Thunderbirds

Johnson County Central Public Schools

Monthly Newsletter



February 2015

SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS

At the January 14, 2015, Board of Education meeting the Board approved the negotiated agreement with the teaching staff. In past years negotiations were often completed during the summer just prior to the new school year and the September 1 start of teacher contracts. A few years ago a new negotiations law was passed by the Nebraska Unicameral. This involved some key points:

- A new negotiations timeline was instituted in which negotiations are to be completed by the middle of February, significantly moving up the process. This is a welcome change for Superintendents and Boards as we work on budgets for the next school year.
- A requirement that school districts be within a 98% to 102% range in total compensation with their comparability group. A comparability group is a group of districts that are geographically close and are within a range that is half the size to twice the size of the district in student numbers. The negotiated agreements of each of these districts is used to determine where a school district falls in its comparability group.
- If the teachers group and the Board of Education cannot come to an agreement, then the district must submit to working with a mediator. If that does not work, then the issue is taken to the Commission of Industrial Relations. The CIR then sets a binding settlement.

This year the Board of Education purchased the North Star Negotiations Service from the Nebraska Association of School Boards. This service is remarkable in conducting a comparability study. For a Superintendent to develop a true comparability study would take many, many hours of pulling together information from many sources to make a comparison that would be in line with CIR standards. In all reality, Johnson County Central had never conducted a true comparability study. All of the comparisons in the past had only been partial comparisons. The North Star program has compiled every negotiated agreement from public schools in Nebraska that are used in the comparability study. All of the factors used in this type of a study are then built into the program.

After conducting the comparability study using the North Star program it was evident that the Johnson County Central negotiated agreement was low in the array group. As the Board and teachers representatives considered many factors, a settlement was reached in which the base salary would increase from \$32,825 to \$34,025. This would put our teaching staff at just under 100% of the comparability array. This amounts to just under a 3% increase in the total package.

Upon their return from Christmas break the teaching staff voted to approve the negotiated agreement, as did the Board at its January meeting.

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 7

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Middle School Principal
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ESU 4

I am sure that many times each of you has heard of the relationship of Johnson County Central Public Schools with "ESU 4". I am also sure many of you have wondered just exactly what "ESU 4" is and why Johnson County Central needs a relationship with it. ESU 4 is more formally known as Educational Service Unit #4 and is located in Auburn. There are 19 Educational Service Units in the state of Nebraska, most of which cover several counties. ESU 4 provides services for schools in Johnson, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, and Pawnee counties. ESU 4 provides the member schools with a wide variety of services, most of which would be almost impossible to provide on our own. Examples of the services provided include:

- ⇒ Special Education services. Services which we buy from ESU 4 include a Special Education Director, Audiologist, and specialized help for higher needs Special Education students. Ellen Stokebrand, Special Education administrator at ESU 4 serves on a limited basis as our Special Education Director. Helping us to obtain state and federal funding, keeping us up to date on legal issues, and working with us to ensure that our local policies are current are just some of her main duties as the SPED Director. She also works with our staff by explaining new mandates and procedures. Rebecca Kling serves as our local assistant SPED Director, but her full teaching duties preclude her from devoting all of her time to being a full SPED Director. Special Education is such a complicated venture that schools must have the services of a director in some way. Ellen's staff helps us with a wide range of SPED issues that we have been faced with in recent years. Among these are meeting the needs of students with life skills training, students who have been diagnosed with autism or autism spectrum disorder, students with hearing issues, and Level III students. Without the great services we receive from ESU 4, our costs would be much higher if we were to provide the services on our own. In examining costs, however, we did make a move this year in hiring our Speech Pathologist when we were fortunate enough to welcome Kim Ellicott to our staff. This was formerly a service we got from ESU 4.
- ⇒ Staff Development. The importance of the services provided by ESU 4 in the area of staff development has exploded over the past several years. More and more mandates are being placed on schools by the state and federal governments in the areas of accountability, standards, and assessments. To meet these demands, ESU 4 has put together an outstanding team of staff developers: Suzanne Whisler and Jen Madison. These two ladies spend 11 months each year working continuously with the staffs in the service unit to help our schools improve. They are instrumental in helping each school to construct their school improvement plans and develop curriculum based on the State of Nebraska standards. They have also provide training in areas such as reading instruction, writing, data analysis, youth leadership, school crisis response and safety teams, and administrative leadership. They are simply invaluable in helping us to move forward as a school. Again, to provide this type of training on our own would be cost prohibitive.
- ⇒ Technology. The increased use of technology in schools demands that we have access to professional development for our teachers. Dustin Buggi and Marcus Scheer, our technology staff, do a marvelous job of maintaining our equipment, as well as serving as a resource to our staff and students. We still lean heavily on ESU 4 for help in the area of technology. Gregg Robke serves as the Technology Coordinator for ESU 4 and is another invaluable resource. Gregg serves as a trainer for our staff in a wide variety of technology based issues. Some of these trainings simply offer staff members a chance to provide something new and exciting in their classrooms. Many of our staff members have used these opportunities to improve themselves and have expanded their offerings for their students. Gregg has especially been helpful in our 1:1 iPad program. Some of the other trainings that Gregg provides help us to access funds or obtain new equipment. He has also helped us as we meet some of the state's mandates in providing information on students and staff. ESU 4 is also part of a consortium of three other ESU's that provides opportunities in internet access and distance learning. To provide internet to the school through other means would be too costly. The consortium has worked to provide this access in a very cost effective manner. Without this capability we might not be able to provide this service for our students or staff except on a very limited basis.

