



# THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

## JUNE / JULY 2025

### Building Bond Update

**SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE**  
**BY JON ROTHER**



Volume 18  
Issue 10

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**Jon Rother**  
Superintendent  
402-921-0187

**Justin Damme**  
High School Principal  
402-335-7815

**Marsha Bacon**  
Middle School Principal  
402-335-7885

**Beckie Robeson**  
Elementary School Principal  
402-335-7839

**Laura Rademacher**  
Director of Student Services/  
Special Education  
402-335-7851

**Garrett Collin**  
Activities Director  
402-736-5757

**JCC**

The school board has been working hard to learn as much as they can about the building process. This includes cost-per-square-foot, materials and methods. We will be setting a date to have another board workshop to meet with JCC's team of architects, engineers, construction managers and advisors. During workshop meetings, the team will be exploring the following options:

- Upgrading JCC's current facilities at both sites.
- Moving to one site and making the appropriate renovations and additions to do so.
- Building on the proposed 52 acres North of the current football field in Tecumseh.

Of the main goals for the board is to:

1. Get all programming to one site.
2. Provide for the future facilities needs of the district.

If you have thoughts, concerns or questions, I encourage you to reach out to a school board member or myself.

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jon.rother@jccentral.org  
(402) 921-0187

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# Thank You!

Thank you JCC residents, constituents, stakeholders and taxpayers! Although it is not the most popular way to pay for schools, property taxes are the bloodline for financing our public schools. The consistency and reliability of our taxpayers is both comforting and reassuring as it means we can provide the services our students need. Your contributions and sacrifices do not go unnoticed!

On behalf of Johnson County Central Public Schools and the Board of Education, thank you!

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## The People Behind the Scenes

The day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month schedule that makes up the school year is full of events and activities. Each day, there are a multitude of things that must be staffed and done on time to make the day work. Usually, things go as planned and nothing is said. It is when something isn't on time, or something isn't right, that people take notice.

At JCC we have several areas where staff serve our students in an inconspicuous manner. These are our staff who work as para-professionals, nutrition service providers, maintenance personnel, transportation personnel, office personnel, medical personnel and custodial personnel.

These individuals ensure that our students have clean, comfortable facilities. That they get where they need to be safely and on time. That proper records are kept and updated. That bills are paid, attendance taken and communication with parents and loved ones is open and clear. That students are cared for when they're sick or injured and that any medical conditions are monitored. In order to do this, staff must be committed, diligent and consistent.

To these dedicated professionals, we are grateful and thankful!

### **Para Professionals**

Carolyn Badberg  
Nicole Beck  
Ann Britt  
Cortney Brown  
Ciera Bryant  
Tiffany DeJonge  
Lavinia Doeden  
Brenda Frank  
Kim Guenther  
Kim Jansen  
Andrea Jaquez  
Elizabeth Jett  
Candy Laue  
Vanessa Sell  
Shirley Schwartzkopf  
Mikaela Thomas

### **Nutrition Services**

Lynsey Graham  
Emily Lubben  
Raeanna Moss-Buesing  
Lori Parrish  
Katerine Reyes-Bernard  
Beth Rumery  
Connie Watson

### **Transportation**

Bob Eichenberger  
Dennis Gottula  
Kevin Kramer  
Kris Loeck  
Bob Lueders  
Ken Mandl  
Maggie Nixon

### **Office**

Laurie Badertscher  
Tonia Mannschreck  
Jen Moss  
Sandra Orozco  
Diane Wilken

### **Medical**

Kendra Gottula  
Lisa Kuhl

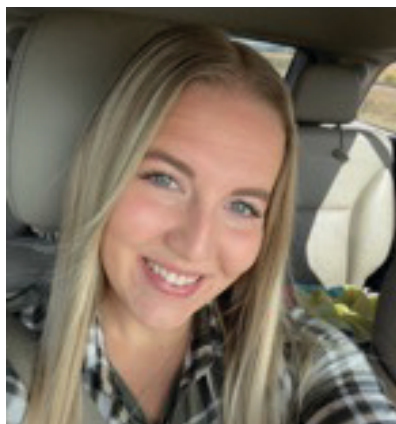
### **Maintenance/Custodial**

Michael Bernadt  
Casey Fricke  
Kyle Laue  
Mike Melson  
Martha Moreno  
Sergio Valles  
Russ Waring

# New Staff

The 2025-2026 brings with it a new beginning and new opportunities! We will also be meeting some new staff. Please join me in welcoming our incoming Thunderbirds!

**Ms. Jami Gabriel**  
Kindergarten



Hello everyone! My name is Jami Gabriel, and I am so excited to be joining the JCC family as a kindergarten teacher. I grew up on a farm just outside of Douglas, NE and I have always had a passion for working with young learners. I recently earned my degree from Peru State College in May.

I believe in creating a classroom environment where students feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn. When I am not teaching, I enjoy playing volleyball, spending time on the farm, and taking my dog on walks. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and becoming part of this wonderful school district. Go Thunderbirds!

**Mrs. Skye Grafton**  
Middle School Special Education



Hi! I'm Skye Grafton, and I'm so excited to join the JCC family in the fall!

I was born and raised in Nebraska, I graduated from Newman Grove High School in 2009. After graduation I moved to Auburn to attend Peru State College and fell in love with this part of the state. My husband Tommy and I live in Auburn with our three kids Reese (18 in July), Quinn (15) and Gavin (12). When I am not at work I love watching my kids play sports and spending time outside with family, friends & our 2 doodles, Daisy & Ace.

I completed my degree in Elementary Education and K-12 Special Education with a Masters in Curriculum through Western Governors University online while working for APS as a paraprofessional.

I have worked at Auburn Public Schools for the last 10 years, first as a paraprofessional, and the last three years as the life skills teacher and Unified Bowling Coach for students 6th grade through 21 years of age. I am excited to start this new journey and experience everything that JCC has to offer!

