



THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

School Financing Review Commission - Annual Report

SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE

BY JON H. ROTHER



On December 1, 2025, Dr. Brian L. Maher, Commissioner of Education and Chairperson of the School Financing Review Commission, released the annual report. The report itself is 236 pages in its entirety and can be found here:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/SFRC-Repot-12.01.2025-FINAL.pdf>

As Dr. Maher highlights in his opening letter, in 2024-2025, the State of Nebraska provided for approximately 53% of funding to Nebraska schools through:

- Foundation Aid,
- Equalization Aid,
- and various Tax Credits.

This information pertains to the General Fund only.

Below is the breakdown for Johnson County Central's General Fund from Page 13 of Attachment B in the report.

School District Revenue Analysis 2023-2024

Local Property Tax (General Fund)	=	52%	(\$5,105,061)
County Contributions	=	< 1%	(\$41,976)
State Contributions	=	37%	(\$3,610,111)
Federal Contributions	=	10%	(\$958,139)
Other Contributions	=	1%	(\$74,358)
TOTAL	=	100%	(\$9,789,645)

Comparison of 2024-2025 Levied and Effective Non-Bond Taxes After State Tax Credits

Although JCC's levied tax was set at \$8,845,042 (97¢) for the General Fund, Special Building Fund and QCPUF combined, after Homestead Credits, Real Property Tax Credits and School Tax Credits, **the actual amount JCC property owners were taxed was \$5,746,547** (effective levy of 63¢).

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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

These figures come from Attachment XX (Comparison of 2024 Levied and Effective Non-Bond Taxes and Tax Rates by School District After All State Tax Credits) in the report.

JCC Total Valuation	=	\$911,737,214	
Levied Tax (all funds)	=	\$8,845,042	(levy of 0.970130)
- Homestead Credit	=	- \$126,999	
- Real Property Tax Credit	=	- \$819,747	
- School Tax Credit	=	- \$2,151,749	
Net Tax	=	\$5,746,546.51	(levy of 0.630285)

If you would like more information regarding the commissions report, please feel free to contact me at (402) 921-0187 or email me at jon.rother@jccentral.org.

AQuESTT (HOW STUDENT TEST SCORES ARE USED TO DESIGNATE SCHOOLS)

AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow) is the Nebraska Department of Education's system for public education accountability. School districts receive a "designation" from their spring assessments in late fall of the current school year.

School districts can receive a designation of:

- Excellent
- Great
- Good
- Needs Improvement

The main indicator for determining a school district's, or school building's, designation is student outcomes from the NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) for grades 3-8 and the ACT for grade 11.

The NSCAS scores students on their knowledge of English/Language Arts (grades 3-8), Mathematics (grades 3-8) and Science standards (grades 5 & 8). The ACT scores students in the areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

All students are required to participate in state assessments. The state allows no more than 1% of a school's population to take an alternate assessment due to disabilities. Students who are new to a district will participate in the assessments, however the score will not count toward the school's designation.

Here are the proficiency levels that must be achieved to receive each designation:

District	Elementary	Middle School	High School
EXCELLENT			
> 70%	≥ 75%	≥ 73%	≥ 61%
GREAT			
≥ 60% but < 70%	≥ 60% but < 75% JCC EL TEC 62 %	≥ 60% but < 73%	≥ 45% but < 61% JCC HS 54 %
GOOD			
≥ 45% but < 60% JCC DISTRICT 58 %	≥ 35% but < 60% JCC EL COOK 56 %	≥ 40% but < 60% JCC MS 59 %	≥ 26% but < 45%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT			
< 45%	< 35%	< 40%	< 25%

Other factors that can contribute to an adjustment of a designation are:

- Chronic Absenteeism Reduction
 - Progress Toward English Language Proficiency
 - Graduation Rates
 - Student Discipline Rates
 - Student Growth (on assessments)
 - Non-Proficiency Reduction
 - Science Proficiency
 - Participation (no more than 1% of the student population can take an alternate assessment based on student needs)
-



NDE AQuESTT Designations for JCC

District: **GOOD**

(241 students assessed from grades 3-8, 11)

NSCAS ELA **56%**, MATH **61%**, SCI **78%** - ACT ELA **49%**, MATH **60%**, SCI **40%** = **58%**

High School: **GREAT**

(40 student assessments from grade 11)

ACT ELA **49%**, MATH **60%**, SCI **40%** = **54%**

Middle School: **GOOD**

(101 students assessed from grades 6-8)

NSCAS ELA **52%**, MATH **64%**, SCI **76%** = **59%**

Cook Site Elementary: **GOOD**

(63 students assessed from grades 4-5)

NSCAS ELA **58%**, MATH **55%**, SCI **81%** = **56%**

Tecumseh Site Elementary: **GREAT**

(37 students assessed from grade 3)

NSCAS ELA **62%**, MATH **62%** = **62%**

The Nebraska State Education Profile, and profiles for all Nebraska districts and schools, can be found at the following link:

<https://nep.education.ne.gov/>

If you would like more information regarding AQuESTT, state accountability and/or student testing, please feel free to contact me at (402) 921-0187 or email me at jon.rother@jcccentral.org.

