



THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

Future Building Project

SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE

BY JON H. ROTHER



Johnson County Central's Board of Education continues to get updates on plans for a future building project associated with a bond. It has been agreed upon that the facility should include grades Preschool through 8th grade for educational programming. However, talking points at the center of debate are the total cost of the project and the size and inclusion of additional spaces.

The board has been discussing cost points between \$30 million and \$35 million dollars. However, consultation with Clark & Enersen representatives indicates that adding in such items as a top-load gym, performing arts stage, wrestling room/fitness center and a second set of locker rooms can drive the cost of the facility up toward the \$40 million range.

If you have thoughts, opinions and/or questions about a future facility for JCC, you are encouraged to contact our board members.

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You can also contact me (Jon Rother) directly at (402) 921-0187 or [jon.rother@jccentral.org](mailto:rother@jccentral.org).

Upcoming Repairs & Renovations

Due to two failed bonds, and feedback that the bonds were simply too much financially, meant narrowing the size and scope of a future bond. It was decided, of the three current buildings, the high school would be the one to remain. However, the building is in need of repair and upgrades.

In partnership with Clark & Enersen (Architecture and Engineering Firm), as part of the ongoing discussions regarding facilities, the Johnson County Central School Board has identified approximately **\$6.5 million** in needed repairs and renovations to the High School Building in Tecumseh. These repairs and renovations would address **fire code** compliance,

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handicap accessibility or ADA (Americans With Disabilities) compliance, **electrical code** upgrades, **HVAC** repairs, **heating and cooling efficiencies** (windows and entrances), **safety** upgrades (doors, entrances and emergency communications), **phone system** upgrade and **plumbing** upgrades.

Due to the overall cost and continued discussions of a bond to build a new school, the team narrowed the scope of the high school work. The board decided to address the failing HVAC system in the high school along with the fire code upgrades that would be required with the installation of the HVAC system. Below is more detailed information regarding the work to be done.

Scope of Work:

Variant Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Heat Pump System

- To meet heating and cooling needs.

Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems (DOAS)

- To pretreat and provide air to VRF systems.

Hydronic Perimeter Heating (fintube).

- Using existing equipment, will use heated water to provide additional heat to classrooms.

Ductless Split Air Conditioning Unit.

- Will be relocated from the basement to the technology server room on the second floor.

Smoke Seals.

- All classrooms and hallways will be upgraded to provide a smoke seal.

Exhaust Systems.

- Exhaust systems will be installed in locker rooms.

Interior Doors.

- All interior doors will be upgraded to fire safety code standards.

Cost Analysis:

Architectural & Site: **\$224,300**

Mechanical: **\$1,737,500**

- HVAC systems
- Structural support

Electrical: **\$297,500**

- Fire Alarm/Emergency Lighting
- Service Upgrades

Total: **\$2,259,300**

Total with 10% contingency: **\$2,485,230**

Clark & Enersen will start taking bids for the project in March with a due date of late March. If you would like more information concerning the project, please contact me at (402) 335-7569 or jon.rother@jccentral.org.

2026-2027 Calendar *UPDATE*

The Engaging Educators Conference has been updated from Friday, February 5th to MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1st.

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	

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					

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			

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

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					

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		

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
31						

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						

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			

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	

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					

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			

January		Student Days = 16	Teacher Days = 18
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		

February		Student Days = 16	Teacher Days = 19
1	ESU4 In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
8	Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL for students		
15	NO SCHOOL		
22	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences 11a-7p		

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

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

May		Student Days = 12	Teacher Days = 15
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		

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

August		Student Days = 12	Teacher Days = 16
6-7	Teacher In-Service		
10	NSAA Official Start of Fall Practice		
14	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		

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

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

November		Student Days = 14	Teacher Days = 16
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		

December		Student Days = 12	Teacher Days = 13
7	NO SCHOOL		
18	End 2nd Quarter/1st Semester/Teacher Work Day		
21-31	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break		
23-27	NSAA Winter Moratorium		
Total 2nd Qtr. Student Days = 39, Teacher Days = 44			
Total 1st Sem. Student Days = 75, Teacher Days = 86			

From the School Nurses Office

March

School Physicals



It's time to schedule your students' school physical! All students benefit from an annual wellness exam.

Families of Kindergarten and 7th grade students for the 2026-2027 school year need to provide the following information to the school.

- Evidence of a physical examination completed by a physician, physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse.
- Students must be current with all school required immunizations and provide proof to the school.

There are many resources available and the school nurse can assist you if you have questions.



SLEEP IS ESSENTIAL FOR SCHOOL

Tips for a good night's sleep!

