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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



“Good evening, this is Jack Moles, Superintendent of Schools for Johnson County Central. Because of the weather forecast we will not have school tomorrow.....” As I write this article in the back of my mind I am rehearsing this announcement in anticipation of possible weather issues next week. This is a call I do not like making, but cannot avoid when Mother Nature forces the issue.

What goes in to making this decision? Following is a listing of what goes into this type of a decision, along with some of my thoughts.

1. Of course, watching weather reports starts the thought process of what to do. I have a number for the U.S. Weather Service in Valley. I will often make two or three calls to them during the course of the day if bad weather is threatening to find out what to expect for our immediate area.
2. My preference is always to make a decision the night before a potential cancellation. The reason for this is that it gives parents more of an opportunity to make plans. It also plays a role in how our maintenance crew and snow removal service react to snow. If they know we aren't having school they know they can get started a little later. If we are having school, or if the decision is made in the morning, then they have often started with removal early in the morning.
3. If I have not made the decision the night before, then I am often up and driving roads at 5:00 a.m. to determine what things look like for our buses, as well as students and staff who may be driving. I have a route that I drive in the Cook area that gives me a decent indication of most road conditions (i.e. in-town, highways, country roads). While this route served me well when I was making the call for the old Nemaha Valley district, I don't get as good of a picture of the entire Johnson County Central district because of the distance across the district.
4. Whether a decision is made the night before or that morning, I am in constant contact with Superintendents in our neighboring districts. We all have each other on our speed dials. There is an old saying among Superintendents when dealing with weather issues, “None of us wants to be on the island by ourselves.” Translated: none of us wants to be either the only school to stay open or the only one to close. One of the interesting aspects of closing is to see how the domino effect takes place. A certain area might close, then the neighboring schools start closing. A good view of this took place last year when Omaha Public Schools made the decision to close because of severe cold. Almost as soon as that decision was announced school districts immediately south of them followed suit. By the time it reached us the decision was much easier.

5. Once I have made a decision I make the broadcast call on PowerAlert, our automated notification system. The system allows us to make mass notifications via phone, text, and email. A weather announcement will often end up on Twitter and FaceBook as well. While this system is not fool-proof it is very well received by parents, students, and staff. I simply record one message and it is then sent to everybody in our system. We find that some numbers will be missed once in a while, but for the most part we connect with almost everyone. (I would encourage you to make sure your phone numbers are correct each year.) The next thing I do is contact about ten TV and radio stations.

6. One of the things Superintendents like to avoid is having a late start or an early dismissal. A late start decision is sometimes made with the expectation that conditions will clear up a little bit later or to allow students and staff to travel when it is light out. An early dismissal tends to cause problems for families, especially those with young children. We try to avoid both scenarios if at all possible, but it does not always work out.

People often ask me “how many snow days do you have left”. The term “snow days” does not officially exist. Schools are required to have students in class for a minimum number of hours each year. We actually are a long way from getting to the minimum number of hours, 1054 hours for elementary students and 1080 hours for secondary students. We could actually miss several days and not come close to going below those numbers.

One of the aspects of the weather conditions that we have encounter each year is that we have many people help out in some way. Sometimes this involves pulling out a stuck bus or helping move snow. On behalf of the district I would like to pass along a big “thank you” to anyone who pitches in to help. The county roads crews also are very deserving of our appreciation. Those in our district do an outstanding job on helping us to stay open as much as possible.



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Winter is strengthening its grip on us with snow and bitter cold – try and stay warm. The month of February is our first step in preparation for next fall where our students will start pre-registration for the 2016-2017 school year.

What is pre-registration? The students choose their top eight classes and two options. At this time there is no set schedule. Once all pre-registrations are complete we'll plan the class schedule. Every student must sign their pre-registration form and their parent must also sign the form. This gives the parents the opportunity to see their student's class selections and "sign off" on it. Mrs. Moles, the school counselor, is the final signature on every student's pre-registration form. She reviews each student's class selection to verify they are taking appropriate classes which are required for each grade and are meeting their graduation requirements.

Students will receive their pre-registration forms the first week of February. They will be due back to the office no later than Friday, February 26, 2016. This due date is necessary so that we can plan the class schedule. We try to create a schedule that accommodates the most students with the least amount of conflicts. Once we have the best class schedule created, Mrs. Moles will personally meet with each student who has a class conflict. A student will only have a class schedule conflict if they are unable to get an eight period class schedule by using their eight selected classes or two options. Mrs. Moles will then aid them in selecting an additional alternate class until we are able to fill their eight periods with an appropriate schedule.

After we have completed a successful class schedule, I will send out summer pre-registration letters to all students. Around the first week in August, each student will receive this letter which will contain their actual class schedule, complete with periods and teachers for every class. If the students and parents are satisfied with this schedule, nothing more needs to be done before the beginning of school next fall. If the students desire to make changes to their class schedule they will have two days (to be announced), to meet with the counselor to make changes prior to the start of school. Students will also have the first five days of the 2016-2017 school year to change their class schedule.

I am encouraging every parent to work with your student to help them plan their 2016-2017 class schedule – your input and encouragement is essential.



Middle School & Athletic News by Rich Bacon

The 2016 Nebraska Statewide Assessment cycle got underway on Tuesday, January 26 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 a Science assessment this spring.

We were fortunate to have two outstanding speakers address the Middle School students and staff in January. Ms. Karen Haase is a school attorney and one of the foremost experts on digital citizenship in the state. She talked to our students about proper online behavior and gave some very compelling reasons why certain things shouldn't be posted online. Mr. Demoine Adams was an Academic All-American defensive end at Nebraska and current motivational speaker. He talked to our students about learning to be a leader. He emphasized the importance of bringing a great focus and effort everyday. Both speakers engaged the students with energetic and entertaining presentations.

