



# THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2025

Volume 19  
Issue 3

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

**Justin Damme**  
Principal (9-12)  
402-335-7815

**Marsha Bacon**  
Principal (4-8)  
402-335-7885

**Beckie Robeson**  
Principal (PK-3)  
402-335-7839

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

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

**JCC**

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

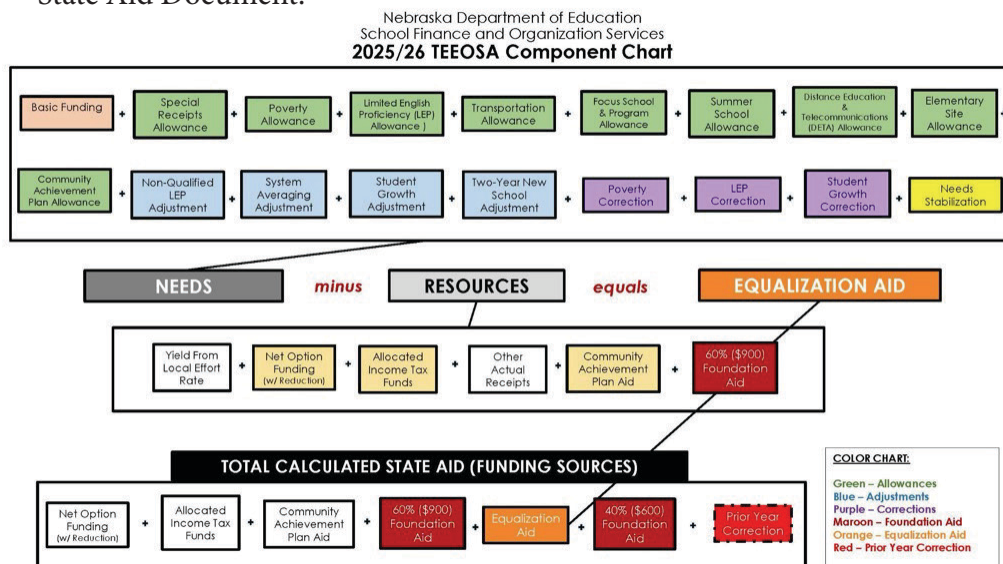


The Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) was enacted in 1990 in an attempt to “equalize” school funding and provide property tax relief. The basic formula is as follows:

$$\text{Needs} - \text{Resources} = \text{Equalization Aid}$$

“Equalization” looks at what the district needs (financially) to operate and what the district has in resources (mainly property taxes). If the district has more needs than it has resources, equalization aid is awarded in the amount of the difference. For some districts, the amount of equalization aid could be quite large; for others, not so much. In sum, if a school district's resources were meeting the “needs” of the school district, then little to no state aid was given.

The chart below breaks out the formula for state aid in more detail and includes all the state funding sources. To go further into detail about each element in the chart, go to the NDE website, Finance and Organizational Services Home and click on “State Aid Certification Information”. Or, follow this link [https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2526SA\\_TEEOSADocument.pdf](https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2526SA_TEEOSADocument.pdf) for the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) Certification of 2025/26 State Aid Document.



*Superintendent's Article continued from Page 1*

In 2023, Foundation Aid was added. Each school district would receive approximately \$1,500 of foundation aid per student enrolled in the district. This was another attempt to help school districts lower levies. The goal was to have every school district across the state at about the same levy.

Here is JCC's history of state aid:

For complete information on TEEOSA and state aid go to: <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/state-aid/>

If you have questions, or would like to talk more about school finance and budgeting, feel free to call, email or make an appointment!

jon.rother@jccentral.org

(402) 921-0187

	Formula Needs	Formula Resources	Equalization Aid	Total State Aid	Equalized
2007-2008				\$972,761	
2008-2009	\$5,057,147	\$3,993,221	\$1,063,926	\$1,571,563	Yes
2009-2010	\$5,583,146	\$4,127,740	\$1,455,406	\$1,532,957	Yes
2010-2011	\$5,648,921	\$4,334,769	\$1,314,153	\$1,368,512	Yes
2011-2012	\$5,308,254	\$4,459,368	\$848,886	\$907,414	Yes
2012-2013	\$5,554,189	\$5,095,357	\$458,832	\$519,582	Yes
2013-2014	\$5,639,988	\$5,543,953	\$96,035	\$195,012	Yes
2014-2015	\$6,110,989	\$6,092,094	\$18,895	\$95,939	Yes
2015-2016	\$6,347,462	\$6,835,292	\$0	\$68,401	NO
2016-2017	\$6,597,731	\$8,393,402	\$0	\$0	NO
2017-2018	\$6,598,950	\$8,197,714	\$0	\$48,067	NO
2018-2019	\$6,598,950	\$8,323,161	\$0	\$51,955	NO
2019-2020	\$6,598,950	\$8,109,200	\$0	\$49,804	NO
2020-2021	\$6,598,950	\$8,403,660	\$0	\$54,479	NO
2021-2022	\$6,806,635	\$8,431,979	\$0	\$57,595	NO
2022-2023	\$7,210,747	\$8,497,192	\$0	\$57,928	NO
2023-2024	\$7,713,218	\$9,396,778	\$0	\$789,594	NO
2024-2025	\$7,929,170	\$9,815,674	\$0	\$813,267	NO
2025-2026	\$8,539,875	\$11,072,522	\$0	\$783,924	NO

## Muller Scholarship Donations Sought

Friends of Marcee Muller are invited to donate funds to the Johnson County Central School Foundation to be used as a scholarship in her memory.