**Mrs. Jill Jensen**  
Cook Site Registered Nurse

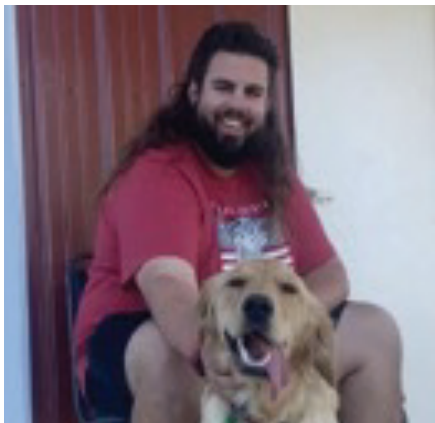


I was born and raised in Lincoln, NE. I grew up playing sports and annoying my two younger brothers. I graduated from Southeast High School in Lincoln and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before I was a nurse, I worked at Runza for 10 years all through high school and college. I've worked as a nurse at Saint Elizabeth in Lincoln for 17 years (surgical and burn/wound).

I have five ornery and fun children that attend JCC (Marley 14, Maddie 11, Calum 9, Will 8 and Charlie 6). We moved to Talmage two years ago to be closer to my husband Eric's family. I feel so lucky to be a new part of this community and have enjoyed the compassion and kindness that has been shown to our family. This city girl has learned that small town living really is the best. I can't wait to meet the kids!

*New Staff continued on Page 4*

**Mr. Keaton Kleespies**  
Middle School Social Studies



Hello! I am Keaton Kleespies, and I will be teaching 6-8 Social Studies at JCC! I am originally from Tecumseh, Nebraska and graduated from Johnson County Central in 2017. I went on to the University of Nebraska at Kearney where I graduated with a degree in Secondary Social Studies Education.

During this time, I started to coach American Legion Baseball in Tecumseh. I spent two years in Broken Bow, Nebraska teaching 6-8 Social Studies and coaching high school baseball, basketball, and football. I then taught at Ralston Middle School in Ralston, Nebraska teaching 8th Grade American History. I was also a team leader and coached high school baseball and football.

During my time at Ralston, I received my Master's Degree from UNK in 7-12 School Principalship.

Personally, I just got married to my beautiful wife, Alena, in May of 2025. We are excited to move to Tecumseh and be a part of the Thunderbird community. JCC has done so much for me in my personal and professional career that I cannot wait to get back and be a part of it again!

**Mrs. Brianna Pfeiffer**  
Middle School Language Arts



My name is Brianna Pfeiffer. I spent three years teaching at Falls City Public Schools and have spent the past three years as a substitute teacher in the Auburn and Johnson communities. I hold a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Behavior Management from Peru State College.

I've been married to my husband, Derek, for 11 years, and we have two young boys, Owen and Quinton. In my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, and going to the lake. I'm excited to join the JCC family and look forward to a great school year ahead!

**Ms. Zadie Plager**  
3rd Grade



I grew up in Elk Creek and am a proud graduate of JCC, Class of 2021. After high school, I attended Wayne State College, where I majored in elementary education with a coaching minor, graduating in December 2024. I completed my student teaching in 3rd grade at Syracuse in the fall of 2024. For the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, I was a long term substitute for middle school science at JCC and then became the interim middle school social studies teacher.

In addition to teaching, I helped coach girls high school basketball last year and will continue coaching both girls high school basketball and junior high volleyball this upcoming school year. In my free time, I enjoy golfing, working out, reading, and hanging out with my family and friends. I am excited to return to JCC as a 3rd-grade teacher, bringing my passion for education and coaching back to my hometown and giving back to the community that helped shape me.



**Dr. Laura Rademacher**  
Director of Student Services  
& Special Education



Dr. Laura Rademacher is proud to serve as the Director of Student Services and Special Education Director at Johnson County Central Public Schools. With 10 years of experience teaching math and special education in Omaha Public Schools, she brings a strong commitment to meeting the diverse needs of all learners.

A lifelong resident of southeast Nebraska and a 2006 graduate of Tecumseh High School, Dr. Rademacher earned her Doctorate in Education in May 2024 from UNO. Her dissertation, "Math Anxiety in Teachers," highlights her passion for supporting both educators and students in overcoming learning challenges.

She lives in the country between Tecumseh and Cook with her husband, Nick, and their two children, William and Lucy. Dr. Rademacher is excited to support students and families in the JCC district, guided by her core belief that "ALL students can learn when given the right support."

She values strong partnerships with parents and the community and encourages open communication

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

**Mrs. Freedom Steele**  
High School English



Mrs. Freedom Steele joins JCC as the new 9th-10th grade English teacher. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Auburn, Nebraska, and are the proud parents of two sons, Zachary and Ethan, both graduates of Auburn High School.

Mrs. Steele brings over 20 years of experience in education, having taught English at Sterling Public Schools. In addition to her classroom responsibilities, she also coached the one-act play and speech teams, demonstrating her passion for student involvement in the arts.

With their children now grown, Mrs. Steele and her husband enjoy traveling whenever they can. When she's not exploring new destinations, she can often be found in her sewing room, where she spends countless hours bringing creative projects to life.



**Mrs. Carroll Segrist**  
High School World Language - Spanish



Although my photo doesn't show it, I have an invisible message, "Lifelong Learner" stamped on my forehead. Anyone who knows me will tell you that is an accurate description of me. I truly believe that every experience in life is either a lesson or a blessing, and many times - both!

I graduated from college in mid-life with a degree in Business and immediately continued school to become a teacher. My experience is mostly in rural public schools and parochial schools in Lincoln. In addition to Spanish, I have taught English, Speech, Chorus, Family & Consumer Science, and Business. I have loved the experience of coaching competitive Speech, have been a student council sponsor,

a World Languages Club, and a Literature Club Sponsor.

