high school years have been Mrs. Hodges' agriculture classes because he is able to obtain information and then apply it to the real world. His most challenging classes have been Calculus and Advanced English IV. Sam's advice to freshmen is, "Don't be scared to try something new because you never know how much you may enjoy it! Also, be outgoing!" Sam's favorite school lunch has been the popcorn chicken bowl. According to Sam, the best thing about being a senior is, "I am now able to assume multiple leadership positions and help in every way I can to make every club I'm in the best it can possibly be." After high school, Sam plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney and major in Pre-Pharmacy. In ten years, he hopes to finally be graduated from pharmacy school, have a family started, and live in or around Tecumseh



### **Tucker Liberty**



Tucker Liberty, of Tecumseh, is the son of Greg and Brooke Liberty. He has two siblings, Cree (28) and Nate (22). Tucker's favorite high school classes have been his shop classes. He has learned a lot from working on projects. His most challenging classes have been his math classes and his favorite school lunch is cheese sticks. During his high school years, Tucker has been involved in football, basketball, and track at JCC. Tucker's advice to freshmen is to, "Work hard and actually try your best at everything." Tucker's hobbies and interests outside of school are sports. According to Tucker, the best thing about being a senior is that high school will actually end soon. In the future he plans to go to a small college. He does not know for sure what career he will have in the future, but he might be interested in becoming an electrician.

## ASSESSMENTS

In the spring of each year, every school in Nebraska is required to administer the NSCAS General Summative that is part of Nebraska's Student-Centered Assessment System, or NSCAS. NSCAS includes formative, interim, and summative measures that together provide valuable information to educators and parents as they prepare students for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. This assessment is how the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) assesses whether students have learned what they are expected to learn at their grade level. It is criterion-referenced, which means it measures student performance against a fixed set of criteria—Nebraska's content area standards for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3–8) and for science (grades 5 and 8). The results of each assessment are then compared to the results of the previous year's assessment. This comparison, along with other indicators, helps the NDE classify schools as Excellent, Great, Good and Needs Improvement. Johnson County Central Middle School received a rating of Good for the 2018-2019 school year. Individual student scores for the NSCAS assessments were mailed home to families during the last week of October.

In addition to the NSCAS General Summative, Johnson County Central also administers the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. This assessment is given twice a year, once in the fall and the spring. Like the NSCAS General Summative, the MAP assessment is adaptive. If your child correctly answers a question, the computer assessment provides a harder question next. If they miss that same question, then an easier question is asked. This provides essential information about what your child knows and is ready to learn. The MAP assessments create a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level—precisely measuring progress and growth for each individual student. However, the NSCAS General Summative is designed to assess grade-level performance. The test adapts to each student's performance, the questions it presents are aligned to the student's grade level. The NSCAS assessment is taken during the 6-week spring testing window from March to April. Results of the fall MAP assessments were given to parents at the fall Parent-Teachers Conference.

Students at JCC demonstrated great growth during the 2018-2019 school year. When comparing MAP grade level scores from fall to spring, students consistently grew at above average levels. In the area of math students demonstrated the following school conditional growth percentile; grade 6-84%, grade 7-90%, grade 8-97%. This means that the JCC 6th grade showed more growth than 84% of the schools, JCC 7th grade showed more growth than 90% of the schools and JCC 8th grade showed more growth than 97% of the schools that took the MAP math assessment. Although the sixth grade students did not demonstrate as high of levels of percentile growth, students in grade 6 overall tested well, scoring above the end-of year norms for sixth grade students in the spring.

Similarly, students experienced tremendous growth in reading with seventh and eighth grade students both scoring at the 88th percentile for school conditional growth in the spring, and sixth grade meeting at the end of the year norm with their class RIT score. Higher than expected growth was demonstrated in the areas of language arts and science as well. Students in grade 6 grew to the 77th percentile for school conditional growth, 7th grade the 84th percentile and 8th grade the 96th percentile. Sixth grade students exceeded the spring norm RIT scores in the area of science while students in seventh grade demonstrated school conditional growth in the 89th percentile and eighth grade students grew to the 99th percentile. As a grade, students often perform higher than the grade-level mean scores or grow more than predicted by the MAP assessment.