Marcee taught at Tecumseh High School from 1964 to 2001, when she retired. She taught Math, PE, and coached volleyball, track and softball. She kept statistics for high school basketball and volleyball. Bowling was her love.

Marcee was passionate about visiting and maintaining contact with fellow teachers, students, bowling buddies and all her friends.

Those who would like to honor her memory can send donations to:



Johnson County Central Foundation  
Attention: Laurie Badertscher  
PO Box 338  
Tecumseh, NE 68450



## JCC Veterans Day 2025

Tuesday, November 11

*Johnson County Central Middle School Gym*

*Cook, NE - 10:00 AM*

*Presentation by Sergeant Wade Bartels*

*1st Radio Battalion  
United States Marine Corps  
Camp Pendleton, CA  
2011-2016*

**11.11.2025**

*\* All veterans and their spouses are invited to eat lunch at the school following the program.*

*Meal is provided free of charge by the school. \**

*Johnson County Central High School Gym*

*Tecumseh, NE - 10:00 AM*

*Presentation by Technical Sergeant Zachary Bauman*

*Enlisted Accessions Recruiter  
United States Air Force  
343 Recruiting Squadron*



# Cell Phones, Social Media & Anxiety

“The Anxious Generation” by Jonathan Haidt

In March of 2024, Jonathan Haidt released his book *The Anxious Generation*. After beginning studies on the effects of social media on society, he was going to include a chapter on children and youth. This chapter became so big, and so involved, that Haidt decided to dedicate an entire book to the topic. He felt the overall negative effect that social media was having on the well-being of society and in this case children, adolescents and teens) must be shared and addressed.

Across the globe, we are starting to notice the effect that social media and technology use are having on both children and adults alike. Unfortunately, it's not all good news. Last year (May 2025) Nebraska Legislative Bill 140 was passed into law. In it, school districts are directed to:

**“...prohibit the use of an electronic communication device by students while on school property or attending a school instructional function.”**

From my work as an educator, I see not only are students becoming more anxious, but adults are as well. Things that weren't an issue 20 years ago suddenly are. In a world where everything is “supposed” to be more safe, we (as a society and not all inclusive) seem more afraid than ever.

I highly recommend Dr. Haidt's book. For more information, you can visit his website:

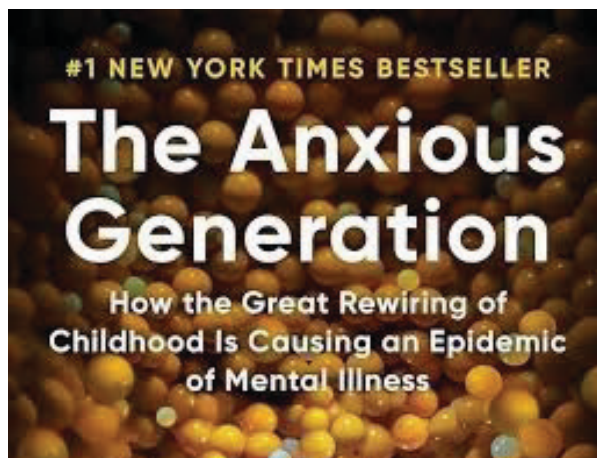
<https://jonathanhaidt.com>

AND

<https://www.anxiousgeneration.com>

If you're not much of a reader, Mr. Haidt does a great job of summarizing his research as a guest on a variety of podcasts. The spectrum of podcasts that he appears on shows the universal concern for this topic. Here are some links to just a few podcasts that can be found on Apple Podcasts and YouTube to watch or listen to featuring Dr. Haidt:

- Prof G Conversations: [The Crisis of Men and Boys — with Jonathan Haidt and Richard Reeves](#)
- Joe Rogan Experience: [Joe Rogan Experience #2121 - Jonathan Haidt](#)



- IMO With Michelle Obama and Craig Robinson: [Put The Phones Away with Jonathan Haidt](#)
- The Jordan B. Peterson Podcast: [How Social Media Is Wrecking Kids' Lives and Stealing Their Childhood | Jonathan Haidt](#)
- What Now? With Trevor Noah Podcast: [The Anxious Generation with Jonathan Haidt](#)
- Oprah and Jonathan Haidt on How Social Media Is Changing Childhood
- The Ezra Klein Show: [‘Our Kids Are the Least Flourishing Generation We Know Of’](#)
- Armchair Expert with Dax Shepard: [Jonathan Haidt Returns \(on the Anxious Generation\)](#)
- Dr. Jonathan Haidt: How Smartphones & Social Media Impact Mental Health & the Realistic Solutions - [Huberman Lab](#)
- The Rich Roll Podcast: [Jonathan Haidt On How Social Media Is Rewiring Childhood](#)
- Chris Williamson: [How Modern Life Is Making Us Less Happy - Jonathan Haidt](#)

*\*Please be advised that I have not personally listened to Dr. Haidt on each of these podcasts. As podcasts can vary in content and stray into other topics, I am not condoning or agreeing with the hosts, their opinions or views.\**



# High School News

## From Principal Justin Damme



October is a time of great energy at JCC! Thank you to our families, staff, and community for your continued support in making Johnson County Central a place where every student can thrive. It's hard to believe that we are coming up on the end of the 1st quarter already.