The State of the District Report 24-25

(THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS AND DATA ARE REPORTING ON THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR)

Financial

Operating Budget = \$10,662,833

Per Pupil Cost = \$23,666

Students

Student Membership = 500 students

Asian = 1.40%

Hispanic = 17%

White = 76.40%

American Indian/Alaskan Native = 0.60%

Black or African American = 2.60%

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander = 0.20%

Two or More Races = 1.80%

Highly Mobile = 6.2% (state average 3.65%)

- *Highly Mobile is any student who enrolls in two or more public schools during a single academic year, with late enrollment after the state's official count day often counting as the second school.*

English Learner = 5.41% (state average 10.34%)

Free/Reduced Lunch = 56.20% (state average 50.43%)

Gifted (High Ability Learner) = 9.52% (state average 13.13%)

Students With Disabilities = 29.22% (state average 17.07%)

Graduation Rate = 97.50% (state average 87.90%)

College Going Rate = 89.29%

Attendance Rate = 93.65% (state average 92.80%)

Chronic Absenteeism = 20.00% (state average 19.38%)

Dropout Rate = <1% (state average 1.42%)

School Mobility Rate = 9.74% (state average 7.73%)

Staff

Total Staff = 109

Superintendent = 1

Principals = 2

Teachers = 47

Librarian = 1

Technology Director = 1

Psychologist/Mental Health Practitioner = 1

Speech/Language Pathologist = 1

Custodial/Maintenance Staff = 7

Nutrition Services/Kitchen Staff = 7

Office Staff = 4

School Nurses = 3

Transportation Staff = 5

Activity/Substitute Bus Drivers = 2

Para-Professionals = 17

Community Coaches = 10



For more information about Johnson County Central's school data and information, feel free to contact me at (402) 921-0187 or email me at jon.rother@jccentral.org.

High School News

From Principal Justin Damme

2nd Quarter/1st Semester Report Cards were handed out to students during the week of January 13th. If you haven't seen your child's report card, please talk to them or call the office.

The 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester Honor Roll has also been released for High School students. Congratulations to these students for their hard work!

Second-semester **Parent-Teacher Conferences** will take place on **February 16th, 2026, from 11:00 am - 7:00 pm**. Parent-Teacher Conferences are a great opportunity for parents to talk to the teachers and have detailed conversations about grades, classroom behavior, and share what is going on in the classroom.

A meeting will take place with Juniors and Seniors about Prom on February 11th, 2026, during study session. **JCC Prom is on March 21, 2026.**

The month of February is our first step in preparation for next fall, when our students will start **pre-registration for the 2026-2027 school year**. 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 parents must also sign off on it. Mrs. Reuter, 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 on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. They will be due back at the office on Friday, March 13, 2026. 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. Reuter 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. Reuter will then aid them in selecting an additional alternate class until we can fill their eight periods with an appropriate schedule.

After we have completed a successful class schedule, we 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 students desire to make changes to their class schedule, they will have a scheduled day (to be announced), to meet with the counselor to make changes before the start of school.

Students will also have the first five days of the 2026-2027 school year to change their class schedule.

• I encourage all parents to work with your students to help them plan their 2026-2027 class schedule - your input and encouragement are essential.

If you ever have any questions or would like to speak with me, please feel free to contact me at justin.damme@jccentral.org or by calling 402-335-3328.



From the School Nurse's Office



January 22nd Beginning of Health Screenings

The ESU 4 Health Van will be at JCC for Screenings on all students beginning January 22nd. This will take approximately 7-8 days. They will start in Tecumseh and follow at the Cook site.

The screenings include checking **dental, vision, hearing, height, and weight**. Blood pressure screening is done on all 7th-12th graders as well.

Parents/Guardians will receive a report after they are all completed. Please review the report to see if your student needs a follow-up evaluation.

Reminder- If your student **wears glasses**, please have them bring them or wear them for the screenings.



February 3rd & 4th, Brighter Smiles

The Southeast District Health Department Brighter Smiles Program will be at JCC February 3rd (Tecumseh) and 4th (Cook).

The Brighter Smiles program provides dental screenings, fluoride varnish, and oral health education for any age student. A Licensed Public Health Dental Hygienist will complete all services.

If you would like your student to be seen, please let the School Nurse know and she will send home the Brighter Smiles form to be completed and brought back. *The form is also linked below. Just scan the QR code with your phone or tablet.*



(The form will also be included on the next pages!)



Our Brighter Smiles program will be visiting your child's school for the academic year 2025-2026. We will be providing optional preventative dental services including a visual oral health screening, fluoride varnish, dental cleaning, and SDF application. A Licensed Public Health Dental Hygienist will complete all services.



All children will receive education on the importance of dental health



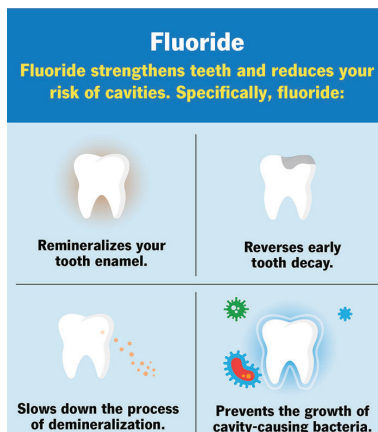
All children screened will receive a fun bag fill with a toothbrush & toothpaste



Screening results will be sent home with each child.