I absolutely beam when students have "Aha' Moments" and believe language learning can be immensely entertaining!

Left to my own devices, I would live in a small town, but my husband, son, and only grandchild in the state live in Lincoln. I kinda like living with my husband, so that's where I am!

In addition to the three Sams in Lincoln - my husband, my son, and one grandson, my husband, Sam, and I are blessed to have a daughter, Katie, and my favorite son-in-love, Tim, in Minneapolis. We also have a son, Mark, daughter-in-love, ANGELA, and grandkids Julian, George, and Ingrid, in Maine.

Although Sam and I thought we were "dog people", a rescue cat, Alfred Jones, has adopted us. Things I love most to do involve hanging out with family and friends, reading, cooking, and "puttering" around the house. I know, I know, very exciting! I look forward to being a JCC "Thunderbird" and getting to know my students very soon!

**Mrs. Jeanee Wolken**  
Tecumseh Site Registered Nurse



Hello! My name is Jeanne Wolken RN BSN and I am your school nurse. I have been a nurse for 39 years and have a variety of nursing experience. I have been a school nurse for Lincoln Public School for the last seven years. Prior to that, I have experience in Med/Surg, Operating Room, Public Health, Home Health, Hospice and Psych. My husband, Jerry and I have four children. Three of our children graduated from this very school. One from Tecumseh Public School and two from Johnson County Central. We adopted our fourth child when she was 16.

I love being a school nurse and working with students and families. In my spare time I love to spend time with my family, golf and sew. I am excited to be a part of the community at Johnson County Central.



**JCC**  
**THUNDERBIRDS**



# Perfect!

Congratulations to Penny Barnes (2nd Grade), Liam Little (2nd Grade) and Shelby Rothfuss (3rd Grade) on achieving PERFECT ATTENDANCE for the 2024-2025 school year!



Thank you to our local partners for providing gifts:

- Brinkman Brothers Inc.
- The Grain Bin
- Kerner Ace Hardware
- NAPA
- Pizza Hut
- Remedy
- Simple Nutrition
- State Bank of Table Rock
- Super 7
- Tecumseh Central Market

# How to Become a Substitute Teacher

Schools are always in need of good substitute teachers. For the 2025-2026 school year, substitute pay for one day will be \$185.

If substituting is something you are interested in, there are currently two ways to substitute in Nebraska classrooms.

The following information was taken directly from the Nebraska Department of Education's website. For more information, you can navigate there directly by following this link:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/tcert/substitute-teacher/>

- **Local Substitute** - "Applicants who do not have or have not finished their educator preparation program but have at least 60 hours of college credit."
  - A Local Substitute Permit can be issued for teaching 90 full-time days per school year for those who apply and meet the requirements listed below. Once issued, a Local Substitute Permit expires August 31st in the fifth year following the year of issuance.
  - The requirements for a Local Substitute Permit includes the following:
    - An application and fee in the TEACH system (Please note that registration for TEACH is required before an application can be submitted.)
    - Fingerprints (Only required if someone has lived outside of Nebraska in the past five years.)
    - Transcript(s) showing at least 60 semester credit hours
    - Human Relations Training
- **State Substitute** - "Applicants who have completed an educator preparation program or have held a regular Nebraska teaching certificate or comparable and equivalent certificate from another state."
  - A State Substitute Teaching Permit can be used to teach in all endorsement areas in all Nebraska schools. Someone who holds a state substitute permit may be employed to teach on a non-contractual basis (cannot be the teacher of record). Once issued, a state substitute permit expires August 31st in the fifth year following the year of issuance.
  - The requirements for a State Substitute Teaching Permit include the following:
    - An application and fee in the TEACH system (Please note that registration for TEACH is required before an application can be submitted.)
    - Fingerprints (Only required if someone has lived outside of Nebraska in the past five years.)
    - Official Transcript(s)
    - Institutional Verification – This form is used to show that an educator preparation program was completed and is sent electronically to Nebraska colleges and universities.
    - Educator Certificate – A certificate is only required for those who have not been certified in Nebraska
    - Human Relations Training

Should you have any further questions about becoming a substitute teacher, please feel free to contact me (Jon Rother) at 402-921-0187.



# Congratulations to JCC's K-3 April Thunderbirds of the Month!



## **KINDERGARTEN:**

Blythe Moore, Charlie Dickson, Norah McCoppin, Leena Dinan, Charley Beethe, Vanessa Sterup, Arianna Jimenez, Cassidy Russell



## **FIRST GRADE:**

Grady Pollard, Jesse Lada, Amelia Miller, Thomas Wilson, Gus King, Emmalynn Blecha, Emersynn Gartner, Christopher Duarte-Chavez, Henry Rolf, Caleb Griess



## **SECOND GRADE:**

Jaxson Stafford-Laflin, Ben Gottula, Owen Bowman, Renzo Maldonado, Noah Vermeer, Piper Lary, Rainey Neemann, Kendrick Reyes, Freyja Walton



## **THIRD GRADE:**

Bryson Bailey, Connor Mecham, Georgia Russell, Mateo Campos, A'Lexus DeMar, Baeley Neemann, Naomi Andrade, Easton Stafford-Laflin, Austyn Broadfoot, Karter Shullaw

\* Thank you Tecumseh Pizza Hut and Tecumseh Dairy Queen for supplying gift coupons for our Thunderbirds!