I would like to give parents a reminder about attendance. Good attendance is important at Johnson County Central. Good attendance reflects strong character, desire, and health (both physical and mental). If a student is absent for any reason, that student is not being exposed to the classroom learning environment. This environment brings on many discussions between students and/or their teachers. Students then miss out on learning and educational opportunities.

### Parents:

- Please notify the school by phone (335-3328) or email to Mrs. Moss at ([jennifer.moss@jccentral.org](mailto:jennifer.moss@jccentral.org)) of the reason for the absence.

### Students:

- Complete all work in advance for any anticipated absence
- Make-up all work assigned by teachers

Our attendance policies can be found in our student handbook. To access the handbook please use the following steps.

1. Access the school website at [www.jccentral.org](http://www.jccentral.org)
2. Navigate to the Students Tab → Handbook → 2025-26 Student Handbook → go to pages 13-16

If you have any questions; please contact me at school and I would be happy to assist you in any way that I can.

Contact Information: (402) 335-7815 or [justin.damme@jccentral.org](mailto:justin.damme@jccentral.org)

Here are some reminders of important dates coming up in October.\*

- Parents Night October
- Parent Teacher Conferences October 6th, 11:00am-7:00pm
- End of the Quarter 1 is Oct. 10th
- Picture Re-take day is Oct. 21

\*Please check the JCC Calendar online for additional activities going on in our district

Let's make October a month full of learning and lasting memories!

# JCC's Annual Title 1 Pumpkin Night

**Friday, October 3, 2025**

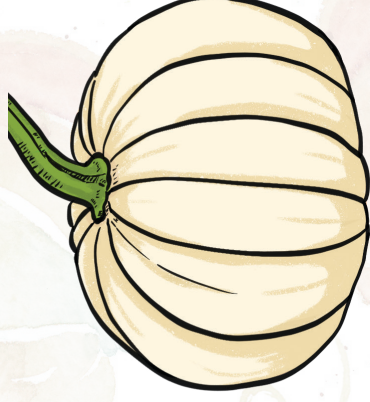
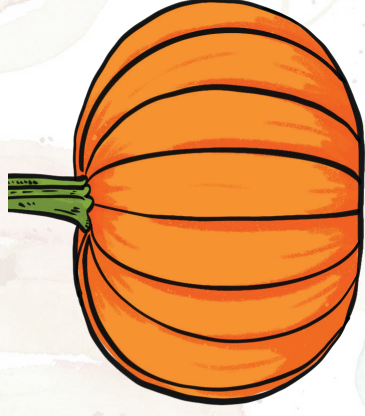
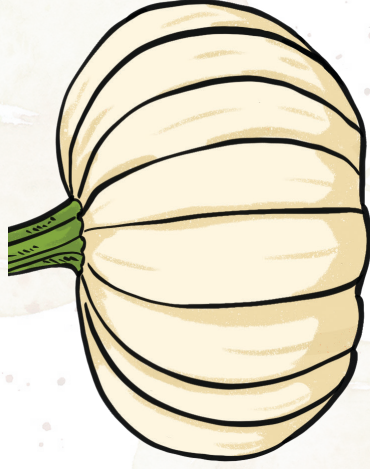


**Informational Meeting and Decorating at 5:30 pm in HS Cafeteria**

Free Hot Dog,  
Chips, & Drink

JCC Kindergarten – 5th grade students along  
with their parents/guardians are invited  
(younger siblings may also attend)

Free Pumpkin  
Decorating  
Following Meeting



Free Admission to JCC's Football Game  
(Must Attend Meeting)

# Cook Site News

By Marsha Bacon



## Halloween Friday, October 31

Students often enjoy dressing up for Halloween. Remember that student costumes for any dress up activity are not to interfere with student learning. Due to safety concern students will be asked to remove masks and leave faces uncovered during the school day. Dress code will still be enforced.

## Parent Teacher Conferences are Monday October 6

Parent Teacher Conferences are Monday, October 6 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The first quarter ends on Friday, October 10th, so there will be a little time for students to finish the quarter strong after conferences. Please make plans to attend conferences to discuss your child's classroom performance with their teachers. One of the most important factors in determining student academic success is parent involvement. If you have questions or concerns about your child's performance before conferences, or if you will be unable to attend conferences, please contact your child's teachers. We hope to see everyone at conferences.

## Fall MAP Testing Completed

During the first few weeks of school all students in grades 4-8 were administered the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in the areas of reading, math, language usage and science.

These are computerized adaptive tests that are designed to be instructionally useful, meaningful to students, and connected to classroom practice. This assessment will be administered one more time in the spring, and will measure student growth and will allow our teachers to develop targeted instructional strategies to improve student learning.