Already seeing a dentist twice a year?

Great! This program is an extra step in addition to that care to help fight tooth decay. All services are **FREE** and will never be billed to you!



Fluoride Varnish

A sticky, honey-like material applied to the teeth with a small brush

Strengthens tooth enamel & helps prevent tooth decay

Most effective when applied several times per year

SDF TREATMENT

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a non-invasive treatment option for cavities, using a topical medicine that is painted on the tooth instead of a more invasive surgical (drill and fill) approach

Pros

- Quick, easy, painless
- Relieves sensitivity
- Remineralizes your natural tooth structure
- Prevents biofilm adhesion
- Avoid or delay more invasive restorations
- Arrests 80% of cavities when applied twice yearly

Cons

- Permanently stains cavities black
- Cavities (holes) that trap food may still require a restoration
- Not an option for deep cavities
- 20% of cavities continue to grow
- SDF is a treatment for cavities, not a cure

SDF Treated Incisors

Before

After

SDF Treated Molar

Before

After

Silver Diamine Fluoride

A liquid dental treatment used to prevent and manage tooth decay

Contains silver, which has antibacterial properties and fluoride to strengthen teeth

Can permanently stain teeth **BLACK**

To participate in the Brighter Smiles program, please complete the permission form on the other side of this page. Complete ALL sections on the back side. Return it to your child's teacher/office as soon as it is completed. Further information will go out when a dental day is scheduled.

The safety of students, school faculty, and health department staff is a priority. Appropriate precautions will be taken to ensure that all individuals are kept safe. Masks and clean gloves are worn for each new student. The screening area will be disinfected after each student. None of our materials contain dyes, milk, egg, soybeans, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, or gluten.

Child's Information

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____ Date of Birth: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino ☐ Unknown

Race: ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Multi-Racial ☐ Asian
☐ Native American/Alaskan Native ☐ Other

Does your child visit a dentist every 6 months? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Insurance: ☐ Private ☐ Medicaid ☐ None
(Molina, UHC, Envolve)

Please check the dental services you would like your child to receive:

- ☐ Oral health screening only
- ☐ Fluoride Varnish
- ☐ Silver Diamine Fluoride SDF (different from fluoride varnish)

Parent/Guardian's Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____



We appreciate donations to help cover the cost of services; however, no child will be denied care if a donation cannot be made. If your child is covered by Medicaid, dental services may be billed at no cost to you. If you would like to support the Brighter Smiles program, please include your donation with the form. Checks can be made payable to SE District Health Department. Cash donations may be stapled to the form or placed in an envelope.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

I understand that my signature is valid for the 2025-2026 school year and that I can withdraw my permission, in writing, at any time.

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

2025-26 JCC HIGH SCHOOL SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

FRESHMEN:

Jorge Andrade
Bentley Campbell
Ulysses Duarte
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Hadley Hartman (All A's)
Ashton Huskey
Marley Jensen (All A's)
Janel Leyva (All A's)
Jude Longsine
Diego Martinez
Reese McDonald (All A's)
Marvin Najera (All A's)
Brody Nichols
Maria Pinedo Pena
Heidi Reyes (All A's)
Kenna Thomas (All A's)
Elliott Werner (All A's)

SOPHOMORES:

Reese Badertscher (All A's)
Leighton Beethe (All A's)
Nayeli Bobadilla (All A's)
Payton Brandt (All A's)
Angel Buchanan
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
Adree Case (All A's)
Grace Frederick (All A's)
Conner Gerking
Chase Harrifeld
Dalton Henderson (All A's)
Cooper Jones (All A's)
Aaryn Kaster
Bodhi Klein
Trey Lubben (All A's)
Anthony Orozco (All A's)
Stefani Peters (All A's)
Damian Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Wesley Schmid (All A's)
Alex Thipphavong
Landon Toohey (All A's)
Tegan Topp
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

JUNIORS:

Harrison Bacon (All A's)
Brayden Beethe
Abigail Blomstedt (All A's)
Amelia Britt (All A's)
Nevaeh Brown (All A's)
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
Anthony Campos (All A's)
Connor Haufle
Memphis Pingel
Andre (AJ) Rautenbach
Molly Weber (All A's)

SENIORS:

Ashley Beethe (All A's)
Isaac Beethe (All A's)
Charlyn Bobadilla (All A's)
Ezekiel Burki
Draven Campbell
Trevin Huskey
Danny Kongmanyvong (All A's)
Harley Lubben
Marisol Mandl
Caden McDonald
Tan Nguyen
Levi Othmer (All A's)
Bri Robeson
Saige Rother (All A's)
James Stalions-Nixon
Aiden Strecker
Wesley Swanson (All A's)
Jack Waring (All A's)
Owen Weber (All A's)
Catherine Wendt (All A's)
Cameron Werner (All A's)
Jonathan Young

Honor Roll is granted to students with all A's and B's.
Honor Roll with Distinction (denoted by the **Bold**) is reserved for students with all A's.