- ⇒ Nursing. Having our own school nurses, Lisa Kuhl and Connie Walters, is a luxury that not all schools have the opportunity from which to benefit. They do a great job for our staff and students. That being said, however, we still find a great deal of benefit from the services provided by ESU 4 in this area. Catrina Zentner, ESU 4 school nurse, helps schools meet the needs of their students as efficiently as possible. In this, she often provides training opportunities for the schools. ESU 4 also utilizes a health van and travels to the member schools to conduct student health checks each year. This is a service that is greatly appreciated.
- ⇒ Co-op Purchasing. Many years ago the ESU's of Nebraska joined together to form an inter-local agreement that provided for larger scale purchasing of items that schools normally use. In doing so, they were able to have companies bid prices that tend to be much lower than if each school bought the items simply on their own. This has been a very cost effective venture that has helped schools a great deal. We buy everything from paper clips to shop equipment through the Co-op Purchasing available through the ESU

This has been just a sampling of the wide variety of services provided by ESU 4. Some of the services to the schools cost extra, while others are simply part of the services provided. It is easy to see that to provide these services on our own would gouge us financially. Many of the services provided help us to reach state, federal, or legal mandates, so we would have to provide them anyway. Jon Fisher, the administrator at ESU 4, has put together a great staff. I have worked in schools in four different ESU's, and have worked closely with several other ESU's. We have, in my opinion, the finest ESU in the state, the one that provides services in a high manner that is looked on with envy by schools throughout the state of Nebraska. I know we would certainly be lost without ESU 4.

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

I would like to address an issue that you need to be aware of. I have concerns that students are abusing the use of their iPad by playing games and i-messaging during instructional time. This is both a teacher issue and a student issue. I have addressed the students and discussed my expectations and consequences. These are the policies I discussed with the students:

- Students can play games and i-message before school starts and after school. Students will not be allowed to play games and use i-message during school hours 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.— this includes lunch time.
- If students are caught using games or i-message during school hours, consequences could be: Suspension from iPad use for a period of time, permanent loss of iPad or ISS.
- Students will not be allowed to use any form of a headset or ear buds during school hours unless approved by a teacher during their class.

I have discussed with teachers how we could get a handle on this and I gave them a list to help them with this issue:

1. All educators know that today's digital students can quickly move from a game on their iPad to an appropriate learning activity when they see a teacher coming. The students are often too fast to catch, even for the best of us who pride ourselves on moving around the room throughout the lesson. To solve this, get in the habit of asking your students to clear/close their running apps at the beginning of class. They can do this by double clicking the home button or four-finger swiping up. Then they should swipe up the app they want to close. By closing all running apps they not only will save battery life but also give you the ability to do spot checks of what they have been using during your lesson. If the students know you can quickly find out what apps they have been using they will be far less likely to sway from your lesson plan.

- 2. Arrange your classroom so that you're able to see all iPad screens easily. If you are unable to do this, consider your students and make sure you are able to see the potential problem spots easily as you navigate your classroom.
- 3. To make sure you can see what students are doing on their devices, require that they be kept flat or only slightly elevated. If students are at desks or tables, devices should not be placed in their laps. When they should not be used, have them close the case and keep on desk.
- 4. Set limits for which resources students are permitted to access during specific lessons and communicate this to students before the activity begins. If you're doing a whole class activity on a site like Brain-Pop, this is pretty simple. When students are doing research projects, it may involve limiting tools available and doing frequent progress check.
- 5. Teach responsibility: ultimately, we need to teach students to be responsible for their own learning. Mobile devices empower the students with a lot of tools that can be useful for learning, but at the end of the day, they have to make the choice of learning or not. Talk to them about making choices and the consequences of these choices. If they allow themselves to get distracted, ask them to give suggestions for helping them stay on-task, so they feel they have more responsibility over the situation.
- 6. Carl Hooker, an educational technology innovator on the cutting edge, coined the phrase "the two yes, two feet app" in response to faculty and administration concerned about inappropriate use on cell phones, tablets, and/or laptops. The biggest shift for educators when technology enters the classroom is that you cannot be static or stable. The best way to ensure that students stay on task is walk around the room, look at the work they are doing, discuss and engage with them about their progress. The more active and mobile you are in the classroom, the easier it is to ensure that your students are working on what they should be. If you notice that children are quickly closing browsers windows when you come near or "double tapping" the home button on their iPad (a sign that they're switching apps) then take the time to investigate what the student is doing and have a discussion with them if necessary.
- 7. No headphones unless for approved activities.

With all the above being reinforced for second semester, I have had the opportunity to visit all classrooms the last couple of weeks and have been very pleased with what I have seen. I believe our students are working at using their iPad more effectively during school hours.



News from Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal & Athletic Director

The 2015 Nebraska Statewide Assessment cycle got underway on Wednesday, January 21, with the Nebraska State Writing Assessment. All 8th grade students completed an online writing assessment. Each student received a writing prompt from which they were to generate a preliminary draft, make revisions, and produce a final copy of their work. The purpose of the Nebraska Statewide Writing Assessment is to:

- Gather information to assist teachers in determining the progress of students in meeting state or local standards for writing.
- Provide each local school district with a report of student progress in meeting state or local standards for writing.
- Through a random sample, provide a means of determining statewide progress of students in achieving state standards for writing.
- Lead to improved writing by Nebraska students.

In addition to the writing assessment, all students in grades 3-8 & 11 will also be taking the required Nebraska Statewide Assessments in reading and math and 5th graders, 8th graders & 11th graders will also take Science assessment this spring.

On Thursday, January 22, 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester Honor Roll students were recognized at a school assembly. We feel our middle school teachers and staff do a good job challenging our students on a daily basis in their expectations at school and these students excelled in the classroom during the 1st semester. These students worked hard, turned in assignments, studied for tests, and met their individual teachers' expectations. The following students received special recognition for earning straight A's for the 1st Quarter, 2nd Quarter, and 1st Semester: 8th Graders Andrew Beethe, Grace Clark and Kole Kleespies; 7th Graders: Gabe DeFreece and Eli Waring and 6th Grader Calvin Antholz, . Also receiving special recognition for the 2nd quarter were our Thunderbird Way Stars Diego Reyes, Tanner Kerner, & Jack Leuenberger. These students have modeled outstanding citizenship and have exhibited respect toward staff members and their peers. Congratulations to all students who were recognized at the assembly.