Teachers can use growth data from these assessments to pinpoint the instructional areas our students are ready to tackle-whether they are on, above or below grade level and can use this data to differentiate instruction and provide for individual student needs.

Information from these assessments can be used to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses for each individual student and also provide our staff with information on where our curriculum may need some improvement.

## Student Activities

### Richardson County Parade

The 7th & 8th grade Band marched at the Richardson County Fair in Humboldt on September 12th and have been performing in the Pep Band at our home football and volleyball games. The band, which includes almost 36 students, did an outstanding job marching in unison while playing the JohnsonCounty Central Fight Song.

### Middle School Athletics

Middle school athletics continues as we are in the last half of the fall sports season. The Junior High Football Team and Volleyball Teams are improving by the day and our Junior High Cross Country runners are competing at a high level. Sixty-nine percent (45 out of 65 of our 7th & 8th grade students are involved in one of our fall sports. These student-athletes and their coaches are working hard to improve their fundamentals and come together as a team, and are committing a great deal of time and effort to participate.

There are still a few opportunities to watch our teams compete. Come out and support the Thunderbirds! Keep up the good work, Coaches and Athletes!



• • • • • JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL • • • • •

# BOOK FAIR

Find Your Next Great Read

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - during  
school and online

**October 6th- 11am-7pm**  
during parent-teacher conferences



**JCC Teccumseh Elementary  
& Cook site locations**

**Proceeds from the fair go towards the purchase of  
new books for our JCC libraries.**

**We hope to see you there!**

**Online shopping available!** Ships directly to your  
house, with free shipping on book orders over \$25.

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/johnsoncoelemschtecumseh>

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/johnsoncoschoolcook>

# Greetings From the Elementary!

Fall is here, bringing cooler weather. With the change in seasons, it's important to take extra steps to keep children healthy and prepared to learn.

Cooler temperatures often lead to more colds, flu, and other seasonal illnesses. To help keep our school community healthy, please consider these reminders:

- Dress appropriately for the weather—make sure children wear jackets, sweaters, or layers to stay warm during outdoor activities.
- Handwashing—encourage frequent handwashing at home, as it is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs.
- Healthy habits—adequate sleep, balanced meals, and regular physical activity help boost the immune system.



## Scholastic Book Fair

Mrs. Meints, our school's media specialist, will once again host our annual book fair the week of Parent-Teacher Conferences. If you plan to send money to school for your child to purchase items from the book fair, please place it in a sealed envelope and notify the classroom teacher. This way, they will know to look for it. Otherwise, the book fair will be open after school and during conferences.

## Paperwork Reminder

- If you haven't already, please make sure all required paperwork is current, including your phone numbers. Remind is our main communication tool for the district. If your phone number isn't correct or up-to-date, you won't receive those messages.
- Remember, meals and milk snacks are to be paid in advance.

## Important Dates

- **Friday, October 3:** Title I Pumpkin Night 5:30
- **Monday, October 6:** No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, October 10:**
  - First-grade Trip to the Tecumseh Fire Station 11:45 a.m.
  - First Quarter Ends
- **Monday, October 13:** No School
- **Friday, October 17:** Kindergarten Field Trip to Roca Berry Farm
- **Monday, October 20:** Teacher In-Service, no school for students
- **Tuesday, October 21:** Picture Re-Take Day
- **Monday, October 27:** No School
- **Tuesday, October 28:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to Ag Literacy Festival
- **Friday, October 31:** JAG 'Haunted Hallway'

## Contact Info:

Please feel free to contact me at anytime during the school year

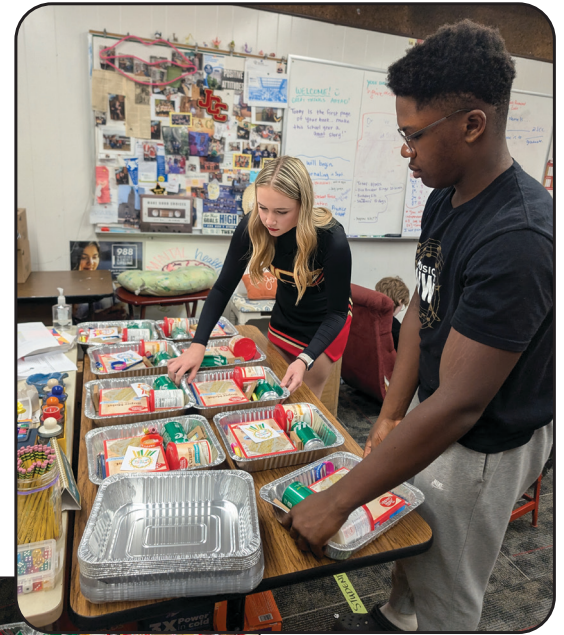
email: [beckie.roberson@jccentral.org](mailto:beckie.roberson@jccentral.org) phone: 402-335-7839

***Journey Together...Creating Opportunities...Committed to Excellence***

# JAG Students Spread Birthday Joy: A Community Service Initiative Takes Flight

The Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) students at JCCHS led by teacher Betsy Herbert, are embarking on a remarkable mission to ensure every PreK-3rd grade child experiences the magic of a birthday celebration. Through their dedicated work at the school's concession stand over the past two years, these ambitious Jag students have raised substantial funds which they've chosen to reinvest in their community through an innovative "Birthday Kits" project targeting PK-3rd grade students at JCC for the 2025-2026 school year.