Students who made the 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester Honor Roll were recognized at a school assembly. These students worked hard, turned in assignments, studied for tests, and met each of their individual teachers' classroom expectations. The following students received special recognition for earning straight A's for the 1st Quarter, 2nd Quarter, and 1st Semester: 8th Graders Carrie Beethe and Eli Waring; 7th Graders: Calvin Antholz and Saylor Rother and 6th Graders Kaita Baird, Jonathon Duncan, Madelyn Harrifeld, Treyton Holthus, Vanessa Jimenez and Isabella Wolter. 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 17 girls playing basketball this winter and 12 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. Since this is a web-based calendar it will 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

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

February

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Thurs. Feb. 4—American Heart Association Red Out.
- Sat. Feb. 6—Johnson County Spelling Bee, 9:00 a.m.



10,000 hours

Yep! That's what experts say it takes to master a skill. Let's do the math here. If a student is in 12th grade, and we want them to be a "master" in Math, what would this look like?

- Almost 417 24-hour days of straight Math.
- An 18 year-old graduate would need a little over 714 hours of math each year starting in preschool.
- This would be about 2 hours of math, every day of the year (including weekends and summer), starting at age 4 and continuing until their 19th birthday.

Let's say that, on average, each student has math practice and instruction (including homework) about 1 1/2 hours per school day. Johnson County Central has about 175 school days. After a little multiplication we find that the average student will have finished their high school career with 3,675 hours of Math. Hardly mastery.

So what's the point here? To show that schools fall short in getting students to a mastery level? No, that's not the point. The point is that schools, camps, sports practices and lessons do not get students to a mastery level. There just isn't enough time and resources. If it takes 10,000 hours to master a skill, the "student" must spend extra time in purposeful, meaningful drill and practice. And this goes for anything: basketball, spelling, math, gymnastics, volleyball, golf, welding, violin, singing tenor, reading, driving, etc.

I have often seen disappointed children, athletes and adults who are frustrated that they "go" to practice or class, but aren't the "starter", or playing the position they want, or getting straight A's. What these individuals aren't understanding is that it takes *more* than just showing up and putting in the mandatory time.

As parents and adults, we need

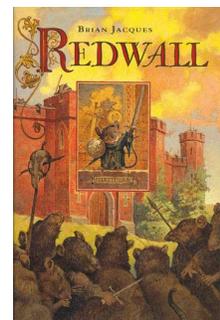
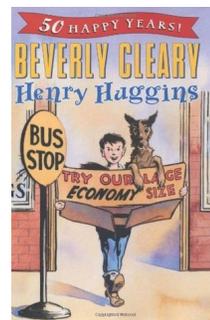
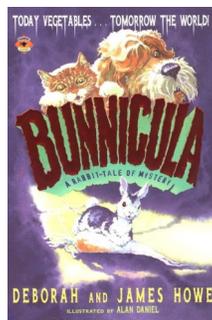
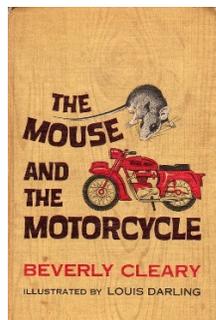
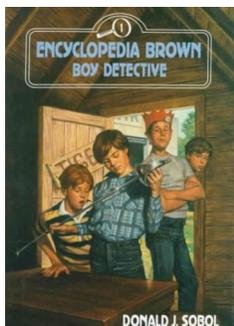
to look at what we want our children to be even just *good* at, and ask ourselves whether or not they are putting in the time and effort to get there. A student who just goes to Reading class and never reads apart from this will have a hard time being a great reader. A basketball player who only goes to basketball practice when it is required and doesn't put in any extra time during the course of the year will have a hard time being a great basketball player. The same goes for any skill.

Time and effort. Persistence. Resilience. A growth mindset. If we want our children to achieve great things, these are some of the tools they will need.

I hate to say it, but I don't think watching television, fighting monsters online, or purchasing the newest game app will develop into a meaningful skill that our children will be able to use as adults.

I just hate to see people disappointed.

A few great book series to revisit:



Counselor News by Shelley Moles

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

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 18. These forms are due to Mrs. Moles on January 29. 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, March 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school.

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 2017 should begin seeking nominations and beginning an application file now. Application files must be completed by September 2016 and interviews are concluded in October/November 2016.

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

High School MAP Testing for Grades 9 – 11: March 2 and 9.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing has been scheduled for Johnson County Central High School, grades 9-11, for March 2 and 9, 2016. (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. 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. High school students will take the MAP tests using their iPads.

MAP results are reported in RIT scores. 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, reminding your child to charge his iPad the night before testing 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 English Language Arts, Math and Science Testing for Juniors:

Juniors will be taking the statewide NeSA English Language Arts (ELA) transition test on March 23 and 24, the NeSA Math test on March 30, and the NeSA Science test on April 20. The tests will be an online test for most students – some students will take a paper/pencil test. The ELA is replacing the previously given NeSA Reading 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 and language arts, 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.



The Importance of Digital Citizenship by Marsha Bacon K-8 School Counselor

On January 6, students in grades 4-12 attended an assembly featuring Ms. Karen Haase. Ms. Haase is an attorney with Harding & Schultz, P.C., L.L. O. Harding & Schultz represent approximately 150 public school districts and other educational institutions regarding special education, student discipline, litigation in federal and state courts, labor relations, and employment matters. She is also one of the leading authorities on digital citizenship in the State of Nebraska. In addition to presenting to students, the school district arranged a parent’s seminar on digital citizenship and social media education for parents at the Tecumseh site.

Ms. Haase visits schools to educate students and parents about online etiquette and the importance of making smart choices when posting online. She reminded students that when people make bad choices online, it is the user behind the screen that will be held accountable, not the site itself.



Ms. Haase stressed to students the importance of establishing private settings on sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat so the posts are not accessible to everyone. She shared the importance of not sending private messages to people the student does not know on a personal basis. She reminded students and parents that on the Internet, nothing is truly private and anyone can be on the other end of the screen. Ms. Haase recommend that parents check and monitor their child’s accounts, including private messages. Parents should also “friend” their child so they can monitor their online accounts.