Assessments continued on next page

## ASSESSMENTS - continued

This is the second year of test results from the NSCAS assessment in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and math. NSCAS scores are difficult for a school to utilize when determining grade level growth as NSCAS scores are determined each year for each grade, they do not compare the previous grade level results with the current grade level results. It is criterion referenced assessment rather than norm-referenced assessment, which means the scores only reflect one grade from year to year. However, NSCAS scores help teachers analyze instruction methods and curriculum to help improve teaching and instruction in their classes. The school district and teaching staff utilize data from both NSCAS and MAP. Information provided from MAP assessments demonstrate percentile growth for students and grades levels each year, making this data valuable to our district to determine how individual students grow and improve each year. NSCAS information is a valuable indicator of grade level achievement and areas needing to improve.

Each fall, middle school staff work together to dissect data and to reflect on strengths and areas needing improvement in their curriculum. They work together as a team to ensure that students are taught grade level material, but they also go above and beyond the expected state standard instruction by supplementing their classrooms with engaging instruction and materials to continue to engage and grow their students. Comparing results from the two years of NSCAS assessments shows that individual results for many students show growth from the 17-18 year to the 18-19 year, indicating that students continue to learn and grow each year. In addition to the NSCAS growth demonstrated by students, the norm-referenced results from the MAP assessment also indicate that students are growing and improving each year. This growth is evident even as the expectations are increased with each grade level. While we will always work to improve our test scores each year, Johnson County Central Middle School has excellent teachers who are able to help all their students, no matter what level they are at, grow in all learning areas during the school year.



## Donate to the 2019 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

90% of all donations made here stay in  
Johnson County  
to assist with Emergency Services  
in partnership with SENCA  
(Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership)

# Thank You!



# 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:

- Wed. Dec. 11—School Board Mtg., 6:30 PM, HS Cafeteria.
- Fri. Dec. 13—K-12 Winter Christmas Concert, 6:30 PM in HS Gym.
- Fri. Dec. 20—Cook Site Preschool Winter Program, 2:30 PM, Cook Site PK Room.
- Fri. Dec 20—Tecumseh Site Preschool Winter Program, 2:30 PM, Tecumseh Site PK Room.
- Fri. Dec. 20—End 1st Semester.
- Mon. Dec. 23—Winter break begins.

## JANUARY



- Mon. Jan. 6—Begin 2nd Semester.
- Wed. Jan. 8—School Board Mtg., 6:30 PM, Cook Site Media Center.

## Winter Reminders

- Students will need gloves/mittens, warm coats and warm hats as winter sets in because we will still have some recesses outside.
- Wearing winter boots when there is snow on the ground, or keeping a pair at school, is a good idea to that your child's feet don't get wet during an outdoor recess.
- If your child tends to get chapped lips, send some lip balm to school with your student.
- Students should not be in the buildings before 7:30 a.m. unless they are with a school official or have permission.
- Students waiting for the shuttle buses may wait in the Elementary auditorium, however they are not to be congregating just inside the doors or roaming the hallways.
- Make sure the school has any phone number changes so that you get phone messages for inclement weather.

## Thanks to Our Paras, Aides, Nurses and Administrative Assistants!

Johnson County Central's para-educators, aides, nurses and secretaries are the school's unsung heroes. These individuals do some hard work in the school system to help the schedule run smoothly. These are the people watching children before and after school, trying to maintain order and discipline. They are the ones overseeing the lunch room and the playground. They help the classroom teachers work with students so our children can receive some of the one-on-one attention they need. They check temperatures, bandage wounds, stop bloody noses, wipe runny noses and hand out ice packs. They answer phones, clean up messes, cut and laminate, make copies, organize bus routes, file and organize paperwork and shred paper. They are a part of every program and service our school provides. They organize and produce the newsletters, school web-pages and calendars. They keep track of the money coming in and the money going out. They input information into our system, file reports and records and track information. They clean, they paint and sometimes repair. To all these people, I give my praise and thanks!