The initiative, which aims to create 150 complete birthday party kits, demonstrates the JAG program's commitment to developing both leadership and empathy among its participants. Each thoughtfully assembled kit will contain all the essentials needed for a birthday celebration to take home: an aluminum pan with lid, cake mix, soda, frosting, birthday candles, plates, and napkins. The JAG students have cleverly included a simplified cake recipe that requires only the dry mix and soda, making it accessible for all families regardless of their access to additional ingredients like eggs and oil. This practical consideration showcases the students' attention to detail and understanding of community needs.



Last week, the Jag students delivered the summer birthday kits to 35 Elementary Students and will continue to deliver the kits on Fridays for the kids who have Birthdays that week.



The project's organization reflects the JAG program's emphasis on project management and teamwork, with each of the six JAG classes taking responsibility for specific elementary classes. This structured approach ensures efficient delivery and personalized attention to each young recipient. The initiative not only provides tangible support to families who might find birthday celebrations financially challenging but also exemplifies the core competencies of the JAG program: leadership development, community service, and project management skills. Through this thoughtful service learning project, JAG students are demonstrating how academic learning can translate into meaningful community impact, while developing essential life and career readiness skills that align with the program's objectives.



# Greetings Thunderbird Family

The fall sports are moving quickly and will be done before we know it! By the time you read the November newsletter, fall sports will be completed and winter practices about to begin. Our student-athletes and coaches have been in full swing and have been working hard representing their school and community in a positive way. We have seen a lot of success this fall and we hope to see that continue moving onward.

It was an eventful month of September with hosting our cross country and girls golf invite where our girls finished runner up, the girls WINNING the ECNC Golf Meet for the first time in school history, the volleyball team WINNING in the A Division at MUDECAS, and the football team getting some victories both home and away.

Harley Lubben & Ashley Beethe were named to the first team while Riley Wellensiek was named Honorable Mention at the MUDECAS Tournament. Congrats, girls!

Harley Reyes finished runner up, Amelia Britt finished 4th, and Marisol Mandl finished 5th at the ECNC Golf Meet. Those finishes earn those girls an All-Conference spot.

Congratulations to the class attendants Jude Longsine, Janel Leyva, Nayeli Bobadilla, Anthony Orozco, Amelia Britt and AJ Rautenbach. Senior homecoming royalty consisted of Charlyn Bobadilla, Saige Rother, Ashley Beethe, Harley Lubben and Catherine Wendt, Danny Kongmanyvong, Jack Waring, Wesley Swanson, Owen Weber, and Levi Othmer. Congratulations to Saige and Wesley on being voted Queen & King!

The month of October proves to be our busiest month yet with plenty of time to get out and support your Thunderbirds! Here are some notable events:

## **Cross Country:**

We will be hosting the ECNC meet at the Tecumseh Country Club on 10/7 at 4pm. Districts take place on October 15th.

## **Girls Golf:**

Districts take place on October 6th.

## **Football:**

3 games left in October (3rd v OCA, 10th @ Lourdes, 16th v HTRS)

## **Volleyball:**

We host our invite on the 4th at both sites, ECNC tournament begins on the 13th and subs will begin on the 27th.

Get out and support your fall sports while you still can!



JCC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

# ENGAGE, LEARN, GROW

## Looking for a fun and enriching after-school experience?

The Johnson County Central After School Program offers daily tutoring, exciting crafting activities, and plenty of fun from 4:15 PM until 6:15 PM.

## Enrollment is currently open!

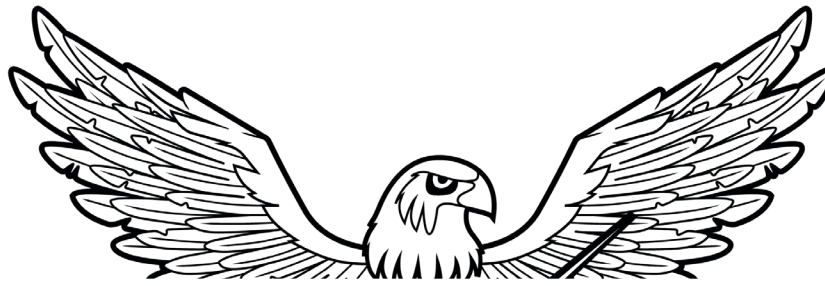
For just \$25 per week for each student and \$15 for each additional child, your kids can enjoy a safe, engaging environment that promotes learning and creativity.