The Johnson County Central wrestling team and girls basketball team started practice in early January in preparation of their upcoming season. We have 19 girls playing basketball this winter and 14 boys and girls participating in wrestling. Good luck to both teams and their coaches. Go Thunderbirds!

As a reminder, Johnson County Central utilizes an activity scheduler called rSchoolToday. Through rSchoolToday, a conference website has been created which provides links to school calendars and school websites of all the conference schools, along with other information about the ECNC. Since this is a web-based calendar it will be able to provide the user with instant access to the most up-to-date activity information at all times. Users can set themselves up for automatic email reminders or text messages to your cell phone or other mobile device and be instantly notified of any changes to any schedules. You can access this website by going to www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org. For help navigating the calendar you can click on "Parent Guide" and it will provide brief instructions on how to get started. You can also access the Johnson County Central calendar by simply clicking on the "Sports Calendar" on the school website. This is a great way to keep informed of any last minute changes to our sports schedule

Elementary News

ROT ENTRAL.ORG ER@JC EMAIL: JON.ROTH С WITTER: JONRO



Early Admission into Kindergarten



- Tuesday, Feb. 10-JCC 4th & 5th Graders attending the release of the Homestead Nat'l Monument Quarter at Beatrice High School, 10 a.m.
- Friday, Feb. 13-NO SCHOOL! Teacher Work Day.
- Saturday, Feb. 14-Johnson County Spelling Bee at JCC High School, 8:30 a.m.

In order to attend Kindergarten for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year, children must be 5 years of age on or before July 31, 2015. However, if your child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 you do have the option for early admission into Kindergarten.

This process involves several 4. requirements.

- 1. Parents must have filled out a Written Request for **Consideration of Early** Kindergarten Entrance. These can be acquired at the Elementary office and must be submitted by March 20, 2015.
- 2. Are deemed by the parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement.
- 3. Achieve an average score or greater on the Peabody

Picture Vocabulary Test (4th Edition), the Social Skills Improvement System and/or **Teaching Strategies** GOLD. The assessment will be administered at JCC's elementary building by one of our professionals.

Pay the \$50 assessment This fee is nonrefundable regardless of whether or not the child is admitted into Kindergarten.

If you feel your child is ready, and you would like to apply for early enrollment, please contact the elementary office.

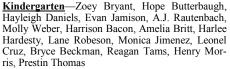




Time & Money

We find that we tend to spend most of our time and money on what is most important to us. I have to admit that I do not always want to invest a lot of my own time and money in educational endeavors. Many times we will spend the money on entertainment for our children and even money for camps of different sorts. We'll even spend time playing sports with our children and spend the money to outfit them for their little league. But, do we spend the same amount of time and money on supporting education in our homes? Is more time spent doing things that help children get smarter and learn how to interact with other people? Food for thought.





1st Grade—Gabe Bernadt, Zeke Burki, Ricardo Castor, Kaiden Dorn, Trevin Huskey, Mario Lara Jr., Leatha Lightsey, Marisol Mandl, Jamie Newcomb, Levi Othmer, Saige Rother, Wes Swanson, Catherine Wendt

2nd Grade—David Campos, Alex Christiansen, Salena Conley, Kali Drake, Jersey Graham, Jennifer

Kindergarten—Zoey Bryant, Hope Butterbaugh, Sejkora, Treven Tams, Alivia Tenney, Tucker Aiden Weber, Ivan Arellano, Rita Ceballos, Daisy Thomas, Joel Chavez-Acosta, Avery Houseman, Madison Jansen, Keegan Jones, Mariyah Leazer, Lydia Mejia, Maecee Neemann, Memphis Newcomb, Lexi Robeson

3rd Grade—Arely Cabrales, Mia Castor, Ava Klein, Nathaly Martinez, Isaiah Morrow, Kaityn Schuster, Bailee Sterup, Kyle Bartels, Ava Buggi, Jovany Cabrales, Cameron Daniels, Ruby Duarte, phonesongkham Wyatt Ludemann, Kaitlynn Plager, Sunnie Rother

4th Grade—Katelyn Beethe, Erica Cabrales, Karen Canseco, Tucker Drake, MacKinze Gordon, Jacob Graham, Kighley Lawrence, Danielle Lueders, Hernandez, Arrison Lowe, Jocelyn Prado, Dawn Kimberly Orozco, Cameron Schuster, Kaylin Smith,

Ortiz, Cole Robeson, Tatum Rutledge

5th Grade—Marisol Bobadilla, Stephanie Cruz, Treyton Holthus, Tavon Leazer, Kobe Wilken, Jordan Albrecht, Ava Berkebile, Jazmin Cabrales, Jennifer Castor-Cruz, Saydee Hardesty, Matthew Jansen, Vanessa Jimenez, Madison Pingel, Emma Isabella Wolter, Straka. Fransisco



Counselor News by Shelley Moles

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

Summer Opportunities for High School Students:.

Automotive Summer Camp: The Southeast Community College Automotive Summer Camp is for any high school students interested in Automotive careers. It will be held on the Milford campus on June 12 and 13, 2015. Bright students who would like the opportunity to experience what it would be like to pursue a career in the automotive field are encouraged to apply. This will be strictly a hands-on camp with about a 3-to-1 student-to-instructor ratio. Registration deadline is June 1, 2015. The cost of \$29 per participant includes tools, meals, housing and tour transportation. Participants must be 16 years of age. Please see Mrs. Moles for an application. For more information contact Rick Morphew, SCC-Milford Campus, 600 State Street, Milford, NE 68405-8498 or call 1-800-933-7223 Ext. 8317 or e-mail morphew@southeast.edu. Registration is limited to 60 participants and registrations are ordered by date received.

Service Academy Nominations:

Juniors who are interested in attending a Service Academy (U.S. Air Force, U.S. Military at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, Merchant Marine) in the fall of 2016 should begin seeking nominations and beginning an application file now. Application files must be completed by September, 2015, and interviews are concluded in October/November 2015.

If any junior is interested in attending a service academy, please see Mrs. Moles for more information about beginning an application soon.