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

2025-26 JCC HIGH SCHOOL FIRST SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

FRESHMEN:

Jorge Andrade
Bentley Campbell
Ulysses Duarte
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Hadley Hartman (All A's)
Ashton Huskey (All A's)
Marley Jensen (All A's)
Janel Leyva (All A's)
Jude Longsine
Diego Martinez
Reese McDonald (All A's)
Marvin Najera
Brody Nichols
Heidi Reyes (All A's)
Kenna Thomas (All A's)
TyLynn Wellensiek
Elliott Werner (All A's)

SOPHOMORES:

Reese Badertscher (All A's)
Gerardo Becerra Trujillo
Leighton Beethe (All A's)
Nayeli Bobadilla (All A's)
Payton Brandt (All A's)
Angel Buchanan (All A's)
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
Adree Case (All A's)
Grace Frederick (All A's)
Kael Fricke
Conner Gerking (All A's)
Chase Harrifeld
Dalton Henderson (All A's)
Jesus Hurtado
Cooper Jones (All A's)
Aaryn Kaster
Bodhi Klein (All A's)
Trey Lubben (All A's)
Anthony Orozco (All A's)
Stefani Peters (All A's)
Damian Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Wesley Schmid (All A's)
Alex Thipphavong
Landon Toohey (All A's)
Tegan Topp (All A's)
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

JUNIORS:

Harrison Bacon
Brayden Beethe
Abigail Blomstedt (All A's)
Trever Bohling
Amelia Britt (All A's)
Nevaeh Brown (All A's)
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
Anthony Campos (All A's)
Maxwell Goracke
Connor Haufler
Andre (AJ) Rautenbach (All A's)
Molly Weber (All A's)

SENIORS:

Ashley Beethe (All A's)
Isaac Beethe (All A's)
Charlyn Bobadilla
Ezekiel Burki
Draven Campbell
Wyatt Case
Jocelyn Duarte
Trevin Huskey (All A's)
Danny Kongmanyvong (All A's)
Harley Lubben
Marisol Mandl
Caden McDonald
Tan Nguyen (All A's)
Levi Othmer (All A's)
Bri Robeson
Saige Rother (All A's)
James Stalions-Nixon
Aiden Strecker
Wesley Swanson (All A's)
Madison VanLaningham
Jack Waring (All A's)
Owen Weber (All A's)
Catherine Wendt (All A's)
Cameron Werner (All A's)
Jonathan Young

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Middle School News

From Principal Marsha Bacon

Johnson County Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the following students who earned the right to represent JCC at the Johnson County Spelling Contest:

- Eighth Grade: Edith Blomstedt, Jay Chaudhari, Tim Johns-Hinrichsen, Brynn Weber;
- Seventh Grade: Ada Goodrich, Slayden Newman, Taytem Simon, Mackenzie Sell;
- Sixth Grade: Selena Cabrales, Grace Fazel, Nathaly Hurado-Arellano, Liam Thompson;
- Fifth Grade: Ethan Barnes, Nenne Ofoegbu, Henry Smith, Beau Winslow;
- Fourth Grade: Dawson Beethe, Ruger Clifton, Calum Dixon, Jazmin Garcia.

Special Congratulations for the Thunderbirds who qualified for the **oral portion of the Spelling Bee to be held at Johnson County Central Middle School in Cook on Saturday, January 24 in the morning at 8:30.**

The top 10 qualifiers earned this honor and include (alphabetically): Edith Blomstedt, Selena Cabrales, Jay Chaudhari, Ada Goodrich, Nathaly Hurtado-Arellano, Tim Johns-Hinrichsen, Slayden Newman, Taytem Simon and Brynn Weber.

Good Job and Good Luck Thunderbirds!

Singing Youth of Nebraska Honor Choir

Congratulations to the following JCC 7th-9th grade students who were selected for the

Singing Youth of Nebraska Honor Choir in Hastings: Kaitlyn Clements, Jude Fricke, McKenna Lade, Tim Johns-Hinrichsen (Middle School); Xavier Arguello, Eduardo Castor, Marvin Najera and Heidi Reyes (Freshmen). They performed on Saturday, January 30 in a choir of around 120 members that were chosen through an audition process.



Middle School Winter Sports

The Johnson County Central boys wrestling team and girls' basketball team started

practice in early January in preparation of their upcoming season. There are several opportunities for our fans to watch them at a contest close by. Please come and cheer on our athletes and coaches. Good luck to both teams and their coaches. Go Thunderbirds!

Second Semester Parent-Teacher Conferences

Second semester Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Monday, February 16th from 11:00 to 7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher Conference is an ideal time for parents and teachers to have detailed conversations about a child's current grades, the effort that is being given by their child, the student's classroom behavior and other issues that are relevant to student learning.

Parent-Teacher Conferences also provide your child's teachers with an opportunity to share classroom work or share something positive that your child has done.

The dialogue generated at Parent-Teacher Conferences is an important element in a student's learning process that is beneficial to all and I hope all parents will take advantage of this opportunity. We hope to see you on February 16th.



NSCAS Testing Window is March 23-May 1, 2026

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), is Nebraska's statewide testing system that helps families and schools gauge how well students have learned educational concepts based on the Nebraska State Standards.