The dangers of cyberbullying (grades 4-12) and sexting (grades 6-12) were addressed along with the legal consequences of both. According to Ms. Haase, cyberbullying is a huge issue legally, socially and emotionally. She defined cyberbullying as “using technology like computers and cell phones to engage in repeated and hostile behavior, either by an individual or a group, that’s intended to harm others.”





Ms. Haase shared with students possible school consequences for cyberbullying which may include: the loss of privileges such as participating in extracurricular activities or recess, suspensions, assignment to alternative schools, and even expulsion from the school district in severe cases of cyberbullying. In addition, she shared the responsibility of parents to monitor their child's online behaviors. Aside from possible school disciplinary measures, cyberbullies may be subject to costly civil litigation and/or criminal charges. In all presentations, Ms. Haase emphasized the role of parents in keeping kids safe online and challenged parents to set social media standards for their children to follow.

Finally, Ms. Haase said it is really important when posting to remember the "grandma" rule. If it is not something you would say to your grandma, share with your grandma or want your grandma to see, then you should not be posting it online. She reminded students and parents that when things are on the Internet, they are there forever with items such as screenshots and the ability to share posts. Ms. Haase stated that she does not believe that students should not have access to social media sites, but that students need to be responsible for the choices they make when utilizing social media. Your child's digital legacy stays with them, help them make good choices by stressing the importance of being a good digital citizen.

Digital Citizenship and Online Legacies or Footprints are often discussed with students at school during guidance and Thunderbird Way Lessons. We explain to students that they are establishing their "brand" with online behaviors and choices. People will come to know them via posts and online activity. There are many free resources available to parents and educators to help children learn proper digital etiquette such as Netsmartz found at: <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>. Conversations about online safety need to begin when students have access to online resources such as iPads, iPods, computers, and phones with Internet access. Currently, students in the elementary are learning about online etiquette and how to make good choices when online in their guidance classes. If you have a child in the elementary, look for materials sent home with your student so they can share what they have learned about online safety.

As parents, we are the role models for our young people. Help your student make good decisions when they are utilizing social media, texting, gaming or exploring websites. Create some rules and guidelines to help them be successful digital citizens with a positive online brand. Also, encourage to always THINK when online:



Academic Decathlon by Tina Richardson

Saturday January 16 the Academic Decathlon team competed at Regionals at Lincoln Pius X. The main topic for USAD this year is India. Each student took tests over art, music, literature, economics, science, and math. Each test they have 30 minutes to complete. All the tests except math have 50 questions. The math test has 25 questions. At the end of the day, six of the students participated in Super Quiz. Two students at a time go up in front of a crowd and answer ten questions. This is repeated with the next two, then the final two. These questions were over the history of India. Our JCC students answered 13 of the 30 questions correct. This may not seem like a very good percentage, but we did receive 1st place out of the 6 teams participating.

Listed are the medals the students received.

Honors Level

Grant Moles

- 2nd Math
- 1st Economics (School Record)
- 3rd Art
- 1st Language/Literature
- 1st Science (School Record)
- 2nd Music
- 1st Super Quiz

Sierra McClintock

- 3rd Language and Literature
- 1st Super Quiz

Scholastic Level

Bryan Murphy

- 2nd Language and Literature
- 1st Economics
- 2nd Art
- 1st Super Quiz

Bryce Sahs

- 3rd Art
- 3rd Math
- 3rd Science
- 3rd Music
- 1st Super Quiz

Varsity Level

Gunnar Burger

- 1st Science (School Record)
- 2nd Music
- 3rd Math
- 1st Super Quiz

Annika McDonald

- 3rd Art
- 1st Music
- 1st Super Quiz

Alternate Honors

Hannah Swanda

- 1st Math
- 3rd Economics
- 2nd Art

Sara Kettelhake

1st Language and Literature
1st Science
1st Economics

Alternate Scholastic

Courtney Klaasmeyer

3rd Economics
3rd Art
2nd Language and Literature
2nd Science
1st Music

Gabi Alvarado

3rd Music
1st Math
2nd Economics

Alternate Varsity

Sloan Pollard

1st Math
2nd Economics
3rd Language and Literature
2nd Science
3rd Music



TeamMates by Maggie Rother

Motivational speaker DeMoine Adams came to inspire the 4th through 12th grade students on January 19th. He encouraged us to always “Bring our ‘A’ Game” with maximum effort, strong focus, and undeniable commitment. Mr. Adams’ energy was contagious as we joined him with warm ups and a pre-game pump up time. DeMoine used his life experiences as a young kid from ‘the hood’, to Husker Football Player, to professional football player, to a professional at **life**. His positive zest for life was an inspiration to the entire gym audience.

The 8th graders were invited to be part of a special small group audience with DeMoine. In this smaller setting, the students were introduced to the awesome opportunities TeamMates provides. Mentors support youth by making a face-to-face meeting with the students once a week at school. Mentors provide hope, purpose, and vision to their mentees by celebrating the strengths of the student and continually encouraging them to be their best. Everyone can benefit from a mentor.

If you would like your 8th grader to be a part of TeamMates, contact Maggie Rother at maggie.rother@jccentral.org. The benefits of having a mentor are numerous. Youth who are mentored receive support and guidance from a caring adult and show measurable improvement in academic achievement, attendance and discipline referrals. Mentored youth are more likely to stay in school and graduate and show improvement in interpersonal relationships. There are also amazing scholarship opportunities for students who are members of the TeamMates team.

If you would like to invest your time in the life of a young adult, please call or email Maggie Rother. You can help impact future generations!



Kindergarten Eligibility

Kindergarten Round-Up will be on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Tecumseh site Elementary School. Parents of students who are of age to attend Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year will receive a letter with more details inviting them and their child to the Round-Up.