- Keep the bedroom quiet and a comfortable temperature
 - Avoid large meals and caffeine before bedtime
 - Remove electronic devices from the bedroom
 - Set bed and wakeup times at the same time each day.
 - Model good sleep habits for kids.
 - Turn the lights out at bedtime.
- Have a bedtime routine, like taking a warm bath and reading at bedtime.
 - Make sure kids are active during the day so they can fall asleep at night.

High School News From Principal Justin Damme

Spring is just around the corner...which means Prom is near! **JCC High School Jr. & Sr. Prom** is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Hartman's Cattle Company.

Festivities start at 4:00 p.m. with Prom Preview at the High School. Pre-Prom meal is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and the dance will start at 8:45 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. then Post-Prom will leave for Spare Time in Omaha, NE at 11:30 p.m. from the High School.

To help ensure that we have a safe, drug and alcohol free Prom and Post Prom, the Johnson County Sheriff's department will be administering breathalyzer tests before Prom and before students attend Post Prom. Prom participants will also have a ticket of admission form to sign.

A very important date you need to mark on your calendar is **Tuesday, March 24, 2026. All juniors in the State of Nebraska will be required to take the ACT test** on this date. Our JCC juniors will test at the high school. Around the first week of March, our high school counselor, Mrs. Reuter, will be mailing out a letter with the agenda for this day to all junior parents.

On this day, we do have plans for the rest of the high school students - Seniors will be on their class trip to Omaha, our sophomores will be going on college visit to Concordia University and SCC Milford, and our freshmen will be taking the Pre-ACT 8/9 test.

On Wednesday, February 11th, 2026, JCC's Mrs. **Christy Hodges was recognized as a finalist for the Golden Owl Award.**



Mrs. Hodges was one of six honorees in the state of Nebraska as one of the top agricultural educators.

Under Mrs. Hodges leadership, the JCC FFA Chapter has received numerous awards & recognition. JCC has received the NIFA Governor's Excellence Award each year from 2015 to 2025 and was the First Place chapter in the I Believe In The Future of Ag Campaign in 2022 and 2024, and Second Place chapter in the I Believe In the Future of Ag Campaign in 2020 and 2021.

Since JCC was formed, 14 students have received their American FFA Degree - the highest honor awarded by the National FFA Organization: Lisa Niedermeyer, Tanya Gadeken, Josh Diekgrafe, Cory Johnston, Alyson Gottula, Isaac Buss, Lindsay Weber, Rudy Pooch, Marissa Borrenpohl, Nicholas Goracke, Connor Bartels, Levi Dorsey, Lane Othmer, and Wyatt Ludemann.



Under her leadership, numerous students & teams have been State Champions and have placed at National FFA multiple times.

Countless students have gone into the ag industry after high school because of their great experience with Mrs. Hodges. We truly appreciate her service to Johnson County Central High School.

The Golden Owl Award recognizes agricultural educators across Nebraska for their tremendous contributions to helping the next generation of agricultural leaders. It is presented by Nationwide, the Nebraska FFA Foundation and the Nebraska Agricultural Educators Association.

Students, fellow teachers and other supporters can nominate their favorite agricultural teacher and summarize what makes him or her the best in the state.



Middle School News

From Principal Marsha Bacon

Johnson County Central 8th Graders visited Southeast Community College-Lincoln on February 18th. They were able to meet and talk with campus representatives and were given a tour of this expanding campus. Some of the programs our students were introduced to included computer programming and robotics, automotive repair, welding, culinary arts and several opportunities in the healthcare field.

Parent-Teacher Conferences for the 2nd semester were held in the middle of the quarter again this year on February 16th. Thank you to all parents who took time out of their day to attend conferences. Parents who were unable to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences are encouraged to make contact with their child's teachers to get clarification on how their student is doing in all areas of their education, not just grades. This important interaction between teacher and parent can benefit the student immensely.

Congratulations to 8th grader Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen for winning the **Johnson County Spelling Bee**. Tim earned the right to represent JCC and Johnson County at the next round in Omaha at the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee sponsored by the Omaha Sports Commission.

Johnson County Central Middle School students enjoyed a very successful day at the **West Regional Middle School SkillsUSA Leadership Conference** on Wednesday, February 11. The Quiz Bowl team of Jamison Bacon, Journi Brooks, Jay Chaudhari and Tim Johns-Hinrichsen earned first place in the competition. Kolby Kunzman placed third in Bridge Building. Hudson Harrifeld, Natalya Kirkendall, and Kolby Kunzman competed in the Team Engineering Challenge. We are proud of all of our students for representing JCC with excellence and wish Jay the best of luck as he competes in middle school extemporaneous speaking at the **Nebraska State SkillsUSA competition** April 8-10.