Assessments are end-of-year, summative, tests for all students in grades 3–8 in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science in grades 5 and 8.

NSCAS assessments are an educator tool that show how students are doing across Nebraska and within each school district, giving a clear picture of learning so families and schools can work together to support students. Student results include easy-to-understand achievement levels (developing, on track, and advanced) and college and career readiness indicators, helping parents see both strengths and areas where extra support may be needed.

These results also contribute to the Nebraska Educator Profile (NEP) for the buildings and grades assessed, and they help students prepare for success in postsecondary education, careers, and civic life by giving educators and decision makers the information they need to support student learning.

Parents can support their students during NSCAS testing by encouraging good test-day habits such as getting enough sleep, eating a healthy breakfast, and arriving to school on time.

Remind your student that NSCAS assessments are a chance to show what they know and to take pride in their hard work. When families reinforce a positive attitude about doing their best, students are more likely to stay focused, persevere through challenging questions, and provide results that truly reflect their learning, which makes the information more useful for planning next steps at home and at school.



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-26 JCC MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

6TH GRADE

Harper Beck
Quinlynn Beethe
Nora Britt
Gabriella Brown
Selena Cabrales
Rylin Campbell (All A's)
Grace Fazel
Alivia Gottula (All A's)
Alan Herrle
Nathaly Hurtado Arellano
Madilyn Jensen (All A's)
Evelyn Little (All A's)
Axel Prado

7TH GRADE

Isaac Buchanan
Jude Fricke
Ada Goodrich (All A's)
Prezleigh Hazen
Presley Juilfs
Kelly Kongmanyvong
Mason McGuire
Ian Robeson
Taytem Simon (All A's)

8TH GRADE

Jamison Bacon
Lilyana Birdwell
Jay Chaudhari
Haley Dixon
Edith Blomstedt (All A's)
Lila Britt (All A's)
Aedan Gordon
Naomie Henry
Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen (All A's)
Sophie Kirkland (All A's)
McKenna Lade
Angel Lara Rojas (All A's)
Kyndall Meints
Courtney Oltrogge
Emma Othmer
Emry Pollard
Brynn Weber (All A's)

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JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-26 JCC MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

6TH GRADE

Harper Beck
Quinlynn Beethe
Nora Britt
Gabriella Brown (All A's)
Josephine Burki
Selena Cabrales
Rylin Campbell (All A's)
Grace Fazel
Alivia Gottula (All A's)
Maelyn Hamilton
Alan Herrle
Nathaly Hurtado Arellano
Madilyn Jensen (All A's)
Evelyn Little (All A's)
Axel Prado
Genesis Reyes

7TH GRADE

Isaac Buchanan
Brock Carter
Michelle Duarte
Jude Fricke
Ada Goodrich (All A's)
Prezleigh Hazen
Presley Juilfs
Kelly Kongmanyvong
Mason McGuire
Ian Robeson
Taytem Simon (All A's)

8TH GRADE

Jamison Bacon
Lilyana Birdwell
Haley Dixon
Edith Blomstedt (All A's)
Lila Britt (All A's)
Aedan Gordon
Hudson Harrifeld
Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen (All A's)
Sophie Kirkland (All A's)
McKenna Lade
Angel Lara Rojas (All A's)
Kyndall Meints
Kloie Neemann
Courtney Oltrogge
Emma Othmer
Emry Pollard
Brynn Weber (All A's)

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ACTIVITIES UPDATE BY GARRETT COLLIN

Greetings Thunderbird Family

I hope everyone had a great holiday break and a Happy New Year! At the writing of this letter, we are in the heart of the winter season as the basketball teams get ready for their conference tournaments and the wrestling teams prepare for districts and state.

This last week the basketball teams finished up at the 97th MUDECAS Tournament in Beatrice. The boys went 1-1 with a loss against EMF and a win against Palmyra. The girls went 1-1 with a loss against Johnson-Brock and an overtime win against HTRS.

Wes Swanson and Harley Lubben were the individuals that were named to the A Division Honorable Mention All-Tournament teams.

Wrestling

February 6th: Boys ECNC Duals

February 6th & 7th: Girls Districts at Plainview High School

February 14th: Boys Districts at Centura High School

February 17th & 18th: Girls State at CHI Health Center Arena-Omaha

February 19th, 20th, & 21st: Boys State at CHI Health Center Arena-Omaha

Basketball

February 2nd-7th: ECNC Conference Tournament

*High seeds will host with the final rounds being played at Mead.

February 16th, 17th, & 19th: Girls Sub District Tournament

*Sites are TBA

February 23rd, 24th, & 26th: Boys Sub District Tournament

*Sites are TBA

Speech

February 1st: MUDECAS at HTRS

February 26th: ECNC at Elmwood-Murdock

****SPRING SEASON PRACTICE
BEGINS ON MONDAY, MARCH 2ND****



Greetings From the Elementary!

by Beckie Robeson, PK-3 Elementary Principal

Happy New Year! We are now well into our 3rd quarter of school, and activities are not slowing down in our elementary building. Students have been working hard in the classroom, engaging in exciting projects and embracing new challenges with enthusiasm. Our teachers are dedicated to fostering a love of learning, and it's wonderful to see the creativity and curiosity that our students bring to each day.