2025-2026 School Calendar

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July	
4	Independence day

August 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August	
6-8	Teacher In-Service
11	NSAA Official Start of Fall Practice
11	First Day For Students - 1:00 PM Dismissal
15	Teacher In-Service
19	First Day For Preschool
25	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 12, Teacher Days = 17	

September 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

September	
1	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
8	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
22	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 17	
Teacher Days = 19	

October 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October	
6	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences
	11 AM - 7 PM
10	End 1st Quarter
20	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 19, Teacher Days = 21	
Total 1st Qtr. Student Days = 36	
Total 1st Qtr. Teacher Days = 44	

November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

November	
3	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
17	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
26-28	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
Student Days = 14	
Teacher Days = 16	

December 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December	
1	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
19	NO SCHOOL for students/End 2nd Quarter/1st Sem.
19	Teacher Work-Day/JCC Wrestling Invite
22-31	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
24-28	NSAA Winter Moratorium
Student Days = 12	
Teacher Days = 14	
Total 2nd Qtr. Student Days = 38	

January 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January	
1	New Year's Day
5	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
19	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 16	
Teacher Days = 18	

February 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February	
2	ESU4 Engaging Educators Conf. - NO SCHOOL.
14	Valentines Day
16	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences
Student Days = 16	
Teacher Days = 18	

March 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March	
2	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
13	End 3rd Quarter
16	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 18, Teacher Days = 20	
Total 3rd Qtr. Student Days = 40	
Total 3rd Qtr. Teacher Days = 45	

April 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April	
3-6	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
13	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
20	NO SCHOOL for students - District Music
Student Days = 17	
Teacher Days = 19	

May 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May	
9	JCC High School Graduation
13	Last Day for 3-year old Preschool
14	NO SCHOOL for students - District Track
21	Last Day for Students - 11 AM Dismissal
22	End 4th Quarter/2nd Semester
22	Teacher In-Service
Total 4th Qtr. Student Days = 40, Teacher Days = 45	
Total 2nd Sem. Student Days = 80, Teacher Days = 90	

June 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

June	
2025-2026 TOTAL = 154 Student Days	
2025-2026 TOTAL = 177 Teacher Days	

# Greetings Thunderbird Family

We have ended the 2024-2025 school year and all the activities! It was a very eventful year and many memories were made. Here is a spring season wrap-up.

The boy's golf team competed in the district meet on Monday, May 19th at Crooked Creek in Lincoln. Gabe Burki, Isaac Beethe, Jack Waring, Wesley Swanson, and Keegan Jones represented JCC and golfed well that day. The squad placed 4th and just missed making the state meet (they take the top 3 teams) by 3 strokes. Jack finished district runner up and Keegan finished 7th. They both qualified for the state meet that takes place in Grand Island on May 28th and 29th. Thank you to Coach Ben Swanson & Russ Waring for their coaching expertise and for taking the time to help our golfers.

JCC hosted the C-1 district track meet on Thursday, May 15th and we had a few that qualified for the state meet at Burke High School in Omaha! Harley Lubben in the shot put and discus, Briana Robeson in the shot put, Molly Weber in the 100m and 200m dash, Trevin Huskey in the 3200 run, and Logan Topp in the 1600m run. We wish good luck to the athletes and coaches and we know they will represent the JCC community with pride! Thank you to Coach Nick Weber, Coach Angela Huskey, Coach Reid Genuchi, and Coach Justin Damme for all the time they have put in with their athletes.

Now that the school year has come to a close, it is time to look forward to the next! The weight room will

## 2025 SUMMER WEIGHT ROOM HOURS:

### June 2nd thru August 1st

6:30 AM - 7:30 AM - High School Boys

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM - High School Girls

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM - Junior High Mixed

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Open Mixed (\*except no Fridays)

### Monday thru Friday

be open starting June 2nd and run through August 1st. There will be three sessions in the morning and one in the evening that athletes will have the chance to get in and work out. The weight room will be open Monday-Friday with session times running from:

6:30 AM - 7:30 AM (HS BOYS),

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM (HS GIRLS),

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (JUNIOR HIGH MIXED),

and 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (OPEN MIXED) \*\*except Fridays.

Athletes are strongly encouraged to attend 4 out of 5 days a week and to be in attendance on a regular basis. It is very important that our athletes take advantage of these opportunities to increase their abilities and give us the best chance to compete in the upcoming school year. Please help keep your athlete accountable with the weight room and the various sport-specific camps they will be asked to attend! Summer is a very important time to develop themselves, hone in on their skills, and be together with their teammates.

Lastly, all students, grades 9-12, who plan to participate in NASA-sponsored activities during the 2025-2026 school year need to turn in a

signed Parental Consent form. This must be done before a student is eligible for practice and competition in any activity that is under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska School Activities Association. The participating student and one of his/her parents or guardians must sign the certificate of consent and turn it into the school office.

Each student, grades 7-12, who expects to participate in athletic contests shall present to the superintendent, principal, or school representative once each year, before actual participation in any interschool sport, a physician's certificate on a form recommended by the NSAA that he/she is physically fit for athletic participation. This physical examination must be given during the school year in which the student participates or during the summer vacation period which precede the school year in which the individual participates.

Please contact the school if you have any questions and please take care of this prior to the **beginning of fall practice on August 11, 2025.**

I hope everyone has a great summer! Go Thunderbirds!

- Garrett Collin



# Middle School News

BY JUSTIN DAMME & MARSHA BACON

The Middle School Academic Awards Program and the 4th & 5th grade Thunderbird Assembly were held on Wednesday, May 21st, in the Middle School gym. Many students were recognized by their teachers for academic achievements and other accomplishments that were earned throughout the year.

The prestigious President's Award for Educational Excellence. This award recognizes academic success in the classroom as each of these 5th & 8th grade students maintained a grade of 90% or above throughout the school year and scored in the 85th percentile on a national assessment in math or reading.

Each of these students was honored with a certificate of achievement, a pin, signed letters from President Donald Trump and Education Secretary Linda McMahon.