In accordance with state law, Kindergarteners must be 5 years of age on or before July 31, 2016. However, parents may request early entry into Kindergarten. The following are the criteria for early entry into Kindergarten:

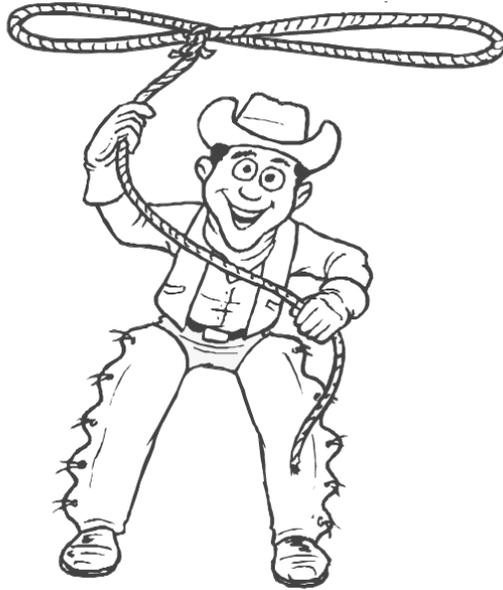
- ◆ Will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- ◆ Fill out the “Parent Questionnaire for Early Kindergarten Admission”;
Submitted by: March 24th, 2016.
- ◆ Are deemed by the parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement;
- ◆ Achieve an average score or greater on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (4th Edition), the Social Skills Improvement System and/or Teaching Strategies GOLD.
- ◆ Pay \$50 assessment fee.

Other information collected from the parent questionnaire and the student’s pre-school teacher will also be considered in determining whether the child is eligible for early admission to Kindergarten.

If you have any questions regarding Johnson County Central’s Kindergarten eligibility policy or the criteria for early entry into Kindergarten, please feel free to call the school.

Jon H. Rother
Elementary Principal

Kindergarten Round-Up



WHEN: Friday, April 29, 2016
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, 2016.

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 2016 Kindergarten Round-Up.

If applying for early registration (child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 16), JCC must have received your written request by March 20, 2016.

TITLE 1 - PTO
PARENT/STUDENTS K-5
BOOK-BINGO NIGHT



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016
HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
7:00 P.M.

FREE POP AND POPCORN!
CHANCES TO WIN FREE BOOKS
FOR YOUR HOME LIBRARY!

Johnson County Spelling Bee

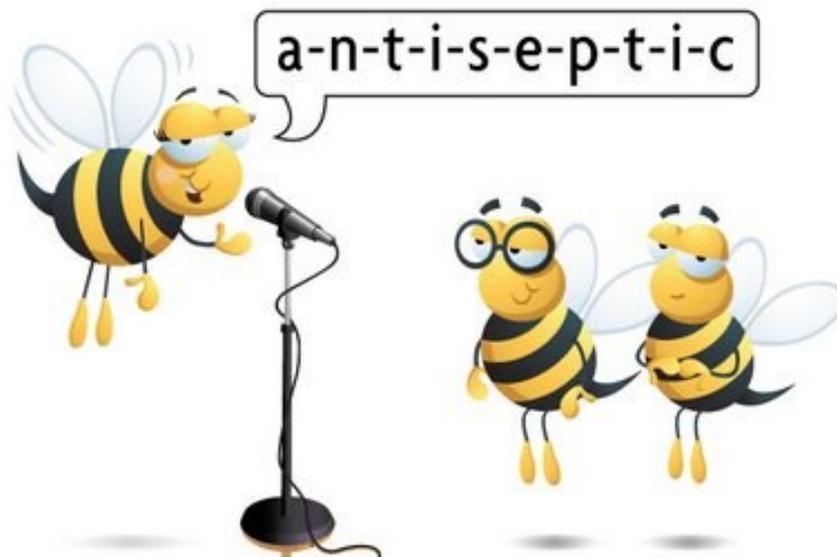


Saturday, February 6, 2015

JCC Tecumseh Site Elementary Gym

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Competition

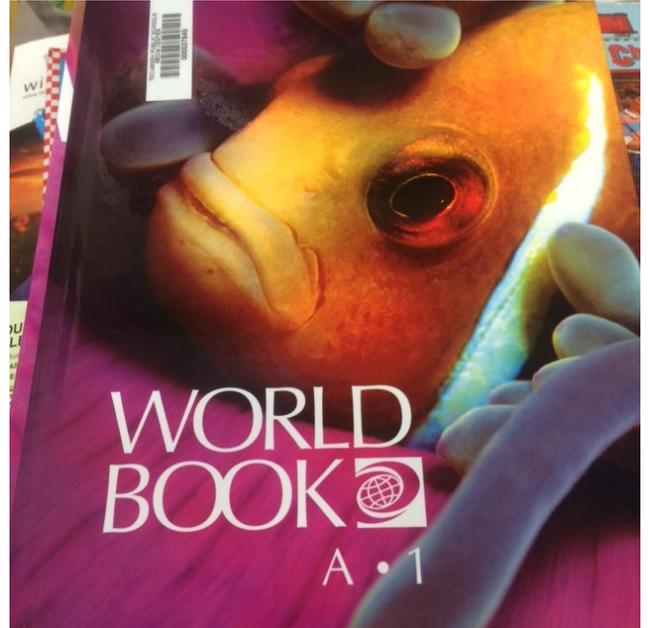


World Book Encyclopedia – A Great Resource for Students

The latest 2016 edition of the World Book encyclopedia is now in the elementary library. It is available for all teachers and students to use here at school. It is 33% updated from the last 2010 print edition. We will be using it in library classes to familiarize students with print informational resources.

Johnson County Central Public Schools has also renewed the World Book encyclopedia online. This has also been updated to include for information, e-books and activities in English and Spanish for pre-school through high school. The link to the online encyclopedia is at the top of the school website. This can be accessed at home as well.

Students should take advantage of these great resources that the school provides!