National Honor Society

The purpose of the Johnson County Central High School Chapter of NHS is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students. Selection is based on character, leadership, scholarship, and service.

Johnson County Central High School Chapter of the National Honor Society inducts new members in the spring semester. Students cannot apply for this honor but are selected by a 5-member Faculty Council. Students who are in the sophomore, junior, and senior classes are eligible for membership. The procedure for selection at Johnson County Central High School is as follows: 1) Student's academic records are reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. To be eligible, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 91.5% at the end of the first semester and be at least a second semester sophomore. Foreign exchange students can be considered for honorary membership if they meet the academic requirement. 2) Students who are eligible scholastically are notified and given a Student Activity Information Form (SAIF) to complete. This form is NOT an application, but a method of recognizing student accomplishments in a uniform way. On the SAIF, students list his/her participation in activities, elected and appointed leadership positions, community service/activities, accomplishments, and special awards. 3) Eligible students who return their SAIF are then interviewed by appointed Faculty Council members. Council members consider academics, service, leadership, and character through the use of the SAIF, the interview and observations. 4) Candidates receiving a recommendation by the Faculty Council will be inducted into the chapter at the induction ceremony. Students who are academically eligible for membership in the Johnson County Central chapter of National Honor Society received a SAIF January 15. These forms are due to Mrs. Moles on February 12. After the forms are submitted, interviews with the Faculty Council will be scheduled. Students will be informed of the council decision as soon as possible after the Faculty Council has made its recommendations for membership.

Membership in the National Honor Society is an honor and not a privilege. Membership may be transferred to another chapter if the student moves after being inducted. Students must continue to maintain standards of scholarship, character, service and leadership as members of NHS.

Johnson County Central High School is planning to hold its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Monday evening, April 13, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school.

High School MAP Testing for Grades 9 – 11: March 10, 11, 18, and 19.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)testing has been scheduled for Johnson County Central High School, grades 9-11, for March 10, 11, 18 and 19. (Testing dates are subject to change due to student activity scheduling.)

MAP tests measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of a) Reading, b) Language Usage, c) Mathematics, and d) General Science.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests that are taken on a computer. The test becomes more difficult the more questions a student answers correctly. When a student incorrectly answers a question, the test becomes easier. Therefore, each student takes a test specifically created for his or her learning level.

MAP results are reported in <u>RIT scores</u>. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on a student's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, that is independent of grade level. As a result, student academic growth can be measured from beginning to the end of the school year and from one grade level to the next. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to focus attention on weakness or strengths in a student's learning and enables students to set goals for their own learning. MAP testing is a powerful tool for monitoring student growth over time.

Please help your high school student prepare for testing by making sure he/she gets plenty of sleep and eats a good breakfast, and by being positive about the tests and learning. If he or she is ill on the days of testing, please notify the school so that make-up testing can be scheduled.

MAP tests are one sample of the skills students have learned during the school year and do provide valuable information about how well students are doing. Tests alone do not and cannot directly evaluate the development of all educational skills. Other information that teachers and parents should use to measure a student's educational progress is participation in classroom activities, classroom tests, homework assignments, and special projects.

Please contact the school counselor, principal, or classroom teachers for any questions about MAP testing.

NeSA Reading, Math and Science Testing for Juniors:

Juniors will be taking the statewide NeSA Reading tests on March 31, the NeSA Math tests on April 1, and the NeSA Science test on April 15. The tests will be an online test for most students – some students will take a paper/pencil test.

The results are scored by the Nebraska State Department of Education and will be used to help schools measure student progress in meeting the state reading, math, and science standards. Students will be scored as advanced, proficient or beginning.

At school, students have prepared for this assessment by studying diligently in reading, math, and science and by taking practice tests, Check4Learning assessments and classroom quizzes and tests.

The Statewide NeSA tests are one sample of the skills students have learned during the school years and do provide valuable information about how well students are doing. The NeSA tests are a standardized test used as a snapshot of how well students have learned the Nebraska high school standards in writing, reading, math, and science. Any student enrolled at Johnson County Central during the testing window will take these assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact your school counselor, principal, or classroom teachers.

Elementary Guidance

Learning to make good choices is a continuous process. Upon returning to school, the elementary students reviewed the expectations of the Thunderbird Way. We know that we should always be safe, respectful, responsible and to be a learner. I shared with students that these characteristics not only make us good students, but also good citizens in our communities. We are all life-long learners when we continue to learn how to make good choices for ourselves.

To begin second semester, the K-2 students also learned about the importance of good listening skills. Students learn 4 rules to listening: Eyes are Watching, Ears are Listening, Voices are Quiet, Bodies are Still. These were rules we learned to begin the school year, however, this is a good time to review the importance of the listening rules. The listening rules are posted in each elementary classroom and are a daily reminder to help students connect good behaviors with good choices. We talk about the importance of not being a distraction to our classmates or teachers. To finish the listening rules lessons, students shared and practiced with their classmates what a good learner looks like in kindergarten, first grade and second grade.

To put our listening rules to practice, the Kindergartners and First graders enjoyed a Howard B. Wigglebottom book, <u>Howard Learns To Blend in Like a Chameleon</u>. The purpose of the book was to demonstrate how we all need to be good learners so everyone in class can listen and learn. Students were provided a coloring page with our classroom listening rules to take home. Second Graders created a poster: Rocket to the Top! On the poster, students created their own rules for being successful in the classroom. These posters will be hung around their classrooms as reminders of what the behavior expectations are for a second grader. Students shared their rules with the class, each group had to create at least 5. They did a wonderful job of sharing their rules and were very proud of their final products.

Students in grades 3-5 are working on goal setting. These students set personal, academic, and future goals. Students must create at least two goals. Their goal sheets are then taped in their lockers as a daily reminder of the importance of making good choices to achieve their goals. Students in grades 4 and 5 had eighth grade volunteers help them write their goals and generate ideas of how to achieve their goals. Visit with your child about their goals for this school year and also the goals they chose as their future goals.









JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2014-2015

Seniors

Tristan Attebery - All A's

Garret Badertscher

Lacey Badertscher - All A's

Kaycee Bartels - All A's

Melissa Bausch

Cole Beethe

Rebecca Bernadt - All A's

Isaac Buss

Michael Clark

Garrett Hamilton

Jesse Hamula

Erika Hunzeker - All A's

Kelsie Kaster - All A's

Michael Purcell - All A's

Daisy Ramirez - All A's

Cody Rieken

Alyssa Strubel

Ryan Teten

Lindsay Weber

<u>Juniors</u>

Spencer Dorsey

Mitchell Faris

Grant Moles - All A's

Austin Valenzuela

Honor Roll with Distinction

Students earn at least a 94% average with all A's and a

maximum of one "B"

Sophomores

Marissa Borrenpohl - All A's

Schyler DeFreece - All A's

Elizabeth Kessler

Sara Kettelhake

Courtney Klaasmeyer

Keaton Kleespies - All A's

Sopha Kongmanyvong -All A's

Jesse Reyes, Jr.

Alejandra Rojas

Samuel Saldivar

Mark Splichal

Angelica Wellman

Freshmen

_____,

Gabriela Alvarado

Johan Arellano

Armando Cabrales

<u>Charla Eggleston</u> - All A's MacKenzie Eltiste - All A's

Taylor Gerdes

Nicholas Goracke - All A's

Vanhna Kongmanyvong

Paige Kraus

Celina Lambelet

Sierra McClintock - All A's

Aleisha McDonald - All A's

Madison Moran

Emalee North

Macey Pietzyk

Tvllar Roesener

Hannah Swanda – All A's

Honor Roll:

Students earn no class grade lower than a "B"

. JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FIRST SEMESTER HONOR ROLL 2014-2015

Seniors

Tristan Attebery - All A's

Lacey Badertscher

Kaycee Bartels

Melissa Bausch - All A's

Cody Beethe Cole Beethe Rebecca Bernadt Isaac Buss Michael Clark Patience Graham

<u>Erika Hunzeker</u> - All A's Kelsie Kaster - All A's

Justin Kuhns Karina Martinez

Michael Purcell - All A's Daisy Ramirez - All A's

Cody Rieken Alyssa Strubel Ryan Teten **Lindsay Weber**

Juniors

Mitchell Faris Aaron Johnson Robert Johnson Edward Li Nathan Liberty

Grant Moles - All A's Austin Valenzuela

Honor Roll with Distinction

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

Sophomores

Marissa Borrenpohl
Schyler DeFreece
Tashayla Dorn
Sara Kettelhake
Courtney Klaasmeyer

<u>Keaton Kleespies</u> - All A's <u>Sopha Kongmanyvong</u> -All A's

Jesse Reyes, Jr. Alejandra Rojas Samuel Saldivar Mark Splichal Angelica Wellman

Freshmen

Gabriela Alvarado Johan Arellano Charla Eggleston

MacKenzie Eltiste – All A's

Taylor Gerdes

Nicholas Goracke – All A's Vanhna Kongmanyvong

Paige Kraus Celina Lambelet

<u>Sierra McClintock</u> – All A's Aleisha McDonald - All A's

Madison Moran Emalee North Tyllar Roesener

Hannah Swanda – All A's

Honor Roll:

Students earn no class grade lower than a "B"

Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll Second Quarter 2014-2015

Grade 8

Sarai Ares

Josh Bailey

Connor Bartels

Tyler Bartels

Andrew Beethe (All A's)

Grace Clark (All A's)

Erika Cruz (All A's)

Alexis Graham

Kole Kleespies (All A's)

Corral McClintock

Diego Reves

Jordan Rodriquez

Simon Rother

Tyler Sedersten

Grade 7

Abbigail Balfour

Carrie Beethe (All A's)

*Samuel Buss

Gabriel DeFreece (All A's)

Caleb Eggleston

Jordan Hunzeker

*Tanner Kerner

Tucker Liberty

Demetrius Murray

Andruw Stafford

Eli Waring (All A's)

Jacob Wolter

Grade 6

Calvin Antholz (All A's)

Boston Bailey

Kenia Barrientos

Dalton Berkebile

Devin Conley

Chloe Curry

Jason Kettelhake (All A's)

Kylie Kleespies

Kyle Laue

Katie Little

Hayley Neemann

Ruby Valles

Saylor Rother (All A's)

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B. *Honor Roll with distinction is based on student's having all A's with only one B

Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll First Semester 2014-2015

Grade 8

Sarai Ares

Josh Bailey

Connor Bartels

Andrew Beethe (All A's)

Grace Clark (All A's)

Erika Cruz

Alexis Graham

Kole Kleespies (All A's)

*Corral McClintock

Diego Reyes

Jordan Rodriquez

Simon Rother

Meagan Schultz

Tyler Sedersten

Grade 7

Abbigail Balfour

*Carrie Beethe

*Samuel Buss

Gabriel DeFreece (All A's)

Levi Dorsey

Caleb Eggleston

*Tanner Kerner

Tucker Liberty

Demetrius Murray

Andruw Stafford

Eli Waring (All A's)

*Jacob Wolter

Grade 6

Edwin Aguirre

Calvin Antholz (All A's)

Boston Bailey

Kenia Barrientos

Dalton Berkebile

*Devin Conley

Chloe Curry

Jason Kettelhake (All A's)

Kylie Kleespies (All A's)

Kyle Laue

Jackson Leuenberger

Katie Little

Morgan Moran

Hayley Neemann

Saylor Rother (All A's)

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B. *Honor Roll with distinction is based on student's having all A's with only one B

Johnson County Central Middle School Honors Second Quarter Honor Roll



First Semester Honor Roll



First Semester All A's

2nd Quarter Thunderbirds



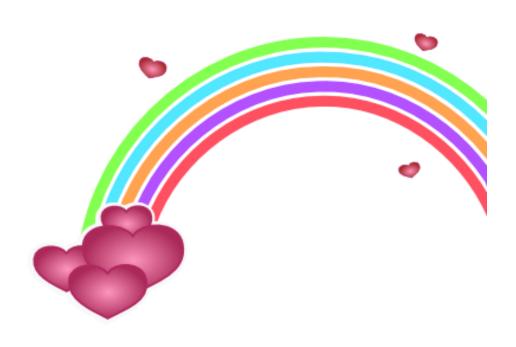


Language Arts---Middle School by Mrs. Niedermeyer

During the month of February, the sixth grade students will be competing in the Johnson County Central Spelling Contest. There will be four students representing each of the classes for grades 4-8, and there will be two alternates in case one of the four spellers is unable to attend. An oral spell down will be held with the last contestants to determine the final winner of the spelling contest. If anyone would like to come and support the sixth grade spelling representatives at the Tecumseh site on Feb. 14, at 9 a.m., I'm sure they would appreciate seeing you!