## President's Award for Educational Excellence



**EIGHTH GRADE RECIPIENTS:** Jackson Gottula, Damian Andrade, Elliott Werner, and Hadley Hartman (not pictured Wyatt Lueders)



**FIFTH GRADE RECIPIENTS:** Hazel Arguello, Joey Burki, Selena Cabrales, Rylin Campbell-Thies, Alivia Gottula, Alan Herrle, and Evelyn Little

## Academic Excellence: All A's First and/or Second Semester



**FOURTH GRADE:** (top left) Ethan Barnes, Reagan Bischoff, Lily Bilsend, Brylee Cropp, Jacob Griess, Emma McCoppin, Bristol Meints, Baylee Shirley, Beau Winslow

**FIFTH GRADE:** (top right) Rylin Campbell-Thies, Alivia Gottula, and Evelyn Little



**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** (bottom left) Jude Fricke, Ada Goodrich, Presley Juilfs, Ian Robeson, Edith Blomstedt, Brynn Weber, Lila Britt, Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen, Angel Lara Rojas, and Jackson Gottula



## Johnson County Spelling Bee Award Winners

Johnson County Spelling Bee winners were awarded:

- 3rd Place: **Heidi Reyes**
- Runner-up: **Damien Hinojosa**
- Grand Champion: **Jay Chaudhari**



## Middle School Community Service Recipients

All JCC middle school students are eligible to receive the Community Service Award for volunteering in their community. Students volunteering 10-19 hours receive a bronze medal, 20-29 hours a silver medal and 30 hours or more get a gold medal. This year's Community Service Award recipients are:

**6TH GRADE:** *Jude Fricke & Ian Robeson*

**7TH GRADE:** *Jamison Bacon (Gold), Lucas Cropp (Gold), Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen (Silver)*

**8TH GRADE:** *Jackson Gottula (Bronze), Elliott Werner (Gold), Ashton Huskey (Silver), Heidi Reyes (Bronze), Kenna Thomas (Silver)*



## Perfect Attendance Cook Site

Perfect Attendance was awarded to Ethan Barnes in 4th Grade.



## Howard McNiff Community Service Award

The Cook Lions' Club, in recognition of the importance of community service and the people who volunteer their time to help their communities, presented two students with the Howard McNiff Community Service Award. These students worked to improve their communities and donated their time to help others.

The two students selected this year for the Howard McNiff Community Service Award are Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen and Elliott Werner.





## Cook Elementary Thunderbirds of the Year

The following 4th and 5th-grade students were recognized as Thunderbirds of the Year:



**FOURTH GRADE:** Lily Bilsland, Baylee Shirley, Sophia Veras, Bristol Meints, Emma McCoppin, Reagan Bischoff, Ethan Barnes, and Josie McCoy



**FIFTH GRADE:** Abby Oenbring, Harper Beck, Nora Britt, Nathaly Hurtado-Arellano, Everly Rojas, Evelyn Little, Selena Cabrales, and Genesis Reyes

## Patriots Pen and American Essay Award Recipients

VFW Post #8221 representatives Jimmy Ray and Karen Cerny of the Cook American Legion Auxiliary were on hand to present awards for the Patriot's Pen Contest and the Americanism Essay Contest.

### Patriot's Pen Contest Award Recipients:

- 3rd Place: **Jay Chaudhari**
- 2nd Place: **Wyatt Lueders** (not pictured)
- 1st Place: **Courtney Oltrogge**

### Americanism Essay Contest Winners:

Jude Fricke, Isaac Buchanan, Ian Robeson, Ashton Huskey, Jackson Gottula, Marvin Najera, Lucy Rademacher, Desiree Anderson, Kirstian Cunningham and Tanner Tex Sherman



### 4th & 5th Grade American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Poster Winners:

- 1st Place: **Nathaly Hurtado-Arellano**
- 2nd Place: **Maddie Jensen**

**Award Recipients:** Harper Beck, Nora Britt, Aaliyah Andersen, Genesis Reyes, Maelyn Hamilton, Everly Rojas, Selena Cabrales, Quinlynn Beethe, Rylin Campbell-Thies, Alivia Gottula and Evelyn Little



*These were just a few of the students to receive recognition for their academic achievements. Congratulations to all students for the many wonderful accomplishments that were achieved this past school year.*



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

**Summer meals for kids age 1 through 18 are available at**

Johnson County Central High School  
358 N. 6th Street, Tecumseh

June 2-26 from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm  
Monday-Thursday  
NO MEALS on FRIDAYS



### Summer Food Service Program

- ☎ The hotline can be reached at **1-866-3-HUNGRY** (1-866-348-6479) from Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

- ☎ Scan the QR codes for more information:



Summer Meals for Kids Site Finder (USDA)



Summer Food Service Program (NDE)



Summer EBT Program

- ☎ Get updates via X at #NESummerMeals and the Nebraska Department of Education Nutrition Services' Facebook page.