## Ready to enroll?

Contact us at 402-335-3328.  
For questions or more information, reach out via email:  
Amber Baehr:  
[amber.baehr@jcccentral.org](mailto:amber.baehr@jcccentral.org)  
Jon Rother:  
[jon.rother@jcccentral.org](mailto:jon.rother@jcccentral.org)

**Don't miss out on the adventure—sign up today!**





## October Home Game

DRESS UP THEMES




Thursday, October 2 Volleyball Onesie Day	Friday, October 3 Football Neon Day
Saturday, October 4 Volleyball Duct Tape Day	Tuesday, October 7 Volleyball Clown Town Day
Thursday, October 9 Volleyball BBQ Dads and Soccer Moms Day	Monday, October 20 Volleyball Costume Party Day

Best Dressed Contest at Each  
Varsity Game will Receive a  
**PRIZE!**

Sponsored by JCC Cheer



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> Young Women's <b>Quiz Bowl</b> @ Seward - 8:30 AM  Hastings Mural Day - 9:30 AM  <b>Booster Club Mtg</b> @ El Mariachi - 6:30 PM	<b>2</b> SCC-Lincoln Health Care Day - 7:45 AM <b>Girls Golf</b> @ Hidden Valley - 9 AM <b>Cross Country</b> JV/V @ Pioneer's Park - 1:45 PM <b>JH Volleyball</b> @ Tri County - 4:30 PM <b>Volleyball C/JV/V</b> vs Johnson-Brock - 5 PM (VB Parents Night)	<b>3</b> <b>Juniors</b> - Education Quest College Fair - 12 PM Title 1 Pumpkin Night/ Tailgate - 5:30 PM Post Prom Cheeseburger Tailgate - 6:15 PM <b>Football</b> vs Omaha Christian - 7 PM (FB, Girls Golf, XC Parents Night)	<b>4</b> <b>Volleyball</b> - Varsity Home Invite @ HS & MS - 9 AM  <b>Marching Band</b> @ Peru State College Homecoming Parade - 10 AM
<b>5</b> FCA Nebraska - Fields of Faith @ HS Football Field - 5 PM	<b>6</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Teacher In-Service  <b>Girls Golf</b> @ Districts - TBD <b>JH Football</b> @ Southern - 5 PM  <b>JV Football</b> @ Weeping Water - 6 PM	<b>7</b> <b>Cross Country</b> ECNC Meet @ Tecumseh Country Club - 4 PM <b>JH Volleyball</b> vs Freeman - 4:30 PM <b>Volleyball C/JV/V</b> vs Cornestoga - 5 PM	<b>8</b> JCC Committee on American Civics Public Meeting - 5:45 PM  JCC School Board Meeting - 6 PM @ HS Computer Lab (Rm 204)	<b>9</b> <b>Volleyball C/JV/V</b> @ Auburn - 5 PM	<b>10</b> <b>Skills USA</b> Fall Leadership Conference @ Northeast CC - 5:15 AM <b>Football</b> vs Lourdes CC - 7 PM	<b>11</b> <b>JH Volleyball</b> @ Lewiston Tournament - 8 AM  <b>Volleyball - Reserve</b> Invite @ MS Cook - 9 AM
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <b>Girls Golf</b> @ State - TBD <b>Volleyball</b> @ ECNC Tourney - TBD	<b>14</b> <b>Girls Golf</b> @ State - TBD <b>Volleyball</b> @ ECNC Tourney - TBD  <b>JH Volleyball</b> vs Southern - 4:30 PM	<b>15</b> <b>Cross Country</b> Districts @ Cass Country Fairgrounds - 2 PM	<b>16</b> Doane Art Day - TBD <b>Volleyball</b> @ ECNC Tourney - TBD <b>Football</b> vs HTRS - 7 PM (Pink Out)	<b>17</b> Kindergarten Field Trip @ Roca Berry Farm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Teacher In-Service <b>Volleyball C/JV/V</b> @ Elmwood-Murdock - 5 PM	<b>21</b> <b>School Picture Re-Takes</b>  <b>Volleyball JV/V</b> vs Diller-Odell - 6 PM	<b>22</b> <b>FFA</b> State Land Judging @ Wahoo - 8 AM  Peru State College Visit - 9 AM	<b>23</b> <b>JAG</b> Leadership Conference @ TBD - 7 AM  <b>FFA</b> District Livestock Judging @ Beatrice - 8 AM  <b>Striv</b> Sports Media Workshop @ Midland University - 9 AM  <b>Pie Night Concert</b> @ Elem Auditorium - 7 PM	<b>24</b> <b>Cross Country</b> @ State - TBD	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>Volleyball</b> @ Subdistricts - TBD	<b>28</b> National <b>FFA</b> Convention (Indianapolis)  <b>Volleyball</b> @ Subdistricts - TBD	<b>29</b> Wayne State College - Wildcat Experience - 7 AM  Peru State College Art Day - 9 AM  <b>Booster Club Mtg</b> @ El Mariachi - 6:30 PM	<b>30</b> <b>Unified Bowling</b> @ Wilber-Clatonia - 12:30 PM	<b>31</b> <b>JAG</b> "Haunted Hallway" - 1-3 PM	QR Code for JCC Event Calendar on Google! 