Mary Teten	Connie Watson	Vicki Mulholland	Casey Fricke	Diane Wilken
Ciera Bryant	Candy Laue	Susie Lacey	Julie Damme	Kim Jansen
Lisa McHenry	Laurie Badertscher	Lisa Kuhl	Julie North	Daisy Mejia
Amy Franco	Lavinia Doeden	Joyce Kinnison	Linda Goracke	
Tiffany DeJonge	Shirley Schwartzkopf			

# October Thunderbirds



Kindergarten (l to r) - Gabriella Brown, Everest Droge, Evelyn Little, Rylin Campbell-Thies, John Sterup, Ivan Cornejo, Nora Britt, Axel Prado

1st Grade (l to r) - Eleanor Burgett, Valen Moscoso, Isaac Buchanan, Lucy Rademacher, Ada Goodrich, Victor Gonzalez, Presley Juilfs, Audric Grodwahl, Mackenzie Silos, Brock Carter



2nd Grade (l to r) - Kyndall Meints, Hanna Jones, Courtney Oltrogge, Journi Brooks, Sophie Kirkland, Brynn Weber, Emma Othmer

Not Pictured: Angel Lara-Rojas

3rd Grade (l to r) - Bentley Campbell, Hadley Hartman, Danica Russell, Chance Harr, Janel Leyva, Kenna Thomas



**4th & 5th grade Thunderbirds will be featured in the February newsletter and on our Facebook page.**

# An App or Your Lap?



Submitted by Lisa Othmer

Since we live in a world that is continuously advancing technologically, it is no wonder that the amount of screen time we all encounter has increased. However, is this optimal for young children? Perhaps we need to stop and ask ourselves the following questions:

- Is the young child benefitting from what's on the screen or is it merely an electronic babysitter?
- Is high-tech play displacing the following opportunities in your child's life: face-to-face interactions with people, parent-child verbal interactions, play-based movement (crawling, walking, climbing, jumping, dancing), manipulating and playing with small toys, the ability to wait (delay gratification), outdoor play and exploration?

It often seems that an increase in screen time seems justified as many apps are marketed as educational. While educational apps are useful for teaching letters, numbers, colors, and shapes, they aren't effective at teaching skills such as self-regulation, empathy, social skills and problem-solving.

True play allows children to use their own imagination and sound effects as well as learn to share, take turns, negotiate, compromise and solve problems. In contrast, a child is often silent and sedentary when engaging with a device because it provides all the power and sound. Furthermore, the iPad finger doesn't support the fine motor skills needed to write, cut with scissors, or button a shirt. Nor can the iPad compete with the sensory rich experiences that making mud pies, building forts, and riding bikes provide!

Traditional Play	Virtual Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct contact with the world</li> <li>• Active play that encourages movement, manipulation and sensory experiences</li> <li>• Fosters social interaction</li> <li>• Children are able use their imagination</li> <li>• Teaches kids to deal with real life situations (actual consequences)</li> <li>• Encourages creativity</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect contact with the world</li> <li>• Passive entertainment that discourages movement</li> <li>• Deprives children of social interaction</li> <li>• Children are being instructed or entertained</li> <li>• Teaches kids to turn off/walk away when they are frustrated (pretend consequences)</li> <li>• Wires children to need constant input</li> </ul> 

Develop a screen time plan. The American Academy of Pediatrics has a way to create a personalized FAMILY MEDIA PLAN. To access the Family Media Plan, visit [HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan](http://HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan)

## Always choose the lap over an app!

There is no app you can purchase that will ever be more important to your child's development than the TIME you spend playing with and talking to your child!

## The Giving Tree



During the month of December, please stop by the entry way of each JCC site and check out the tree ornaments! Each ornament lists a request from a JCC teacher for items to use in their classrooms. Participating is easy!

- 1) Pick an ornament.
- 2) Fulfil the request.
- 3) Return the item(s) to the school office with the ornament tag attached. (Before Dec. 20, please!)

Let's help make a few classroom wishes come true for our teachers! If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Brommer at [abrommer01@gmail.com](mailto:abrommer01@gmail.com).