Student Assistance Team

Johnson County Central Schools has a Student Assistance Team (SAT) in place in each of the school buildings. This team is comprised of classroom teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, and enrichment teachers who meet to discuss student concerns. When a teacher has concerns about a student, the teacher completes a form stating these concerns, academic or behavioral, to begin this SAT process. The team gathers to discuss these concerns and gives suggestions and/or interventions to help the student become more successful in the classroom. For academic concerns, students may receive additional support through the Title I program, from the reading teacher, through additional help from a classroom aide, or from additional time from the classroom teacher before, during recess times, or after school. If a student continues to struggle academically, the team may recommend psychological testing from our school psychologist to determine if a student may receive special education services. For behavioral concerns, students may be placed on a behavior plan that focuses on positive support for acceptable behaviors or consequences for unacceptable behaviors. If parents have any questions, please contact the classroom teacher or administrator.

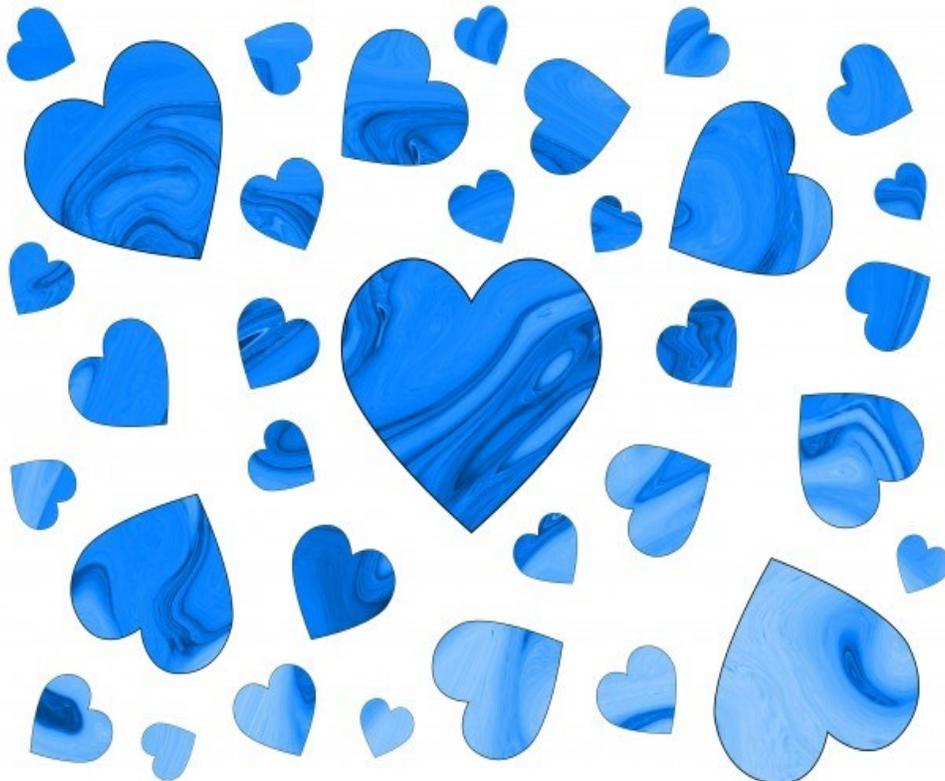
6th grade Math and Science by Alta Bohling

The rainforest has taken over our room. There are big trees, animals and plants. Each student had to draw an animal of their choosing for the rainforest. The rainforest biome has many parts to learn about including the study of the Amazon River with rainfall beginning high in the Andes Mountains. Sixth graders are learning about living biomes of the Earth.

Ecological succession is another facet of our science learning right now. Students are learning how a rock is weathered by the growth of lichens on it to create just a little soil after decomposition of the lichens occur. This in turn makes the soil thicker in which a different taller plant can survive in that area, continuing on until the soil is thick enough to support trees. It is an interesting process.

Another exciting event coming up is the sixth grade science fair. It will be on March 10th and the public is invited to come see the students' experiments. It will be from 2-3 pm and again from 6-7pm. at the Cook site old gym. Students will be using the scientific method to discover a conclusion to their experiment.

In math, students are learning about fractions, ratios, and geometric shapes and formulas for finding area, perimeter, and circumference.



Title 1
Kindergarten – Third Grade
Mrs. Judi Borrenpohl

We are making great strides in our reading and math classes in Title1! The students come into my classroom ready to learn! In the morning, I help the classroom teachers by teaching one reading group for each grade level (K-3). The smaller group size helps to insure that each student is able to get individual attention. Students can come to my classroom for an additional reading class, where extra help is given in phonics, word attack skills, reading fluency, and comprehension.

In the afternoon, the focus in my classroom is on Mathematics. Students that need additional help with their math skills are able to come for extra practice. Students review math facts and the math skills that they are working on in their classrooms. The students are able to use the Accelerated Math program to help practice and reinforce the skills that have been taught.

Save the Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016

Parent/Students K-5

Do you want a fun way to spend a Thursday night?

Come join us for **PTO/Title 1 Book Bingo**
on **Thursday, February 18th!**

Play Bingo and get a chance to win a book for your home library!



FREE POP AND POPCORN!
CHANCES TO WIN FREE BOOKS!