# October 2025

## Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"						
5	6 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences 11 am-7 pm	7 Turkey/Cheese Wrap Baked Beans WG Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Hamburger/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Pizza Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11
12	13 NO SCHOOL 	14 Chicken Nugget Hot Veggie Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Enchilada- MS/HS Burrito-EL Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Corn dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18 
19	20 NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	21 Tator Tot Casserole Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Chicken Fajita Black Bean/Corn Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Stuffed Crust Pizza Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Sloppy Joe/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25
26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 Chicken Quesadilla Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Totcho's Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	30 Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i> Zombie Eyes on Werewolf Hide (Meatball Sub) Witch's Fingers (Green Beans) Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	

# NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

## Mrs. Olivia Reuter

### **Nebraska's Universal FAFSA Requirement- All Seniors in the Class of 2026 Must Fill Out the FAFSA or Turn in a Signed Waiver Form**

Nebraska law now requires all public high school students to complete and submit a FAFSA (or actively opt-out) as a graduation requirement. FAFSA became a graduation requirement with the passage of revised statute 79-729 in 2023.

The Nebraska legislature determined that the FAFSA is an excellent opportunity to learn of financial aid they may receive, to encourage postsecondary education, and to make more informed college-going decisions. There are many resources to complete the FAFSA. If students need help, they can definitely ask Mrs. Reuter. Filling out the FAFSA does not mean that students must make the ultimate decision of going to college. The FAFSA just allows them to see what financial resources are available to them if they decide to go to college.

If students and their parents decide that filling out the FAFSA is not right for them, for any reason, there is a waiver form available in both English and Spanish. Students who do not fill out the FAFSA must complete a waiver form with their parents and turn it into Mrs. Reuter by May 1st. The waiver forms are available in Mrs. Reuter's office.

### **ACT National Testing at JCC**

All JCC students are welcome to sign up to take the ACT at JCC High School on national testing dates (specific Saturdays or Sundays). Students sign up at [act.org](http://act.org).

JCC will pay for a high school student to take the test once. We have many students making use of this opportunity in October as we have 61 students signed up to test on either October 18th or 19th. This saves a student between \$68 and \$97 depending on their testing option. Registration is closed for October testing now, however sign up for December, February, April, and June testing is still open. The main reason to take the ACT multiple times is to help earn additional scholarship money. Some scholarships still have ACT requirements and many four-year colleges or universities consider the ACT in one way

or another when it comes to determining institutional scholarship amounts. Students choose to take the ACT on national testing dates if they want to; this testing is always optional. This is different from the state-mandated ACT test for juniors which is taken on a school day in March.

The next ACT at JCC that students can sign up for is on Sunday, December 14th. The registration deadline is November 7th for that one. Students who have not had the school pay for a test yet and who want that option, need to see Mrs. Reuter to register. The next national testing date after that one is Saturday, February 14th. Students can register for that test from now until January 9th. We try to offer testing dates on both Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year to meet the needs of all students as long as we have staff who can come in to help with testing rooms. Some students have more availability to test on Saturdays and some students are only free to test on Sundays; ACT offers both dates throughout the year, so we accept the testing dates that they offer us.

### **High School Students and Parents- EducationQuest is an Important Resource**

EducationQuest is an excellent resource for all Nebraska high school students and their parents and families. Whether it's exploring colleges and future options, understanding how to plan for college or figuring out how to pay for college, EducationQuest has all of the information you could ever need and people available at their offices to answer any questions you may have. They are especially helpful when it comes to applying for financial aid and filling out the FAFSA. The FAFSA (free application for federal financial aid) should be filled out by every student planning to attend college whether they will qualify for federal aid or not. The reason is because it's a tool that most colleges and universities use to award institutional aid as well. In talking with a representative in the financial aid office at UNL, there are several scholarships that go unawarded because students they could award them to do not have a FAFSA on file. Filling out the FAFSA can be daunting and confusing as it changes every single year. Visit EducationQuest's website or call their Lincoln office at 402-475-5222 for help. They always have someone willing to help!



# Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026

Introducing the Class of 2026... Each month, I will feature some of our seniors at JCC High School. This month, meet Josie, Wes, Cameron, and Catherine.

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*Josephine (Josie) McDonald*  
*JCC Class of 2026*

Josie McDonald is the daughter of Mike and Roxanne McDonald of Tecumseh. She is two siblings, Colton (age 25) and Shaylie (age 19).

Josie's favorite high school class was Intro to Education with Mrs. Richardson and her most challenging class is American Government because it involves a lot of writing. Josie's extra-curricular activities include band, choir, cheer, and Skills USA. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl.

Outside of school, Josie likes to read. Josie adds, "Noah Kahan is my favorite artist. I love the Jersey Shore as far as TV goes. My favorite book of all time is called To All the Boys I Have Ever Loved. It was written by Jenny Han.

After high school, Josie is planning on going to college to major in elementary education. Right now, she is considering both Peru State College and Chadron State College. In ten years, Josie predicts, "I think I will be living somewhere in Nebraska. Hopefully, I will be in a classroom working with kids. By this point in life, I hope to at least be married."

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Wesley Swanson is the son of Ben Swanson and Emilie Rinne. He has three sisters, Allie (age 20), Rikki (age 11), and Brooklyn (age 9).

Wes's favorite high school class is chemistry because they do a lot of hands-on activities and projects in that class. His most challenging classes were Accounting last year and English Composition this year. They are both very time-consuming classes and hard to catch up on if you miss a class due to a school activity or illness.