Sponsored by the JCC PTO

# JCC Shoe Drive Fundraiser!!!

**\*All JCC Band Students grades 6-12 are asked to bring in 25 total pairs of shoes (or more) for this fundraiser.**



**ANY SIZE, ANY STYLE!**

**Tennis Shoes, Boots, Cleats, Slippers, Flip Flops, Heels,  
Crocs, Clogs, Sandals...**

**Baby Shoes, Toddler Shoes, Kids Shoes, Adult Shoes**

**Must be in "wearable" condition. No holes please.  
No caked-on mud.**

**ALL SHOES ARE TO BE TURNED INTO THE  
SCHOOL BY**

**JANUARY 31, 2020.**

## Winter Time in the Band Department

This is such a busy time of year for all of us. The music department is busy getting ready for our first all-school concert. Mr. Doran and I are excited about the opportunities that the students will have to get to watch groups perform that they may not normally be able to. The date for the all-school concert is **Friday, December 13th starting at 6:30pm**. The schedule for evening is as follows:

- 6:30pm - 5th Grade Band (meet in Elem Auditorium at 6:15pm)
- 6:40pm - 6th Grade Band (meet in Elem Auditorium at 6:15pm)
- 6:50pm - K-3 Grade Program (meet in classrooms at 6:20pm)
- 7:20pm - 4-6 Grade Choir (meet in Elem Auditorium at 7:00pm if not already there)

### Intermission

- 8:00pm - 7/8 Grade Band (meet in HS Music Room at 7:30pm)
- 8:20pm - 7-12 Grade Choirs perform joint concert  
(meet in Elem Auditorium at 7:45pm)
- 8:40pm - HS Jazz Band and Concert Band  
(meet in HS Music Room at 8:00pm)

The shoe drive is still going on for the band! We will be collecting shoes until the end of January and each band student is asked to bring in 25 or more pairs of shoes. They can be any size and any style. Ask your friends, relatives and neighbors. The more shoes we donate, the more money we will receive to help go towards needed band items and band trip.


The next band trip in May of 2021 is in the process of being put together. Right now, our destination will most likely Colorado. If your band student is currently in grades 8-11, they will be the ones to go on this trip. This is a great educational experience for our students and I encourage all of them to go if they are able. More details as well as final cost per student will be sent home soon. Our fundraising efforts are to try to alleviate the cost if possible. Please encourage your student to fundraise whenever possible.



December	13	Friday	<b>K-12 Winter/Christmas Concert @ 6:30pm</b>
	17	Tuesday	Pep Band - BB vs. Palmyra
January	5-6	Sun-Mon	Doane Vocal Festival - Crete
	6	Monday	School Resumes
	9	Thursday	Pep Band - BB vs. Wilber-Claytonia
	11	Saturday	Singing Youth of Nebraska - North Platte
	17	Friday	UNO MS Honor Choir
	23	Thursday	Pep Band - BB vs. HTRS
	24-26	Fri-Sun	<b>UNO BOCH Festival - Omaha</b>
	28	Tuesday	Pep Band - BB vs. Malcolm
February	11	Tuesday	Pep Band - BB vs. Elmwood-Murdock
	13	Thursday	Pep Band - BB vs. Yutan
March	3	Tuesday	27th Annual Freshmore Clinic - Tecumseh
	24	Tuesday	<b>HS MUDECAS Music Contest - Pawnee City</b>
	26	Thursday	<b>MS Contest Concert - Cook @ 6:30 pm</b>
	27	Friday	<b>MS Contest - Humboldt</b>
	28	Saturday	Class C Allstate Band
April	3	Friday	Meridian MS Honor Choir and Band
	4	Saturday	<b>Prom</b>
	17	Friday	<b>HS Contest Concert @ 7:00pm</b>
	18	Saturday	<b>Choir Worlds of Fun Trip</b>
	23	Thursday	<b>HS District Music Contest - Tecumseh</b>
	30, May 1,3	Thur, Fri, Sun	Spring Play - Fri @ 7, Sun @ 2
May	4	Monday	<b>HS Spring Concert and Art Show @ 7:00pm</b>
	9	Saturday	<b>HS Band at Graduation</b>
	11	Monday	ECNC Honor Band @ Malcolm
	15	Friday	<b>4-8 Spring Concert - Cook, 7:00pm</b>
	16	Saturday	<b>Miles for Music 5K Fundraiser</b>
	18	Monday	<b>K-3 Spring Program - Tecumseh, 7:00pm</b>