**KEEP ME!**

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**SHARE ME!**

# 2025 JUNE

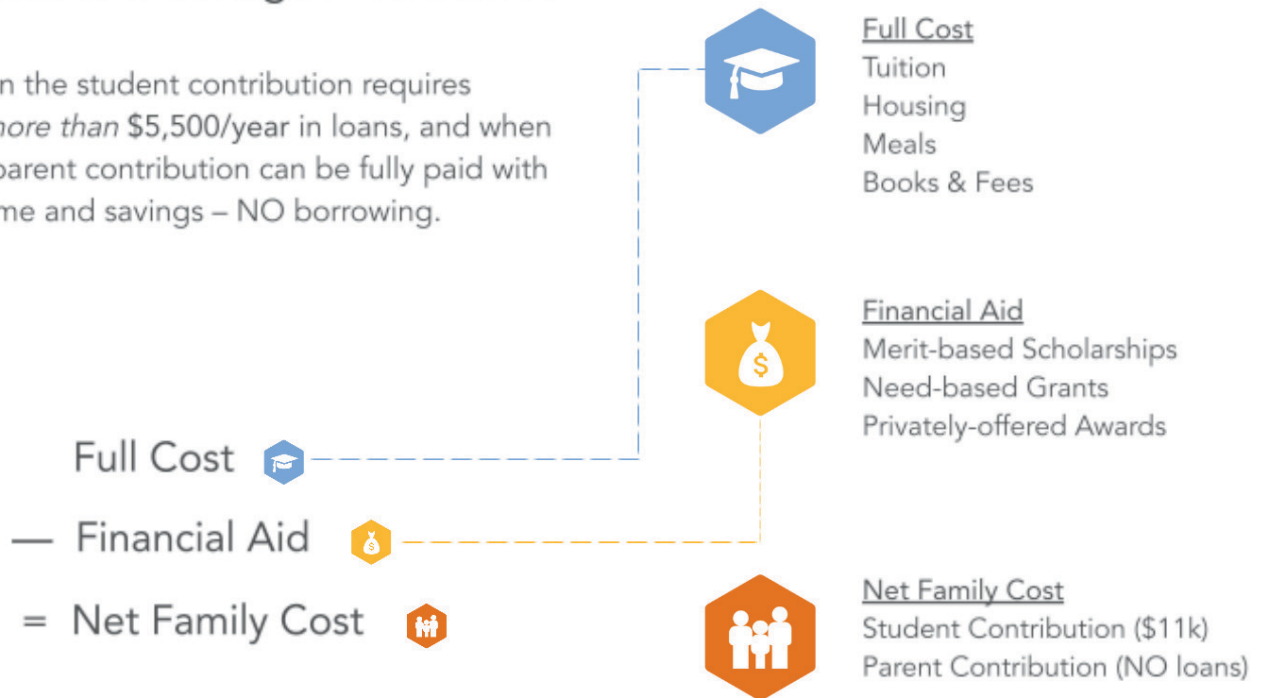
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01	PB & J Cheese Stick Bug Bites Fruit & Veggies Milk	02 Chicken Fajita Refried Beans Fruit & Veggies Milk	03 Spaghetti w/Meatsauce Beans Bread & Veggies	04 Chicken Patty WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggies Milk	05 <b>X</b>	06 <b>X</b>
08	09 Hamburger WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggies Milk	10 Chicken Tender Carrots Cookie Fruit & Veggies Milk	11 Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggies Milk	12 Meatball Sub Potato Fruit & Veggies Milk	13 <b>X</b>	14
15	16 Corn dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggies Milk	17 Walking Taco Corn Fruit & Veggies Milk	18 Ham & Cheese Wrap Green Beans Fruit & Veggies Milk	19 Thai Meatballs Brown Rice Carrots Fruit & Veggies Milk	20 <b>X</b>	21
22	23 Hotdog WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggies Milk	24 Cripito Black Bean & Corn Salsa Fruit & Veggies Milk	25 Chicken Nuggets Hot Veggie Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggies Milk	26 Fiestada Hot Veggies Fruit & Veggies Milk	27 <b>X</b>	28
29	30	01	02	03	04	05



# Financial Benefits of ACT Preparation

## When Is a College Affordable?

When the student contribution requires *no more than \$5,500/year* in loans, and when the parent contribution can be fully paid with income and savings – NO borrowing.



## Students Can Contribute \$11k a Year to College

**\$5.5k**

Student Loans

Maximum borrowed per year, so student eventually has a modest monthly payment and can be debt-free within 10 years

**\$3.0k**

Student Earnings

Minimum annual earnings from a part-time job, preferably during breaks and weekends

**\$2.5k**

American Opportunity Tax Credit

Annual benefit (per full-time college student) for families with less than \$160,000 in pre-tax income; qualify with Form 1098-T

## College Preparation Strategies

### Test Scores

Take the Test four times to get your highest score possible. (Students in Federal Free & Reduced lunch programs can take 2 - 4 free Tests). Colleges only consider your highest scores.

### Apply

Create more competition and earn more generous scholarships by applying to at least 5 four-year schools. If you are only considering two-year colleges, apply to at least 2 schools.

### Finish Strong

Maintain a high GPA. Most academic scholarships consider both GPA and test scores. Also, excel in at least one extracurricular activity. Create a 90-second video to show your skills to colleges.

The dollar amount in each box represents the tuition cost (after merit-based scholarships) that a student with the ACT test score (listed across the top of each table) would pay for one year of tuition (15 credits per semester) at that college. (non-tuition costs – fees, housing, meals, and books – often add up to an additional ~\$12,500 per year.)

\$1000

Dark Blue boxes signify automatic scholarships (as listed on the college's website). Automatic awards often also require a minimum GPA or class rank.

\$1000

Light gray boxes signify eligibility for the award, which can require a separate application.

Blank boxes signify no merit-based scholarship based primarily on that Test score at this college; therefore, the student might expect to pay full tuition. The student should still apply for other merit-based and need-based scholarships.

If an entire row is blank, the school does not organize its scholarships by test score or does not provide this specific information on its website. **An asterisk \* means that fees are included in the school's base tuition**, which lowers the remaining non-tuition costs (textbooks, housing, and meals) from approximately \$12,500 to approximately \$11,000 per year.

If a school offers a non-renewable award, the award is averaged through the years of attendance. For example, if a four-year school offers a one-year award of \$5000, the amount is \$1250 less than total tuition, as the scholarship is divided by 4.

Figures are current as of August 2024.