We are looking forward to our annual Book Bingo Night, which aims to inspire a passion for reading and to give students a chance to explore new worlds through books. This event not only supports literacy but also helps our school community connect through shared stories and adventures. At this activity, our Title teachers will explain the mission and purpose of this program and answer any questions you may have. This event is open to all of our elementary students.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on February 16. I want to encourage everyone who can attend to come visit with their child's teachers. These conferences provide a valuable opportunity for teachers and parents to collaborate and discuss each child's progress. Conversations are integral to tailoring educational experiences to meet each student's unique needs.

As we continue to journey through February, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities to engage and connect. Whether through participation in school events, attendance at junior high and high school sporting events, or communication with teachers, your involvement significantly impacts our students' educational experience.

Let's keep the momentum going and make the most of the exciting events and learning opportunities that lie ahead!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Together, we are making this year a memorable and successful one for our students.

February 2026



Important Dates

- **Monday, February 2:** Teacher In-Service, no school for students
- **Monday, February 10:** No School
- **Monday, February 16:** No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences **11:00 AM - 7:00 PM**
- **Monday, February 23:** No School
- **Thursday, February 26:** Title I Book Bingo **6:30 PM.**

Contact Info:

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

email: beckie.robeson@jccentral.org phone: 402-335-7839

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

2nd Quarter Thunderbirds

February 2026



Third-Grade: Chance Pospichal, Owen Bowman, Rainey Neemann, and Noah Vemeer



Second-Grade: Robin Jaquez, Blakely Kuhl, Brewer De Koning, David Shirley, Beckett Gist, and Luna Herrle



First-Grade: Cassidy Russell, Norah McCoppin, Vanessa Sterup, Leah Barnes, Juan Cardona Juarez, and Beckett Bauman



Kindergarten: Boone Lada, Nixon Pollard, Ainsley Rothfuss, Kinsley Rothfuss, Miles Laver, and Victoria Juilfs

Contact Info:

Please feel free to contact me at anytime during the school year
email: beckie.robesson@jccentral.org phone: 402-335-7839

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



February Newsletter 2026 - Mrs. Faris - First Grade

We are so excited!! First graders are writing a book that will be published by a company called Studenttreasures. Our title is "When You Give a Teacher a Daisy." We are working together to get our ideas, sequence those ideas, write sentences, and add details. We are also discussing the illustrations that will match the words on each page. Each student is responsible for one written page and one illustration. Parents are given the opportunity to purchase a book for their student to have and share with loved ones. I also have a book made for the classroom. First graders have been publishing books for several years, and they are treasured by the students, parents, incoming classes each year, and myself. It's pretty neat to be a published author when you are 6 or 7 years old!



2026-2027 School Calendar

July 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	

July	
4	Independence day

January 2027						
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

January	
1	New Year's Day - NO SCHOOL
4	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
11	NO SCHOOL
18	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
25	NO SCHOOL
Student Days = 16	
Teacher Days = 16	

August 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					

August	
6-7	Teacher In-Service
10	NSAA Official Start of Fall Practice
10	First Day For Students - 1:00 PM Dismissal
14	NO SCHOOL
17	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
18	First Day for Preschool
24	NO SCHOOL
31	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 12 Teacher Days = 16	

February 2027						
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	
5	ESU4 In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
8	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
15	NO SCHOOL
22	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences 11-7
Student Days = 16 Teacher Days = 19	

September 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			

September	
7	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
14	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
21	NO SCHOOL
28	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 18	
Teacher Days = 20	

March 2027						
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	
1	NO SCHOOL
8	Teacher In-Service - ECNC Quiz Bowl @ JCC
15	NO SCHOOL
22	Teacher In-Service - MUDECAS Music @ JCC
26-29	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
Student Days = 18 Teacher Days = 20	
Total 3rd Qtr. Student Days = 40	
Total 3rd Qtr. Teacher Days = 46	

October 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

October	
5	NO SCHOOL
9	End 1st Quarter
12	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences 11-7
19	NO SCHOOL
26	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 18 Teacher Days = 20	
Total 1st Qtr. Student Days = 36	
Total 1st Qtr. Teacher Days = 42	

April 2027						
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	
5	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
12	NO SCHOOL
19	Teacher In-Service - District Music
26	NO SCHOOL
Student Days = 18	
Teacher Days = 20	

November 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					

November	
2	NO SCHOOL
9	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
16	NO SCHOOL
25	1:00 PM Dismissal
26-29	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
30	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
Student Days = 14	
Teacher Days = 16	

May 2027						
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	
3	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
8	JCC High School Graduation.
12	Last Day for 3-Year Old Preschool
13	NO SCHOOL for students - District Track
17	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students.
21	Last Day for Students - End 4th QTR
11 AM Dismissal - Teacher In-Service	
21-22 Class C State Track & Field	
Student Days = 12 Teacher Days = 15	

December 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		

December	
7	NO SCHOOL
18	End 2nd Quarter/1st Semester/Teacher Work Day
21-31	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
23-27	NSAA Winter Moratorium
Student Days = 12	
Teacher Days = 13	
Total 2nd Qtr. Student Days = 39	