# Johnson County Central School Lunch Menu

# December 2019

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Soft Shell Taco Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Shredded Pork/WG Bun Corn Casserole Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chili WG Crackers Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Patty/ WG Bun Tater Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Breaded Cheese Sticks Fruit & Veggie Bar Rice Crispy Bar Milk	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Chicken Nuggets Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Scooby Snacks Milk	Br Pork Patty WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Green Beans Milk	BBO Meatballs Mashed Potato Casserole Fruit & Veggie Bar B & B Milk	Hamburger WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pizza Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Chicken Noodle Soup Cheese Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Riblet WG Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Popcorn Chicken Elementary	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Hot Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	No School Christmas Vacation	No School Christmas Vacation	<b>Merry Christmas!!</b> 	No School Christmas Vacation	No School Christmas Vacation	
29	30	31	<p>Important Reminder: "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"</p> <p>Menu is Subject to change without Notice</p>			
	No School Christmas Vacation	No School Christmas Vacation				

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 SCC Scholarship Session— @ JCC HS Computer Lab—9:00 a.m.	3 One Act Districts @ Nebraska City Lourdes, Nebraska City—10:30 am NSAA District Unified Bowling @ Parkway Lanes, Lincoln—3:30 pm BB-JH Boys vs Syracuse @ Syracuse—4:30 pm	4	5 PreACT Testing—@ Tecumseh Site HS Gym— 8:20 am BB, JH Boys vs Freeman @ JCC Middle School Cook—4 pm	6 Get Smart About Credit for All Juniors @ JCC HS Computer Lab—1:20 pm BB-Girls V vs Mead @ Mead- 6 pm BBBoys JV/V vs Mead @ Mead 4:30/7:45 pm	7 BB-Boys JH Tourney @ JCC Middle School Cook—8:30 am V Wrestling, Invite @ Friend HS—9 am
8	9 BB-Boys JH vs Pawnee City @ JCC Middle School Cook—4pm BB-Boys C-Team vs Louisville @ Louisville—6 pm	10 NHS Red Cross Blood Drive @ Tecumseh HS Gym—7:30 pm BB-Girls V vs Southern @ Southern 6:15 pm BBBoys JV/V vs Southern @ Southern 5:15/8 pm	11 UNK College Visit—postponed from 10/30—@ UNK, Kearney—10:30 am <b>JCC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING @ Tecumseh Site HS Cafeteria — 6:30 p.m.</b>	12 BB Girls V vs Syracuse @ Syracuse—6 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Syracuse @ Syracuse—4:30/7:30 pm	13 K-12 All District Christmas/Winter Concert @ Tecumseh HS Gym 6:30 pm	14 BB-Boys JH Tourney @ Palmyra 8am Wrestling V Invite @ North Bend—10am BB Girls V vs Pawnee City @ JCC HS Tecumseh 3 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Pawnee City @ JCC HS Tecumseh 1:30/4:45pm
15	16 BB Boys JH vs Auburn @ JCC Middle School Cook—4:30 pm BB Boys C-Team vs Freeman @ Freeman 6 pm	17 BB Girls V vs Palmyra @ JCC HS Tecumseh—5:45 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Palmyra @ JCC HS Tecumseh— 4:30/7:30 pm	18	19 BB Boys JH vs Weeping Water @ Weeping Water— 4 pm Wrestling V Tri @ HTRS 5:30 pm BB Boys CTeam vs Syracuse @ JCC HS Tecumseh—6 pm	20 END OF 1ST SEMESTER Cook Preschool Holiday Winter Program @ Cook Preschool Room— 2:30 pm Tecumseh Preschool Holiday Winter Program @ Tecumseh Preschool Room—2:30 pm BB Girls V vs Louisville @ Louisville—6 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Louisville @ Louisville—4:30/7:45 pm	21 BB JH Boys Tourney @ Malcolm 8:30 am Wrestling Thunderbird Invite @ JCC Middle School Cook, 9:30 am <b>NSAA Moratorium December 21—28</b>
22	23	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	26	27 BB Girls & Boys Varsity Holiday Tournament @ Thayer Central— 12:30/2:00 pm	28 BB Girls & Boys Varsity Holiday Tournament @ Thayer Central 12:30/2:00 pm
29	30	31 <b>NO SCHOOL—December 23—31</b> <i>HAVE A SAFE NEW YEARS EVE!</i>		<b>Christmas Vacation</b>		