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

Seniors

Mireya Avitia
Spencer Dorsey
Mitchell Faris
Humberto Gonzalez
Aaron Johnson
Robert Johnson
Ashleigh Kapke
Edward Li
Nathan Liberty*
Grant Moles* - All A's
Rudy Pooch
Natalie Roddy
Bryce Sahs
Austin Valenzuela
Sydney Wenzl

Juniors

Marissa Borrenpohl*
Carlos Cabrales
Schlyer DeFreece* - All A's
Erin Hunzeker
Sara Kettelhake*
Keaton Kleespies* - All A's
Sopha Kongmanyvong* - All A's
Jayna Lambelet
Jesse Reyes
Alejandra Rojas
Samuel Saldivar*

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

Sophomores

Johan Arellano
Armando Cabrales
Charla Eggleston
MacKenzie Eltiste* - All A's
Nicholas Goracke* - All A's
Arturo Hernandez
Vanhna Kongmanyvong
Sierra McClintock*
Aleisha McDonald* - All A's
Madison Moran
Emalee North
Tia Parrish
Macey Pietzyk
Hannah Swanda*

Freshmen

Connor Bartels* - All A's
Tyler Bartels* - All A's
Andrew Beethe*
Haley Beethe
Erika Cruz*
Alexis Graham
Kole Kleespies* - All A's
Corral McClintock
Diego Reyes
Jordan Rodriques* - All A's
Simon Rother* - All A's
Faith Sahs
Tyler Sedersten

Honor Roll:
Students earn no class
grade lower than a "B"

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

Seniors

Spencer Dorsey
Mitchell Faris
Humberto Gonzalez
Aaron Johnson
Nathan Liberty*
Grant Moles* - All A's
Natalie Roddy
Bryce Sahs Jesse Reyes
Austin Valenzuela Alejandra Rojas
Samuel Saldivar
Angelica Wellman

Sophomores

Johan Arellano
Armando Cabrales
Charla Eggleston
MacKenzie Eltiste*
Nicholas Goracke*
Arturo Hernandez
Vanhna Kongmanyvong
Paige Kraus
Sierra McClintock* - All A's
Aleisha McDonald*
Madison Moran
Emalee North
Tia Parrish
Macey Pietzyk
Tyllar Roesner
Hannah Swanda* - All A's

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

Juniors

Marissa Borrenpohl*
Carlos Cabrales
Schyler DeFreece* - All A's
Erin Hunzeker
Sara Kettelhake*
Keaton Kleespies* - All A's
Sopha Kongmanyvong* - All A's

Freshmen

Josh Bailey
Connor Bartels* - All A's
Tyler Bartels*
Andrew Beethe* - All A's
Haley Beethe
Hailey Clark
Erika Cruz*
Alexis Graham*
Kole Kleespies* - All A's
Corral McClintock*
Diego Reyes*
Jordan Rodrigues*
Simon Rother* - All A's
Faith Sahs
Tyler Sedersten

Honor Roll:

Students earn no class grade lower than a "B"

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

Grade 8

Carrie Beethe (All A's)

Samuel Buss

Gabriel DeFreece

Tanner Kerner

Paola Solis

Monica Thipphavong

Eli Waring (All A's)

Jacob Wolter

Grade 7

Calvin Antholz (All A's)

Boston Bailey

Dalton Berkebile

Devin Conley

Jason Kettelhake

Kylie Kleespies

Katie Little

Morgan Moran

Hayley Neemann

Zadie Plager

Saylor Rother (All A's)

Grade 6

Kaita Baird (All A's)

Logan Barras

Ava Berkebile

Jazmine Cabrales

Jonathon Duncan (All A's)

Gina Golden

***Saydee Hardesty**

Madelyn Harrifeld (All A's)

Treyton Holthus (All A's)

Mathew Jansen

Vanessa Jimenez (All A's)

Dakotah Ludemann

***Lane Othmer**

***Madison Pingel**

Emma Straka

Emma Swanda

Shayla Thompson

Emma Walters

Isabella Wolter (All A's)

***Francisco Xayaphonesongkham**

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B.

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

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

Grade 8

Carrie Beethe (All A's)

***Samuel Buss**

Gabriel DeFreece

Tanner Kerner

Paola Solis

Eli Waring (All A's)

Jacob Wolter

Grade 7

Calvin Antholz (All A's)

Dalton Berkebile

Devin Conley

Jason Kettelhake

Kylie Kleespies

Kyle Laue

Katie Little

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Grade 6

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Logan Barras

Ava Berkebile

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Madelyn Harrifeld (All A's)

Treyton Holthus (All A's)

Mathew Jansen

Vanessa Jimenez (All A's)

Dakotah Ludemann

Lane Othmer (All A's)

Madison Pingel (All A's)

***Emma Straka**

Emma Swanda

Shayla Thompson

Emma Walters

Isabella Wolter (All A's)

Fransisco Xayaphonesongkham (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**

Band – Emily Fricke

Today we had Daniel Christian come in and speak with the high school band students. Daniel is a graduate of Tecumseh High School and the co-writer of Johnson County Central's fight song as well as a traveling musician. The students enjoyed listening to him play and asking him questions about the music business and the ins and outs of what he does as an artist. It was a nice break for the students as well as educational for those students who may be interesting in pursuing a career in music.

The sixth grade choir has started working on their music videos. I started this project with the sixth graders last year and it turned out to be a great project for them during this down time in January. We have a number of different groups using a various genres of music; everything from classic rock to hip hop. The students really get to open up their creative abilities with this project and I hope to continue it in the future.

Many students at the high school and middle school level have been auditioning for Class C Allstate Band. This year marks the first year that Class C has opened up auditions at the 7th/8th grade level for a middle school ensemble. All Class C Allstate ensembles will perform in Kearney on Saturday, March 19th. Students have also been chosen to participate in our ECNC Honor Band which will take place on May 9th.

The music department has been busily fundraising this year in hopes to raise money for both a choir trip to Worlds of Fun this year and the Band Trip set for next spring. We appreciate your support and your patience greatly in these fundraisers. As a department we have sold Watkins, candles, hosted a baked potato feed, and a madrigal dinner. Currently, the Band students (grades 8-11) are selling car decals to support our school until Jan 25th. They come with various icons to support whatever activity you or you student are involved in. Please help our group out one more time this year, the students are very appreciative!

Listed below are our second semester events. Thanks again for all of your support!