Throughout high school, Wes has been in many school activities including football, basketball, golf, unified track, FBLA, FFA, FCA, National Honor Society, Skills USA, and choir. His favorite school lunches are both the meatball sub and the teriyaki chicken lunches.

Outside of school, Wes likes to hang out with his friends. When asked about additional interests, Wes said, "My favorite musical artist is Kanye West. My favorite movie is Planet of the Apes. The Maze Runner is my favorite book. After high school, Wes plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to major in pre-physical therapy. Wes is most interested in physical therapy as a future career because he has had a lot of experience going to physical therapy and he finds the human body to be very interesting.

In ten years, Wes predicts, "I will be out of college and grad school; I will have a job as a physical therapist. I will have a house and a wife, but probably not kids yet. I hope I have two dogs and a big backyard."



*Wesley Swanson*  
*JCC Class of 2026*

# Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026

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*Cameron Werner*  
*JCC Class of 2026*

Cameron Werner is the son of Nathan and Melissa Werner of Tecumseh. He has one brother named Elliott who is 14 years old.

Cameron's favorite high school class is calculus because he likes being able to work difficult things out and learn complicated problems that he didn't understand before. Calculus is also his most challenging class because of the many things he doesn't understand in it.

Cameron's school activities include Skills USA Band, FFA, wrestling, cross country, and National Honor Society. His favorite school lunch is chili.

Outside of school, Cameron likes riding his dirt bike with his friends. His favorite musical artist is Jack Johnson. His favorite tv shows are SWAT and the Good Doctor. His favorite movies are Ford vs. Ferrari and F1. As of now, Cameron is interested in attending either the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is interested in majoring in agricultural engineering, architectural engineering, or aviation science. He is interested in a career as a commercial pilot because of the many responsibilities you have.

In ten years, Cameron predicts, "I would like to be living near Denver, Colorado. I hope I have a job as a commercial pilot at one of the biggest airports in the world."

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Catherine Wendt is the daughter of Mike and Sara of Tecumseh. She has one brother, Wesley, who is 22 years old.

Catherine's favorite class is CNA (certified nursing assistant) class because it is fun and interactive and will help her get ahead in her future. Her most challenging classes have been all of her math classes.

Catherine has been involved in many school activities including golf, track, softball, FFA, FBLA, HOSA, National Honor Society, student council, One Act, and the spring play. Catherine brings her own lunch every day so she doesn't have a favorite school lunch. Her favorite lunch to bring is roast beef and potatoes.

Outside of school, Catherine enjoys spending time outdoors. She enjoys listening to country music and watching Grey's Anatomy on TV when she has time. Her favorite author is Stephen King.

As of now, Catherine plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or Peru State College. She plans to major in Nursing and has a goal of becoming either a nurse practitioner or a nurse anesthetist.

In ten years, Catherine says, "I would like to live right here in Tecumseh. I want to work at the Johnson County Hospital and live somewhere in the country."



*Catherine Wendt*  
*JCC Class of 2026*



# A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL ED & STUDENT SERVICES

*Dr. Rademacher*

## SERVICES AND RELATED SERVICES

Special Education has many types of services. Nebraska Rule 51 covers children ages 3-21, while Rule 52 covers Birth- 2 within these the word 'service' means several different things.

### **Rule 52:**

These services are usually called Early Intervention Services. These services are provided due to a developmental delay, and parents or healthcare providers can make a referral through the Early Development Network (EDN), for children ages birth through age 2. Referrals can be made through the Educational Service Unit 4 at 402-274-4354 or directly to Rebecca Kling at JCC 402-335-3320, who will then call the EDN coordinators at ESU#4. JCC partners with ESU 4 to provide these services. We also have Kelsi Meyer, OT and Julie Saathoff, PT from JCH who provide services to our students.

### **Rule 51:**

Services under Rule 51 are much broader due to the 13 verification areas and for school aged children 5-21. These services may be provided by a Special Education teacher, a Speech Language Pathologist, a School Psychologist, Occupational Therapist (OT), Physical Therapist (PT), Deaf and Hard of Hearing instructor, Audiologist, Vision teacher, and Nursing staff. Service providers are based on student individual needs. Services may be located in the general education setting (aka the classroom) or in a special education setting (resource room, pull-out of class, small group or 1-on-1 services). Decisions are based on students' individual needs as determined by a team including school members & parents).

Services are also based on a students' evaluation results. JCC is very fortunate to have our own school psychologist and mental health provider, Dr. Glunz who helps identify and verify students as part of our multi-disciplinary team. She evaluates intelligence, academics, and behaviors, while Ms. Southard evaluates for speech and/or language. Services can be a primary service or a related services based on the students' individual needs.

In the state of Nebraska, services are provided Birth to 21 for children who verify as a child with a disability. There are many different types of services within JCC and the state of Nebraska, if you have questions, please reach out to Dr. Rademacher.



## RESOURCES

- [Early Development Network @ ESU4](#)
- [Nebraska Early Development Network](#)



## **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.

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## **POSTAL PATRON**

### Non-Discrimination

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

### **Child Find**

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