### Public 4-Year Schools: Schools' Tuition Based on a Student's Score

	Tuition	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32+
<b>Chadron</b>	\$5880					\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Peru</b>	\$5880	GPA scholarships = \$2,000-\$8,500/year; Test score based competitive available for full tuition											
<b>Wayne</b>	\$5880					\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>UNK</b>	\$6690	Merit scholarships = \$3,000/year-full tuition										\$0	\$0
<b>UNL</b>	\$8310	Scholarships available \$1,000/year-full tuition; \$8,500 for in-demand major										\$4310	\$4310
<b>UNO</b>	\$7530	Scholarships available up to \$3,500/year; STEM major awards vary										\$0	\$0

### Private 4-Year Schools: Schools' Tuition Based on a Student's Score

	Tuition	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31+
Bellevue Univ	\$10170	Automatic awards = \$5,000/year; high-demand majors = up to \$10,000/year										
Bryan Health Sci	\$19140	Awards available to students based on academic achievement, leadership, and financial need										
Clarkson Coll	\$20130	Competitive awards = \$15,000/year, 3.75+ GPA required; automatic awards = \$4,000/year										
Concordia Univ	\$39800	Score/GPA awards = \$24,000/year; GPA awards = \$16,000-\$19,000/year										
Creighton Univ	\$46800	All applicants considered for merit-based scholarships										
Doane Univ	\$40520	Awards based on GPA = \$13,000-\$21,000/year; full tuition competition available										
Hastings Coll	\$35990	Awards based on GPA = \$10,000-\$18,000/year; full tuition competition available										
Midland Univ	\$41150	27/Honors Program = \$30,000+/year; all students considered for add'l awards										
NE Methodist	\$18690	Awards based on GPA = \$2,500-\$4,500/year; competitive = \$6,000-\$9,000/year										
St. Mary	\$24510	Scholarships of \$2,000, \$4,000, or \$6,000/year available based on test scores and GPA										
Summit Christian	\$6900			\$6469	\$6469	\$6038	\$6038	\$5175	\$5175	\$5175	\$5175	\$5175
Union College	\$29334	GPA scholarships range from \$4,000-\$10,000/year; 33/3.9 GPA = full tuition										
Wesleyan	\$42274	GPA scholarships = \$20,000-\$24,000/year; competitive = \$24,000/year-full ride										
York College	\$22500				\$19000	\$19000	\$19000	\$18500	\$18500	\$18500	\$17500	\$17500

Public 2-Year Schools: Schools' Tuition Based on a Student's Score								
	Tuition	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Central CC	\$2880	Scholarship opportunities are available online						
Little Priest Tribal	\$4050	Scholarship opportunities are available through American Indian College Fund						
Metropolitan CC	\$2040							\$0
Mid-Plains CC	\$3120		\$1560	\$1560	\$780	\$780	\$0	\$0
NE College of Tech Ag	\$4470	GPA scholarships = \$1,500-\$2,500/year						
Nebraska Indian*	\$5100	NE resident = \$1,000/year; scholarships available thru American Indian College Fund						
Northeast CC	\$3240				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Southeast CC	\$3150	Apply for scholarships during senior year of high school						
Western NE CC	\$3285			\$1643	\$1643	\$1643	\$0	\$0

During the 24-25 school year, high school students had the opportunity to use OnToCollege. Mrs. Rother led instructional lessons using modules during study sessions. Your student can continue to access OnToCollege or utilize it for the first time this summer.

### How to use OnToCollege:

**Link:** <https://www.ontocollege.com/about-ontocollege/meet-our-team-act-sat-prep-online/john-baylor/>

**Username:** JCC Email

**Temporary Login Password:** Thunderbirds!

Follow the 'How to Change Your Password' instructions

### Available Courses:

All Courses

OTC's Prep for the ACT Test Course Schedules

Prep for the ACT Test (for first-time ACT prep for high school students)

Refresher Prep for the ACT Test (refresher material for returning testers)

Prep for the Pre-ACT Test (for sophomores and below who haven't taken the ACT)

Prep for the Pre-ACT 8/9

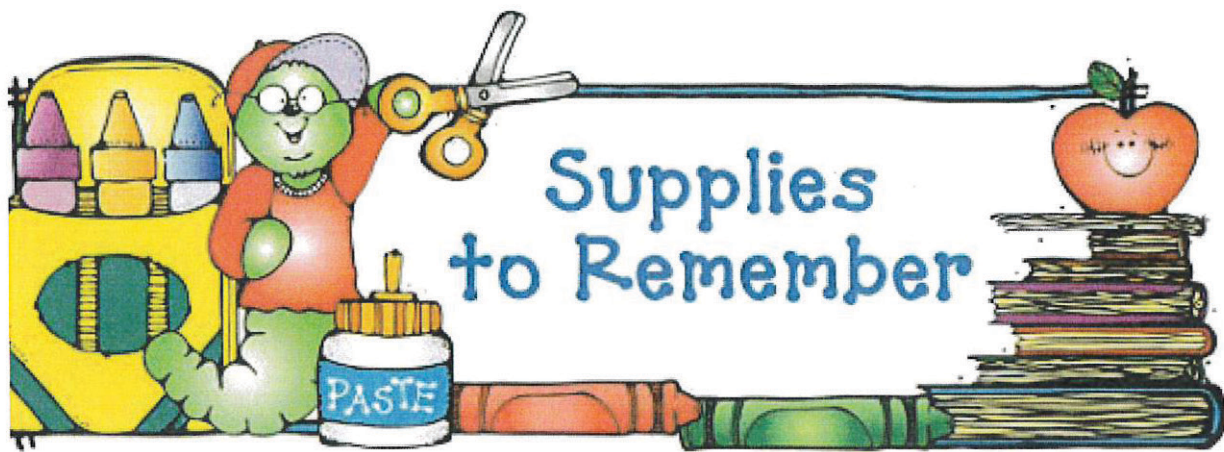
Middle School Matters (supplementary material for middle school students)

## ACT Registration Dates

2025 National Test Dates Schedule			
Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies After This Date	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16	March 28
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 27	June 6
July 12, 2025*	June 6	June 20	July 4