January	7	Thursday	PB - BB vs. Wilber Claytonia
	8	Friday	PB - BB vs. Elmwood Murdock
	8	Friday	UNO MS Honor Choir
	10 & 11	Sun-Mon	Doane Vocal Festival
	21	Thursday	PB - BB vs. HTRS
	23	Saturday	NWMSU 4 State Honor Choir
	23	Saturday	Singing Youth of Nebraska - North Platte
	29-31	Fri-Sun	UNO BOCH Festival
	26	Tuesday	PB - BB vs. Malcolm
	February	12	Friday
March		8	Tuesday
	19	Saturday	Class C Allstate
	22	Tuesday	HS MUDECAS Music Contest at HTRS
	29	Tuesday	HS Pre Contest Concert
April	1	Friday	Meridian MS Honor Choir and Band
	2	Saturday	Prom
	4	Monday	MS Concert in Cook
	8	Friday	Louisville/WW MS Contest
	21	Thursday	HS District Music Contest in Tecumseh
May	2	Monday	HS Spring Concert and Art Show
	7	Saturday	HS Band at Graduation
	9	Monday	ECNC Honor Band - Freeman
	13	Friday	4-8 Spring Concert in Cook 7:00pm
	14	Saturday	Choir to Worlds of Fun 9:00 AM performance
	17	Tuesday	K-3 Spring Program 7:00pm

STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT/SCARLET FEVER

Streptococcal sore throat (strep throat) and scarlet fever (a strep throat with a rash) are common infections in young children. These illnesses are usually not serious. However, complications such as rheumatic fever or kidney disease may rarely develop if children do not receive proper antibiotic treatment.

CAUSE: *Streptococcus* bacteria (Group A beta hemolytic strep)

SYMPTOMS: Sudden onset of fever, sore throat, swollen glands, headache, and abdominal pain. Nausea and vomiting may occur with severe cases. With scarlet fever, a very fine, bright red, raised rough texture rash (feels like sandpaper) is present. A fuzzy white tongue followed by a beefy-red 'strawberry tongue' may occur. The rash appears most often on the neck, chest, inner thigh, and in folds of the armpit, elbow, and groin. Later on, there may be peeling of the skin on the fingertips and toes.

SPREAD: Person-to-person from nose and throat secretions of infected persons (those with and without symptoms).

INCUBATION: It usually takes 1 to 3 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms develop.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: Until at least a full 24 hours after treatment begins and fever is gone.



Until at least a full 24 hours after treatment begins and until child is without fever for 24 hours.



1. If your child does not appear well or develops a sore throat and other symptoms listed above, keep him/her home and call your physician.
2. **Diagnosis:** Confirmed by identification of strep in the throat, either by throat culture, or by using a rapid test which can provide results the same day.
3. **Treatment:** If the culture is positive, a penicillin shot or antibiotics taken by mouth (usually 10 days) are prescribed. This treatment will help to prevent more serious illness such as rheumatic fever, which can damage the heart valves.

STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT/SCARLET FEVER

5th Grade News
Mrs. Crotty's Class

We all enjoyed our Winter Break, and we hope you did too. With this last round of snow, we aren't able to get out on the playground, so we enjoy our recesses in the gym. It is always refreshing to burn off some energy, so we can focus better on our work.

Second semester is proving to be a little more challenging. We are moving into more difficult skills in math and language arts. In math we are learning about decimal numbers and fractions, metric units of measure, and compatible numbers. Plus, we still need to remember how to do all the skills we learned before break. Every day our math assignment is review from a lot of our previous lessons. Fortunately, we can use our math book as a resource to help when we don't remember exactly how to work a problem. Fixing already checked math assignments is an important part of our week. We learn from our mistakes to help us remember the correct operation in the future.

Language arts sometimes throws parts of speech into our week that we don't quite understand. We start each week with a grammar page and we always have all the correct answers by the end of class. This sheet is our resource for the week to help us complete our assignments until we have a better grasp on the new concept. We are building off of the basics of grammar that we have learned in previous years, and we use our prior knowledge to help us learn the new concept.

It is time to CELEBRATE!!!!!! Our 2nd quarter Accelerated Reading classroom goal was 180 points. We earned 293 points. WE ARE AWESOME READERS AND WE LOVE TO READ!!!! We will be having a special reward for reaching/exceeding our 2nd quarter goal. This quarter (3rd) our classroom goal is 325 points, and we are working really hard to reach it too. WE WANT ANOTHER REWARD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you for sharing in our 5th grade journey. We hope you have a fantastic winter! We are all looking forward to spring when we can get back outside!



6th Grade Language Arts

Julie Isaacs

We are off to a great start to second semester in Language Arts! We have already completed two big writing assignments, Autobiographies & Animal Research. Students have loved learning how to use Google Classroom to complete all of their assignments online! It's definitely been a learning experience for all!

Autobiographies were a lot of fun to write! The writing assignment was taken to a new level when each student brought a picture of themselves to display on a bulletin board in the hallway. All the students & staff in Cook are enjoying trying to figure out who is who!

Science & Writing were merged together during our Animal Research Projects! Each student selected a Rainforest Animal to create in Science class, turning Mrs. Bohling's classroom into a rainforest. Then, each student spent over a week researching their animal and creating a powerpoint to share with their class!

For the 3rd Quarter, all 6th Graders are challenged to reach 12 AR points. We are planning an AR party (movie & snacks) for the end of the quarter for all students who reach their goal. So far, everyone is working very hard toward their goal!

High School Social Science News – by Mr. Weber

The second semester has started and the high school students have already been busy in their Social Science classes. This semester there are many possible dual credit courses being offered to the juniors and seniors in the Social Sciences. American Government, American History, and Sociology are possible classes that the students can take to receive college credit through Peru State College. All applications must be turned in with payment to Mrs. Moles by February 3rd. The students in these classes were given the necessary paper work for these classes earlier in the semester. If you have any questions about any of these classes feel free to contact me at school.

This semester students will also have the opportunity to work with Mr. Nathan Shaffer, who is a student teacher from Peru State College. He will be working closely with myself as he finishes his college work from Peru.