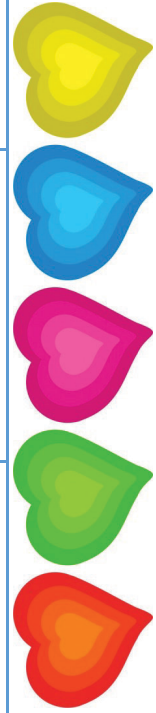
June 2027						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

June	
Total 4th Qtr. Student Days = 39	
Total 4th Qtr. Teacher Days = 45	
Total 2nd Sem. Student Days = 79	
Total 2nd Sem. Teacher Days = 91	
2026-2027 TOTAL = 154 Student Days	
2026-2027 TOTAL = 177 Teacher Days	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Crete/Doane Cheer Camp	2 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service ESU Engaging Educators Conf	3 JH Girls Basketball vs Plattsmouth @ MS Gym Cook - 4:30 PM HS Cheer Parents Meeting 6:30 PM Varsity Girls Basketball ECNC Tournament - TBD	4 	5 JH Girls Basketball vs Palmyra @ MS Gym Cook - 4:30 PM Varsity Boys Basketball ECNC Tournament - TBD	6 Varsity Boys Wrestling ECNC Duels @ Palmyra - 10 AM Varsity Girls Wrestling District Meet @ Plainview Varsity Girls Basketball ECNC Tournament - TBD	7 Varsity Girls Wrestling District Meet @ Plainview Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball ECNC Tournament - TBD
8	9 NO SCHOOL C Team Girls/Boys Basketball @ Elmwood-Murdock - 6 PM	10 JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball vs Elmwood-Murdock - 4:30 PM JH Girls Basketball @ Weeping Water - 5 PM	11 SCC-Lincoln Technology Day FBLA - Peru State Business Contest - 9 AM JCC School Board Meeting - 6 PM @ HS Computer Lab (Rm 204)	12 Wesleyan Honor Band - Lincoln JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball vs Pawnee City - 4:30 PM	13 Wesleyan Honor Band - Lincoln	14 C Team Girls/Boys Basketball Home Tournament @ Cook Site - 9 AM Varsity Boys Wrestling District Meet
15	16 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service FFA - District CDE's @ Lincoln - 8 AM Varsity Girls Basketball Subdistricts - TBD	17 Varsity Girls Basketball Subdistricts - TBD Varsity Girls Wrestling State Tournament - TBD	18 8th Grade College Visit @ SCC - 8:30 AM Varsity Girls Wrestling State Tournament - TBD	19 JH Girls Basketball @ Syracuse - 4:30 PM Varsity Boys Wrestling State Tournament - TBD Varsity Girls Basketball Subdistricts - TBD State Cheer @ Grand Island	20 JV/Varsity Boys Basketball @ Auburn - 5:30 PM Varsity Boys Wrestling State Tournament - TBD State Cheer @ Grand Island	21 State Cheer @ Grand Island
22	23 NO SCHOOL JH Girls Basketball vs Pawnee City @ MS Gym Cook - 4:30 PM Varsity Boys Basketball Subdistricts - TBD	24 SCC Milford Transportation Day FFA - District CDE @ SCC Bearrice - 8 AM JH Boys Wrestling Quad @ Ashland-Greenwood - 4:30 PM Varsity Boys Basketball Subdistricts - TBD	25 ECNC Speech Meet @ Mead - 9 AM	26 JH Boys Wrestling @ Falls City - 4:00 PM JH Girls Basketball @ Falls City - 4:00 PM Varsity Boys Basketball Subdistricts - TBD	27 JH Boys Wrestling @ Weeping Water - 10 AM Varsity Girls Basketball District Final - TBD	28
<div>QR Code for JCC Event Calendar on Google!</div> <div></div> <div>ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</div>						

February 2026 Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE Engaging Educators Conference	3 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	6 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL	10 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	12 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	14 
15	16 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences 	17 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18  Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	20 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 NATIONAL CHILI DAY Chili WG Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk 	27 Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	28



Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice
 "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"

Title 1 Book Bingo

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026

6:30 p.m.

JCC Cafeteria in Tecumseh

A chance
to win
books!



K-5th grade students
with their parents
are invited to attend.
(Younger siblings may
also attend.)

(Date subject to change due to subdistrict basketball.)





***News from Student Services and Special Education
From Dr. Laura Rademacher
February 2026***

Behaviors at school occur. Learning how to behave, be a good friend, and a learner are skills all students must develop over time. At JCC, we view behavior as a skill and a form of communication. Our priorities are to keep students safe and to allow them to learn. To assist with this, JCC has implemented BIST in K-12 grades. BIST stands for Behavior Intervention

Support Team, this means that as a team we work to intervene with behaviors. At our schools, all of the adults are here to help kids. One way that we help the most is by letting kids know when they need to get back on track with their behaviors. It is our job to redirect kids if they are struggling. At JCC, adults should only redirect students once so they can correct their behavior. That means you shouldn't hear an adult ask a student many times to stop the behavior. They will ask once. That way the person with the problem can get right back to learning. When an adult sees behavior that might be a problem, you will probably hear the adults ask a student a question. They might say something that starts with "Can you...?" When you students hear that, their job is to say "yes" or "ok". This does not mean the student is in trouble, it gives them an opportunity to fix the behavior.