The sixth graders will also be reading an AR book, so they can take the AR test and complete a diorama by Feb. 25 about a scene from the book that they especially liked. The students will then practice using a rubric so they can see how grading a project is accomplished. This has always proved to be a very insightful and fun project for the students as they view and critique the handiwork according to the guidelines needed.

Throughout the school year the students have been working on increasing their vocabulary and their reading comprehension. One of the ways of achieving this goal is by timed readings during the school year and doing practice NeSA tests during the 2nd semester. This is implemented to help the students be more familiar with and better prepared when they take the actual test later in the school year. All of the students are very focused about this practice work and are constantly striving to improve their skills. The 6th grade class this year is very goal-oriented with a strong desire to learn new things!



BOX TOPS UPDATE FOR 2015 - SALLY HUTT - COORDINATOR

Wow! What a year it has been for Box Tops, so far! We have collected and counted 10,000 Box Tops which translates into \$\$1,000, already. We have until the end of February, 2015 to collect, count, and mail in our Box Tops in order to receive a check in April for this school year. Remember, every Box Top is worth a dime and every dime does count! Take Box Tops to any school office, Cook or Tecumseh or your students may give them to their teacher. We even have patrons mail in Box Tops! **Thanks again** for your contribution to this worthwhile project. Many different items may be purchased with these dollars.





TITLE 1 - K-3 - TECUMSEH SITE - SALLY HUTT

Greetings in 2015 from Title 1 Reading and Math Grades K-3! This year, I have noticed more than in the three years past, the flexibility present in the Title 1 program at JCC! I have worked with some students all three years, I have worked with some students this year for the first time and I have worked with students who have already met their goals and are back in the classroom, not needing Title 1 services. Some students need intense intervention that continues on and others need just a boost for a few weeks until they have mastered skills that they needed more practice on. Title 1 can provide just the right amount of help for **any** student in our system. Sometimes the Title 1 Program provides a quiet place for a student to finish a test, read an AR book or take an AR test.

Our Reading Groups are also set up in the same way. The classroom teacher decides which group works best for the student, based on their reading fluency, reading test scores, comprehension skills during class, MAP results, (our school wide achievement test) or NeSA scores can be observed in third grade.

With all this flexibility, our students are receiving a very individualized Reading Program. All the situations I have mentioned can apply in the area of Math as well.

Please share your ideas with the teaching and administrative staff. We are always interested in your opinions, suggestions and questions. As a parent, you are the first teacher your child ever had! Your input is very useful and of much value.

Mrs. Crotty's Fifth Grade Class

The holidays are past and we are settling back into our daily routines. It was a nice break, and everyone enjoyed the time off. We are fortunate that the weather hasn't been a full blown winter. Fifth grade has been staying busy with academics and we are weaving some art into the schedule.

We are moving right along in our reading series, and we are reading about different types of artists, such as Leonardo de Vinci and Mahalia Jackson. We can be fascinated by artists and their success can inspire us to try and be a successful artist. There are different types of artists, music, sculptor, painter, etc. We even read about graphic arts and how a movie set is made. This story really was cool! You never know which one of your friends or classmates might turn out to be a famous artist!

Speaking of art, we have just tackled our winter art project. We take sheets of colored paper and turn them into fancy petals, then we take 7 or 8 of these petals and connect them to make a 3-D snowflake. They are beautiful and they really make the room a cheery place.

We had a very successful 2nd quarter in Accelerated Reading. We had 6 students reach their personal goals for the quarter, and as a class, we passed our classroom goal. We are excellent readers and enjoy reading books that we have chosen and that interest us. Each quarter the classroom goal increases, so we have to be very disciplined with our AR time and focus on reading.

We are preparing for NeSA testing that will be coming up in a few months. Every day we are learning new things, and those skills and concepts will be on the state tests. Not to mention all the knowledge we gained the 1st semester that will help us on the test. We also have to use our prior knowledge to help us be successful. We will be making a trip to Beatrice in February for an assembly about the Homestead Quarter. Later in March, we will be taking a trip to Peru State College for a fun and educational day about water and the environment.

We took a good hard look at our first semester report card and decided where we could do better. Each student had to choose at least two subjects and set a goal for those subjects. Our goals needed to be something we know we are able to reach. We have learned in guidance that a goal shouldn't be something that is impossible to do. We keep these goals in our desks, so we see them every time we open our desks.

We will continue to stay focused and learn to the best of our ability. We know the "Thunderbird Way": Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be a Learner is an important aspect to our day. While we are inside, where it is warm, and we are learning, we will continue to hope for an early Spring.



Band - 2nd Semester by Emily Fricke

This semester in band we are already getting ready for contests! Normally the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders attend the HTRS middle school band contest in March. However, this year that contest lands on a day that JCC doesn't have school, so we are joining the middle school choir this year and attending the Malcolm Middle School Music Contest (important dates are listed below). There are quite a few students signed up to participate in small groups and solos, which is wonderful! I really encourage you to talk to your student about participating in a small group or solo at least once. It is an excellent experience! Students that participate in smaller ensembles learn discipline easily. They need to work hard outside of the classroom on their part because we don't spend a lot of time in class working on them. I try to help every group and give them some class time to work and ask questions, but a lot of the practicing they do is outside of the classroom. They also learn to work with other students in settings where they need to problem solve on their own and work together to create the music. There aren't as many students involved in small groups at the high school level, but there is still plenty of time to join one if they are interested. I am looking forward to hearing all of the ensembles when the day comes! I know everyone will do well!