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	2 V Wrestling Quad @ Malcolm-9 am	3 TEACHER WORKDAY BB Girls V vs Freeman @ Freeman-6 pm	4 BB Girls V vs Tri County @ JCC HS Tecumseh-2:30 pm
			*****NO SCHOOL—January 1-3 *****			
5 Doane Vocal Festival - Create - 2 pm	6 2nd Semester Classes Begin Doane Vocal Festival-Create	7 V Wrestling Tri @ Thayer Central-6:30 pm	8 <b>JCC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING @ Cook Site Media Center 6:30 pm</b>	9 BB Girls V vs Wilber/Clatonia @ JCC HS Tecumseh-4:30/7:45 pm	10 Singing Youth of Nebraska @ North Platte V Wrestling Tourney @ Wilber/Clatonia-3:30 pm	11 Singing Youth of Nebraska @ North Platte
12	13 BB Girls V Mudecas @ Beatrice Aud-TBD	14 BB Boys V Mudecas @ Beatrice Aud-TBD	15	16 BB Boys & Girls Mudecas @ Beatrice-TBD V Wrestling Invite @ Yutan-4 pm	17 UNO Honor Choir @ UNO, Omaha-8am BB Boys/Girls Mudecas @ Beatrice-TBD V Wrestling Invite @ Weeping Water-4 pm	18 BB Boys & Girls Mudecas @ Beatrice-TBD
19	20 FFA District LDE-Norris HS-8 am BB C-Team Boys vs Wilber Clatonia @ JCC HS Tecumseh 6 pm	21 BB Girls V vs Weeping Water @ Weeping Water-6 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Weeping Water @ Weeping Water-4:30/7:45 pm	22	23 BB Girls V vs HTRS @ JCC HS Tecumseh-6 pm BB Boys JV/V vs HTRS @ JCC HS Tecumseh-4:30/7:45 pm	24 BB Girls V vs Auburn @ Auburn 7:30 pm	25 V Wrestling Invite @ Louisville-9:30 am
26	27 BB JH Girls vs Freeman @ JCC MS Cook-4 pm BB Boys C Team vs Southern @ Southern 6 pm	28 BB Girls V vs Malcolm @ JCC HS Tecumseh-6 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Malcolm @ JCC HS Tecumseh-4:30/7:45 pm	29	30 V Wrestling Invite @ Freeman-2:30 pm BB Girls V vs Conestoga @ Conestoga-6 pm BB Boys JV/V vs Conestoga @ Conestoga-4:30/7:45 pm	31 Unified Bowling-End of Season Fun Night @ Harvest Bowl-6:30 pm	

HS BOCH Festival @ Omaha—  
January 24-January 26

# Johnson County Central School Lunch Menu

# January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Happy New Year!!</b> No School Christmas Vacation	2 No School Christmas Vacation	3 No School Teacher Work Day	4
5	6 <b>Welcome Back!!</b> Cr. Chicken /WG Biscuit Peas Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7 Cheeseburger /WG Bun French Fries Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Chili /Cheese Stick Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Toasty Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Pizza Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11
12	13 PB & Jelly Tec. Elem.  Totchos Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	14 BBQ Riblet/ WG Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Chicken Fajita Wrap Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	16 Chefs Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Breakfast for Lunch Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18
19	20 Breaded Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	21 Chicken Noodle Soup WG Crackers Cheese Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Sloppy Joe/WG Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Pizza Jello-Cake Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25
26	27 Chicken Tetrizzini Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk	28 Chicken Patty / WG Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Ham Scalloped Potatoes WG Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	30 Br. Pork Patty WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	31 Cheese Sticks Baked Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
	<b>Important Reminders</b> Menu is Subject to change without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"					

# 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](http://www.jccentral.org)

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

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

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## 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 Dr. Galen Boldt, Superintendent at 402-335-3320.

**\*\* FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 \*\***

End of 1st Semester

Christmas Break begins  
December 20.

Teacher workday on  
Friday, January 3.

**Classes resume on Monday,  
January 6th**  
2nd Semester Classes begin