BIST focuses on goals for life as well as grade and accountability. The bottom line at JCC is that it is never ok to be hurtful, and it is never ok to be disruptive. If students can remember that at school, it will help everyone to do the right things. The three goals for life are: 1) I can be OK even if I am mad or have an overwhelming emotion, 2) I can be OK even if other people around me are not OK and 3) I can follow directions even when I don't want to or it's hard.

We are fortunate to have a BIST Consultant to come visit JCC once a month. Jacquie works with teachers, leadership teams and students on the outlasting continuum and goals for life. Even though BIST is K-12, it looks slightly different in each building. In Elementary- Tecumseh, they have been working with BIST for 3-years, they have developed common behavior expectations and continue to work on common area expectations. The majority of the Tecumseh elementary staff has received formal BIST training in the summer. The Cook Elementary began BIST last school year, they are focusing on the outlasting continuum: Are students in non-compliance, compliance (I'll do what you ask when your are watching), partnering (students know what to do and will self-correct), independence (students manage their own behaviors). This continuum was delivered on our Jan 5th, in-service day to all K-5 teachers and paras. Middle School and High School have slightly different BIST protocols. The teachers are working to increase engagement and have common behavior expectations. This is also part of our district's MTSS(Multi-tiered Systems of Support) plan to ensure we have common expectations for all students.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns- please feel free to reach out to me at Laura.Rademacher@jcccentral.org or 402-335-7851 (text or call).

Important Dates: March 26th, Submit and Shine- Families must PRE-REGISTER to attend

SUBMIT & SHINE



Apply for Nebraska Waivers

March 26, 2026

6:00PM- 8:00PM

JCC High School

356 N. 6th ST.

Tecumseh, NE

Join us to apply for waivers with support from transition staff. Learn about options for support for you child during and after school. This is for families and students who may need support for life skills or support for daily life functions.

FAMILIES FROM ANY SCHOOL ARE WELCOME BUT MUST PREREGISTER [HERE](#)



SEE PAGE 2 FOR INFORMATION TO BRING WITH YOU

Childcare will be available
by JCC Cheer



CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
PTI NEBRASKA AND SE NEBRASKA TRANSITION

Information Needed for HCBS Waivers Application

1. Personal Information

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Phone number
- d. Birthdate
- e. Social security number
- f. Citizen status: alien number required
- g. Foster care status, caseworker name and contact information (if available)

2. School Information

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Phone number

3. Primary Health Care Provider

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Phone number

4. Other Health Care Provider(S), Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Counselor

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Phone number

5. Copy of POA (Power of Attorney) or Guardianship paper to send with 2 application

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of ongoing support for families, your child's school is offering a series of classes for parents and guardians through a partnership with the Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST). These training sessions are designed to provide ways you can support your child's developing academic and behavior skills, as well as increase consistency between home and school.

BIST Virtual Parenting Series

5:45 PM - 6:00 PM Enter Zoom Waiting Room

6:00 PM – 6:45 PM Informational Session

6:45 PM – 7:00 PM Questions and Answers

*****All times are Central Time*****

February 5th - Ready, Reset, GO!

February 12th - When Once is NOT Enough

February 19th - Addressing “I Don’t Know How!” Syndrome

These classes are designed to:

- Create consistency between school and home
- Provide language for adults to use when redirecting children
- Share ways to problem solve to increase your child's success
- Increase generosity and kindness in your children
- Bring a sense of calm to your home

Please join us for any or all three sessions!

How to Register for Free Training

These virtual classes are provided free of charge, however, we do ask that you **please register through our website on or before Tuesday, February 3rd**. Instructions for registration are on the page below.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to you!

Sincerely,

Marty Huitt, Director
Behavior Intervention Support Team/Cornerstones of Care
8150 Wornall Rd
Kansas City, MO 64114
@MartyHuitt

To register for this class:

1. Go to <http://BIST.org>
2. Click Log In on the home screen.
3. If you already created a username by previously enrolling in a BIST class, just log in on this screen.
4. If you have never registered for a BIST class, enter your information (Name, Email, and a Password). This will register you on the website, but not for the class.
5. At the top of the page, use the dropdown menu called "Classes." Click "Training Calendar."
6. Select the class you wish to attend (Parenting with BIST). Click "Register" under your preferred class.
7. Fill out the required questions and click "Register."
8. On the checkout screen, complete the billing details even though this is a free class.
9. Click "Place Order." The Order Details page is your confirmation of registration.
10. You will receive an email containing the Zoom link for the training sessions on Wednesday, February 4th.
 - a. If you have not received an email containing the Zoom link by noon on February 5th, please contact our office at bist@cornerstonesofcare.org for assistance.

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PO Box 338 PO Box 225
Tecumseh, NE 68450 Cook, NE 68329

Phone: 402-335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh
402-335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
402-864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook
402-864-4171 Principal @ Cook
402-864-4181 MS Office @ Cook

Website: 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 Jon Rother, Superintendent at 402-335-3320.