The music boosters will be having a baked potato feed again at our March middle school concert. This was an excellent fundraiser for us and of course the food was delicious too! The students will be showcasing their music for their contest that night. Please be on the look out for notes from your student about any items needed to help with the fundraiser.

Important Dates

<u>January</u>

- 23-25 Fri-Sun UNO BOCH Festival
- 24 Saturday Singing Youth of Nebraska Beatrice
- 29 Thursday Pep Band BB vs. Malcolm

February

20 Friday Pep Band - BBB vs. Lincoln Christian

March

- 9 Monday 22nd Annual Freshmore Clinic Tecumseh
- 17 Tuesday Baked Potato Feed and MS Concert in Cook (Serve 5:30pm, Concert 7:00)
- 20 Friday Malcolm MS Music Contest
- 24 Tuesday HS MUDECAS Music Contest in Pawnee City
- 28 Saturday Class C Allstate

April

- 9 Thursday HS Pre-Contest Concert 7:00pm
- 10 Friday Meridian MS Honor Choir and Band
- 23 Thursday HS District Music Contest in Tecumseh

May

- 1,3 Fri, Sun HS Musical Annie
- 4 Monday HS Spring Concert and Art Show
- 9 Saturday HS Band at Graduation
- 11 Monday ECNC Honor Band Yutan
- 15 Friday 4-8 Spring Concert in Cook 7:00pm
- 16 Saturday Choir to Worlds of Fun
- 18 Monday K-3 Spring Concert 7:00pm

Academic Decathlon by Tina Richardson

The Johnson County Central Academic Decathlon team competed at Regionals on January 17, 2015. The nine students competed in seven events. There were six individual tests which included Language/Literature, Art, Music, Economics, Math, and Science. The last event of the day was Super Quiz. During Super Quiz pairs of students answered multiple choice questions over Social Science in front of a crowd. Our Super Quiz team tied for first place. With a team score of 18,020, we have qualified for the state competition which is in Omaha February 20 and 21. At state competition we add speech, essay and interview to the other seven competitions. Listed below are the individual results for Regionals.

Alternate Scholastic

Courtney Klaasmeyer 3rd Place Math

1st Place Music 1st Place Art

3rd Place Economics 1st Place Lang/Lit

Annika McDonald 1st Place Art

2nd Place Lang/Lit

Alternate Honors

Bryce Sahs 3rd Place Art

3rd Place Science

Varsity

Sloan Pollard 3rd Place Math

1st Place Science 1st Place Super Quiz

Mariah Trew 1st Place Super Quiz

Scholastic

Bryan Murphy 2nd Place Music

3rd Place Economics 3rd Place Science 1st Place Super Quiz

Sara Kettlehake 3rd Place Music

2nd Place Lang/Lit

2nd Place Art

1st Place Super Quiz

Honors

Kaycee Bartels 2nd Place Math

3rd Place Art

1st Place Super Quiz

19

Grant Moles 1st Place Math

2nd Place Music

1st Place Lang/Lit

1st Place Economics

1st Place Science

1st Place Super Quiz

Kindergarten Round-Up



WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

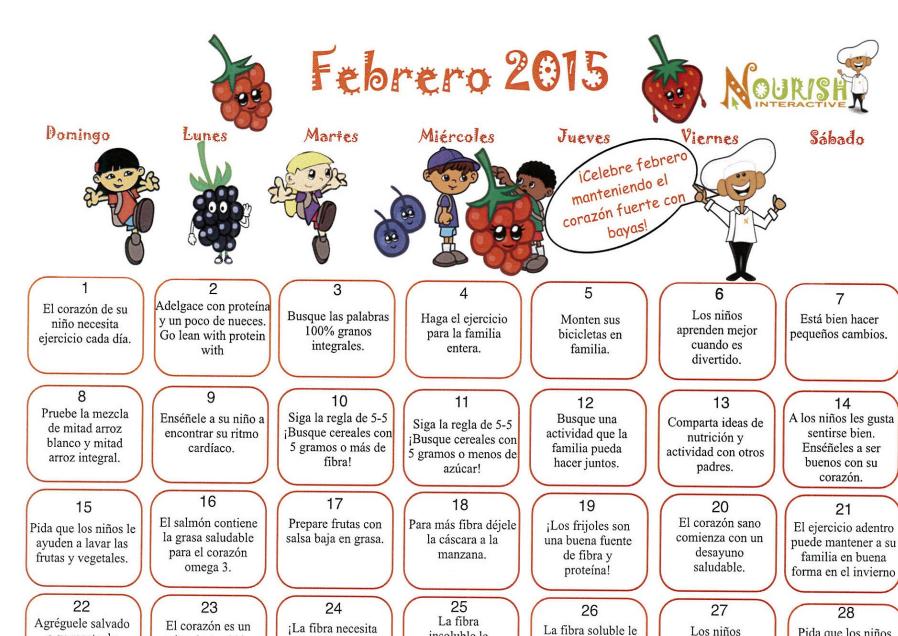
9:00-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Johnson County Central Elementary Building in Tecumseh.

WHO: Children residing in the Johnson County Central school district who are, or will be, age 5 on or before July 31, 2015.

Individual letters will be sent in April to the parents of all Kindergarten ready students residing in Johnson County Central's school district. If you do not receive a letter, please call the school and let us know that you will be attending the 2015 Kindergarten Round-Up.

If applying for early registration (child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 15), JCC must have received your written request by March 20, 2015.



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Dele buen ejercicio

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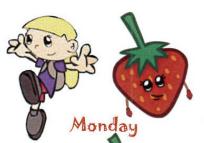
funcionar!

Pida que los niños

participen en la

preparación de las

comidas los lunes.