Empowering Students through Competitive Speech - Tania Durre

One of the most common fears among American adults is the fear of public speaking. Sweaty palms, racing pulse, dry mouth: Perhaps just thinking about speaking in front of a crowd has left you experiencing these common symptoms of stage fright. Thankfully, stage fright does not have to scare any of us from public performance. In fact, the adrenaline that causes symptoms of stage fright can actually enhance our performance when we face our fears and learn to manage them. Managing our fears can be quite empowering, and empowering students to become better communicators is what the speech team at JCC aims to do.

As members of the speech team, high school students learn the conventions of public speaking and oral interpretation. Students learn to research and organize information into coherent, thought-provoking speeches. Students then practice these speeches with proper posture, eye contact, and inflection. From January to March, students compete against speakers from other high schools and receive judges' written feedback to improve their techniques.

By participating in various public speaking events, students develop important leadership and communication skills. Students gain confidence, poise, and decorum over the course of the season. Symptoms of stage fright probably won't disappear completely. However, high school speech team does provide positive opportunities for students to face their fears of public speaking and to prepare for college and career communication.

JCC Speech Team Competition Schedule*

Saturday, January 30, 2016: MUDECAS Speech @ SCC-Beatrice

Saturday, February 6, 2016: Invitational TBD

Saturday, February 13, 2016: Auburn Invitational @ Auburn

Wednesday, February 24, 2016: ECNC @ Weeping Water

Saturday, February 27, 2016: HTRS Invitational

Friday, March 4, 2016 @ 6:30 PM: JCC Speech Showcase @ JCC-Tecumseh

Tuesday, March 14, 2016: C1-2 Districts @ Raymond Central

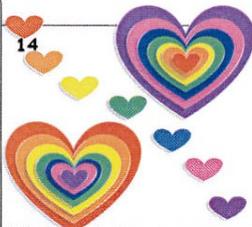
Wednesday & Thursday, March 23-24, 2016: State @ University of Nebraska-Kearney**

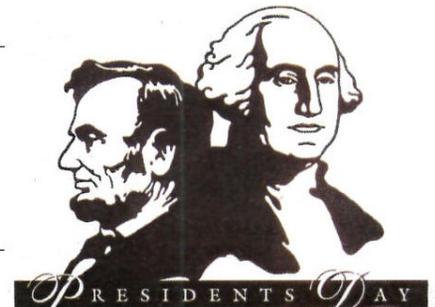
* This schedule is subject to change on short notice.

** Participation in State Speech Competition is required upon qualification at Districts.

February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ECNC V B BB @ JCC HS 7:00 pm UNL American Business Contest @ UNL Student Union 9:00 am	2 ECNC V G BB	3 American Heart Assoc. Presentation @ MS Gym 2:30 pm	4 ECNC V B BB Red out for Heart @ both sites JH G BB @ JCC MS 4:00 pm	5 ECNC G V BB V Wrestling @ Malcolm 2:00 pm	6 Beatrice HS Speech Invite Johnson County Spelling Bee W Elementary Aud. 9:00 am
7	8 C Team B BB @ JCC 7:30 pm	9 Johnson County Coal. Mtg. @ JCC HS Lib. 8:30 am V Wrestling @ Lincoln HS 3:30 pm	10 FBLA @ Peru Business Contest 8:30 am Board of Education Mtg. @ HS Sped Room 7:30 pm	11 JH G BB @ JCC 4:00 pm HS Top Ten Banquet @ HS Gym 6:30 pm	12 NO SCHOOL—Teacher workday V Wrestling Districts JV, V G&B BB @ JCC 4:30, 6:00, 7:45 pm	13 HS Speech Invite @ Auburn HS 8:00 am V Wrestling Districts C Team G&B BB @ JCC MS
14 	15 V G BB Sub-Districts JH G BB @ Syracuse HS 4:30	16 V G BB Sub-Districts JH Wrestling @ Syracuse HS 4:30 pm	17 8th Grade to SCC Milford & HUDL HS Physics @ Robotics Workshop SCC Lincoln	18 V G BB Districts V Wrestling State	19 V Wrestling State NE State Cheer & Dance Champ @ Grand Island AcaDeca State Comp. @ Omaha JV, V BB B @ Auburn	20 JH G BB @ Palmyra HS 8:00 am V Wrestling State NE State Cheer & Dance @ Grand Island AcaDeca State @ Omaha
21	22 V B BB Sub Districts National FFA Week JH G BB @ JCC 4:00	23 V B BB Sub Districts National FFA Week	24 ECNC Speech @ Weeping Water HS 9:00 am National FFA Week	25 V B BB Sub Districts National FFA Week JH G BB @ Falls City MS 4:00 pm JH W @ Falls City HS 4:30 pm	26 V G BB District Finals National FFA Week	27 HTRS Speech Invite JH Wrestling @ Weeping Water 9:00 am
28	29 V BB B District Finals					



Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Menus are subject to change </div>	1 Chicken Noodle Soup Grilled Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Br.Chicken Patty / WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 Sloppy Nachos Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	4 Chicken Nuggets SP Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 Lasngna Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	6	
	7	8 Chicken & Cheese Qusadilla Mexi Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Hot Ham & Cheese Cooked Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Cheese Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Cake Milk	11 BBQ Meatballs Mashed Potaoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	12 Teacher Workday No School	13
14 	15 Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk	16 Cheeseburger WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Creamed Chicken / Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Dinner Roll Milk	18 Hotdog WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Cheese Stix Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	20	
21	22 Chicken Tenders Cheesy Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Br. Pork Patty WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Chicken Alfrado Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 BBQ Shredded Pork WG Bun Broccoli/ Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 HS Baked Potato Bar Elem& MS Pb Jelly Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Bread Stick HS	27	
28	29 Goulash Green Beans Fruit & Veggei Bar Milk	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> THIS INSTITUTION IS A EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER" </div>					

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

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

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

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

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Non-Discrimination

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

Child Find

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