For more information on ACT go to the ACT website: <https://www.act.org>





## JCC Preschool 3yr & 4yr programs-Half Day

- Backpack (full size)
- 2 Boxes of Kleenex
- 3 Baby wipe packages
- 2 Disinfecting wipe containers
- Change of clothes including socks and underwear please
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- Reusable water bottle  
(no straws please, dishwasher safe)

**Please mark all supplies with your child's name.**

## JCC Preschool 4 yr old program-All Day

- KinderMat
- Backpack (full size)
- Pillow case
- Beach towel
- 1 Box of Kleenex
- 3 Baby wipe package
- Change of clothes including socks and underwear please
- Reusable water bottle  
(no straws please, dishwasher safe)

**Please mark all supplies with your child's name.**



# **KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST**

**Book Bag**  
**A pencil box**  
**Eraser**  
**10 – 12 pencils**  
**Fiskar Scissors (no points)**  
**4 boxes of Crayons: 24 count**  
**(Crayola prefer)**  
**8 -10 glue sticks**  
**1-2 Rolls of paper towels**  
**Rug, towel, mat, or small blanket**  
**for rest time**  
**2 large boxes of Kleenex**  
**3-4 Containers of Anti-Bacterial Wipes**  
**4 – 6 Expo Black Dry Erase markers**  
**Small Water Bottle – 20 oz. or less**  
(We will be keeping these at our desks, refilling them daily, and sending them home on the week-ends to be washed. This is so they can have plenty of water to drink every day!)

**Please label all items (clothing, etc.)**  
**with student's name!**  
**Thank You!**



**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**  
**Ms. Snethen & Mrs. Faris**

2 dozen SHARPENED #2 pencils  
3 pks of 8 Crayons & 1 big pk of many colors  
1 large pencil box  
1 paint shirt  
1 bottle of Elmer's glue & 12 glue sticks  
1 pair (no sharp points) scissors  
2 boxes of Kleenex  
4- 2 pocket folders: 1 red, 1 blue, 1 green, 1 yellow  
1 drawing tablet/sketch pad  
1 larger eraser  
1- 2 inch binder  
1 larger shoe box with lid or plastic container with lid  
2 container of anti-bacterial wipes  
P.E. Shoes  
3 rolls of paper towels  
1 box of quart or gallon zip lock baggies

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**  
**Mrs. Badertscher & Mrs. Doeden**

2 dozen yellow Ticonderoga #2 pencils  
2 big erasers  
4 glue sticks  
2 spiral notebook, wide ruled  
2 boxes 24 crayons  
Colored Pencils (12 or 24 count)  
1 small pencil box or bag  
Washable Markers (10 Count)  
2 large boxes of Kleenex  
1 containers of anti-bacterial wipes  
P.E. shoes  
School bag  
1 pair pointed Fiskars scissors  
1 pair of extra clothes to keep in locker

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Ms. Plager & Mrs. Gyhra**

One package of #2 pencils  
(no mechanical pencils please)  
One box of colored pencils  
One box of crayons  
One red checking pen  
Two packages expo markers  
One pair of scissors  
Eight glue sticks  
Two to four boxes of Kleenex  
One roll of paper towels  
Two wide ruled spiral notebooks  
One package pencil top erasers  
One container of anti-bacterial wipes  
P.E. shoes  
Pencil bag

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
**Mrs. Dorsey & Mrs. Robison**

Colored pencils  
Crayons  
24 yellow, six-sided, #2 pencils,  
sharpened, no mechanical pencils  
Erasers (pencil top and/or large)  
1 roll paper towels  
3 boxes of Kleenex  
3 containers of antibacterial wipes  
2 glue sticks  
1 bottle of white glue  
Scissors (Fiskars if possible)  
Zipper Pencil Bag  
Water Bottle with lid  
P.E. shoes (we change everyday)  
NO large trapper keepers or binders  
NO pencil sharpeners

2025-2026  
5th Grade Supply List  
Mrs. Crotty & Mrs. Gist

**\*\* PLEASE DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS:**  
mechanical pencils, trapper keepers, pencil boxes, &  
block erasers.

**ITEMS TO BRING:**

24 pencils  
24 count crayons or colored pencils  
4 pocket folders  
3 spiral notebooks  
1 red pen & 1 black or blue pen  
Cap erasers  
4 Glue sticks  
3 large boxes of kleenex  
3 large containers of disinfecting wipes  
P.E. shoes - These are important so that the gym  
floor doesn't get scratched.



**2025-2026**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Supply List**

**Math & Science**

(Mrs. Mandy Goodrich)

- 24—# 2 pencils or  
mechanical pencils with lead refills
- box of kleenex
- 1 notebook (100 pgs. or more)
- 2 zipper pencil bags
- 4 glue sticks
- 2 rolls of scotch tape
- 1 container of Play-Doh
- pencil top erasers (optional)
- 1 large binder to use for all classes (optional)
- colored pencils/pens (optional)

**Art**

(Ms. Brittany Teeman)

- small sketchbook

**Language Arts**

(Ms. Twohig )

- 2 single subject notebooks
- pocket folder
- pencils, pens
- box of kleenex
- 1 inch 3 ring binder
- composition notebook

**Social Studies**

(Mr. Keaton Kleespies)

- spiral notebook
- pencils, pens
- pocket folders

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**2024-2025**  
**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Supply List**

- PENCILS, pens
- 1 large 3-ring binder (2-3 inch)
  - 3-4 boxes of kleenex
- pencil bag to go inside of binder
  - loose leaf paper
- spiral notebooks for each class
  - colored pencils
- Scientific Calculator (optional)
  - pocket folders (optional)
  - highlighters (optional)



## **JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

PO Box 338  
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 225  
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

Website: [www.jccentral.org](http://www.jccentral.org)

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Cook, NE 68329  
ECRWS

## **POSTAL PATRON**

### Non-Discrimination

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

### **Child Find**

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