February 2015



Sunday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Berries are good for your Heart

•

1

100% whole grains is good for your heart

2

Check your food labels for trans fat. They hurt

3

Fish has healthy oils that keep your heart healthy.

4

Love your heart with a family walk.

5

Go low fat or nonfat milk products and keep your heart happy. 6

Small healthy changes add up to a healthy heart.

7

Vegetables have special nutrients that your heart loves.

8

Teach your child how to find their heart rate.

9

Look for cereals with 5 grams or more of fiber!

10

Beans are great for your heart.

11

1 cup of berries has super nutrients for your heart. 12

Pick a favorite activity and have some fun.

13

Give someone a special hug.

14

Have kids help in the kitchen.

15

Eat breakfast every morning for good brain power. 16

Sweet Potato Month. Bake one for dinner. 17

Try leaving the peal on an apple for more fiber.

18

Beans are a great source of fiber and protein! 19

Evaluate your goals and keep track of your progress.

20

Try a new fruit or vegetable each week.

21

Kids Dental Month! give your teeth foods high in calcium.

22

Try some whole wheat pancakes for breakfast.

23

Drink 8 glasses of water a day.

24

Try baked french fries instead of deep fried.

25

Substitute dark chocolate for light chocolate for a special treat.

26

Promote healthy habits as a family.

27

Have kids **plan a** healthy mea**l for the** family. 28

Your heart is a muscle, it needs exercise every day.

The T Bird Booster Club is giving you the opportunity to support our athletes. With your donation, your name or business will be listed on the back of the athletic programs for the year. Contributors can be businesses, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. of the athletes.

With the donations raised this past year the booster club was able to purchase uniforms for all of our JCC athletes, provide athletic scholarships, buy softball, wrestling and golf equipment. The money that is raised through donations and the concession stand goes directly back into the school athletic programs.

Thanks for supporting Johnson County Central Athletics!!!

Make Check payable to the T-Bird Booster Club,

Circle One
Black Club \$5.00 to \$24.00
Red Club \$25.00 - \$99.00
Gold Club \$100.00 and above

Please print	t below h	ow you lik	e your nan	ne or busin	ess printed o	on the program
						_
						_
						_

Please return to: Johnson County Central T-Bird Booster Club PO Box 338 Tecumseh, NE 68450



February 2015

"THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2 Chicken Noodle Soup Bosco Cheese Stix Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 Br Chicken Patty/ WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 Chicken Nuggets SP Tater Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 Sloppy Nachos Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	6 Goulash Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Bread Stix Milk	7
8	9 Chicken Cheese Quesadilla Corn Salas Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Hot Ham & Cheese Cooked Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 Pep. Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Brownie Milk	12 BBQ Meats Balls Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar B&B Milk	NO SCHOOL!	14 MARRY VALENTINE DAY
PRESIDENTS DAY	16 Spaghetti/ Meat Sauce Fruit & Veggies Bar Garlic Bread Milk	17 Ch. Burger /WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18Fish /WG Bun or Hot Dog WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Cr. Chicken / Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	20 Cheese Stick / Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	21
22	23 Chicken Tenders Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bars Milk	24 Br. Pork Patty/ WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 Chicken Alfredo Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Milk	26 Hot Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	27 HS Baked Potato Bar Elem & MS Peanut Butter & Jelly Sand. Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	28



February 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 V G BB ECNC Tour.	3 V B BB ECNC Tour.	4 FBLA & American Business Comp.@ UNL	5 V G BB ECNC Tour. @ SECC Lincoln 2nd & 3rd Grade to Belle Terrace/Ridgeview JH G BB @ Palmyra	6 V B BB ECNC Tour. @ SECC Lincoln V W @ Malcolm 2:00 pm	7 V G & B BB ECNC @ SECC Lincoln Speech Invite @ Beatrice HS
8	9 C Team G & B BB @ Elmwood Murdock G 6:30 pm B 7:30 pm	10 County Coalition Meeting @ Sterling 8:30 am V W @ Lincoln HS 3:30 pm	11 Peru Business Contest Board of Ed. Meeting @ JCC HS Spec. Ed Room 7:30 pm	12 Regional Coalition Meeting @ Lincoln 9:00 am 2nd & 3rd Grade to Belle Terrace/Ridgeview JH G BB @ Weeping Water 4:00 pm Top Ten Banquet @ JCC HS 6:30 pm	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday V W Districts G & B BB @ Yutan JV 4:30 V G 6:00 V B 7:45	14 V W Districts FFA State Degree Interview Speech Invite @ Auburn Johnson Co. Spelling Bee C Team BB Invite @ JCC MS
15	16 V G BB Sub-Districts JH G BB @ JCC MS 4:30 pm	17 V G BB Sub-Districts JH W @ JCC MS 4:30 pm	18 FFA Food Drive	19 FFA Food Drive V G BB Sub-Districts V W State @ Omaha 2nd & 3rd Grade to Belle Terrace/Ridgeview	20 FFA Food Drive State Cheer Champion- ships V W State @ Omaha	21 FFA Food Drive JH G BB @ Palmyra 8:00 am
22	FFA Food Drive FFA Dress up days JH G BB @ Pawnee City 4:00 pm V B BB Sub-Districts	24 FFA Food Drive FFA Dress up days V B BB Sub-Districts	25 FFA Food Drive FFA Dress up days ECNC Speech @ East Butler	FFA Food Drive FFA Dress up days V B BB Sub-Districts 2nd & 3rd Grade to Belle Terrace/Ridgeview JH G BB @ JCC MS 4 JH W @ Falls City HS 4:30	27 FFA Food Drive FFA Dress up days V G BB District Finals 8th Grade Campus Tour	28 Speech Invite @ HTRS JH W @ Weeping Water 9:00 am

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338 PO Box 255 Tecumseh, NE 68450 Cook, NE 68329

Phone: 402 335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh

402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh 402 864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook

402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook 402 864-4181 MS Office @ Cook 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.

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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 Jack Moles, Super-intendent at 402-335-3320