Good luck to the 6th grade and Junior High Chorus and Band students and small groups/solos as they prepare for the **HTRS Music Contest held on Friday, March 20** at HTRS Schools. We hope to see you there.

NSCAS Testing Begins in March

Each spring, students in grades 3-8 participate in Nebraska's statewide assessment- NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System). These assessments measure student learning in areas such as English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science (grades 5 & 8), depending on the grade level.

NSCAS is designed to give teachers, families, and schools valuable information about how well students are mastering Nebraska's academic standards. NSCAS results help educators identify strengths, growth areas, and where additional support or enrichment may be needed. Combined with classroom work, teacher observations, and local assessments, these results guide instruction and curriculum decisions for the coming school year.

We encourage families to support students during testing by emphasizing the importance of doing their best, ensuring plenty of rest, and maintaining a positive mindset. NSCAS testing is not about comparing students-it is about helping each child grow and reach their full potential.

Please refer to the school calendar in March and April to find the NSCAS testing dates for your student.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE BY GARRETT COLLIN

Greetings Thunderbird Family

Winter is almost over! With that comes the end of the winter sports season and the beginning of spring sports.

At the writing of this letter, the basketball girls sub-districts have been released, we have celebrated Parents and Senior Night, and getting prepped for the post-season. The girls will be heading to Yutan as the 2 seed to play David City Aquinas in the first round.

The boys will finish up the regular season with Auburn this Friday and will know their sub-district fate here in a few days.

The wrestling team had a successful postseason with sending Caden McDonald, Erik Prado, Juan Aguilar, Haylee Trew, and Alejandra Reyes to the state meet in Omaha. State wrestling takes place this week in Omaha. The girls will wrestle on Tuesday & Wednesday and then the boys go on Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Good luck to our Thunderbird wrestlers and coaches!

Spring practice is quickly approaching with a start date of Monday, March 2nd. Our athletes will have the chance to participate in these opportunities: Boys golf, track & field, and we have two co-ops with Nebraska City Public which are boys and girls soccer and baseball.

Here is a list of the coaches for these JCC activities:

High School Track - Angela Huskey, Nick Weber, Reid Genuchi, Brad Gabriel

Junior High Track - Cody Franklin, Scott Straka, Bri Pfeiffer

Boys Golf - Benjamin Swanson, Russ Waring

**If you see any of these coaches please thank them for the time they put in with our student-athletes.

Go Thunderbirds!



Cook Counseling Update

Eighth Grade College and Career Readiness

In February, the eighth graders went on a trip to **SCC Lincoln**. They toured the campus and learned more about the opportunities available at SCC's various campuses. In the afternoon, the students visited **Sandhills Global**, a large corporation based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Students were able to tour the facilities and learn more about career opportunities that Sandhills has to offer including sales, marketing, manufacturing, and publishing. This opportunity was possible due to the EducationQuest grant that was awarded to JCC.

On top of these opportunities, eighth grade students have been learning about college and career opportunities. All eighth grade students have been set up with a **Kuder** account. This is a tool used across the state of Nebraska that gives students access to a plethora of college and career readiness resources. Students had the opportunity to take interest inventory assessments that connected them with potential career paths that best matched their interests and skills. Students can utilize this resource at any time throughout the rest of their academic career at JCC.

Time to Transition

As the end of the year gets closer, students will have more opportunities to explore and prepare for the next phase in their education. Pre-registration (at the high school level) will happen sometime in March for the following school year. **For students entering high school next year**, Mrs. Reuter and Mr. Damme will host a pre-registration session to help students plan for their freshman year. At the middle school, we will be evaluating which **sixth graders** will be placed in Pre-Algebra, the advanced math class for seventh grade. These decisions are primarily based upon student achievement in class and on standardized tests. For our **fifth grade** students, there will be opportunities to talk about the transition to junior high, visit junior high classrooms, and talk about some of the changes they can expect. In April, we will plan a date for the **third graders** to come up and visit the Cook site and their future fourth grade classrooms. They will have the opportunity to tour the facilities and get familiar with the staff in Cook. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about your child as we prepare for the transition into the next grade.

Oral Spelling Bee Results

On Saturday, February 7, the middle school hosted the Johnson County Spelling Bee. This is an annual event with students from JCC and Sterling participating. The winner is registered for the statewide bee in Omaha that funnels into the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This year, the top three finishers from Johnson County were in first place, Timothy Johns-Hinrichsen, in second place, Jay Chaudhari, and in third place, Taytem Simon. Timothy and Jay are both eighth graders at JCC, and Taytem is a seventh grader at JCC. Way to make the Thunderbirds proud!



NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

Apply Now - JCC Public Schools Foundation Scholarships - Due March 20, 2026

Applications for scholarships offered by the JCC Public Schools Foundation are available now to JCC seniors planning to attend trade schools (3 scholarships available), community colleges (3 scholarships available), and four-year colleges and universities (3 scholarships available). For more information on these scholarships and the application forms, go to <https://www.jccentral.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/District%7CJCC%20Foundation>

All applications are due to Mrs. Reuter by March 20, 2026

SCC Dual Credit Courses at JCC High School - Registration Starts in March

All JCC juniors and seniors (this year's sophomores and juniors) are eligible to take dual credit courses both online and in the classroom through Southeast Community College. Sophomores (this year's freshmen) who have at least a 3.5 GPA may also take dual credit classes.

Students and parents can find more information on this in the JCC registration handbook (all students were emailed this on Friday, February 13th and it is also available on the JCC website. SCC also has a guide to classes available that students can get from our SCC dual credit rep, Nick Herrington, or from Mrs. Reuter. Students need to meet with Mr. Herrington to get signed up for dual credit classes. He usually comes to our school on Wednesdays around lunch time.

To create an SCC account, they will need their iPad and will need to know their address, social security number, phone number, and other basic information. After they have an SCC account, they can register for classes starting in mid-March.

It is very important that when students hear an announcement that the SCC rep is here that they go speak with Mr. Herrington. If students want to sign up for dual credit classes, they will need to make time to talk to him.

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.

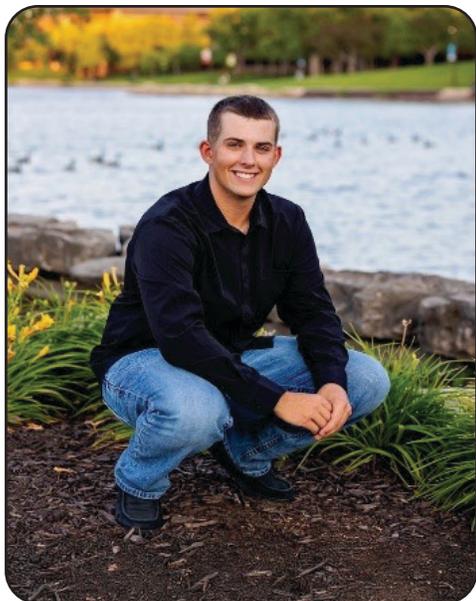
Apply Now - Wayne J. and Wanda M. Lillich Scholarship Through The Lincoln Community Foundation - Due March 15th

Amount: \$2,000.00 (3 awards)

Eligibility: Graduating seniors from Johnson County Central School District in Johnson County, Nebraska. Criteria: Major in health care, religion, or business. Demonstrates academic success and financial need. How to Apply: Applicants are required to complete the Lincoln Community Foundation Application Form online at <https://lcf.academicworks.com/> and submit the form and all required attachments electronically. **Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on March 15th.** The Wayne J. and Wanda M. Lillich Scholarship was established in 1996. The Lilliches wanted to give something back to the community in which they were raised. Having been reared during the Depression, Wayne and Wanda appreciated every little thing they received in those early years. When they had the opportunity to gain some wealth, they never forgot their roots.

Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026

Introducing the Class of 2026: Each month, I will feature some of our seniors at JCC HS. This month, meet Isaac, Charlyn, Draven, Theresa, Caden, Shelbi, Lee, Aleciauna, and Jonathan.



Isaac Beethe
JCC Class of 2026

Isaac Beethe is the son of Justin and Carolyn Beethe of Tecumseh. He has two sisters, Leighton - age 15 and Katelyn - age 21. Isaac liked all of his classes and couldn't name a favorite. His most challenging classes were his English classes because of all of the assignments. During high school, he has been involved in basketball, FFA, FCA, FBLA, choir, and golf.

Outside of school, he likes to hunt and fish. After high school, he plans on a career in carpentry. In ten years, Isaac says that he will be working hard and enjoying life.

Charlyn Angelli Bobadilla is the daughter of Rocio and Jaime Bobadilla of Tecumseh. She has three older siblings, Jessica, Ricky, and Jesse. She also has one younger sibling, Nayeli, who is 16 and a sophomore at JCC. Charlyn's favorite high school class was Anatomy and Physiology because she finds the human body to be interesting and challenging. Her most challenging class is Physics because it requires a lot of science, math, and problem solving. During her high school years, Charlyn has been involved in volleyball, basketball, track, choir, FFA, HOSA, Academic Decathlon, cheer, One Act, spring play/musical, student council, and National Honor Society. Her favorite school lunch is chili and cinnamon rolls.

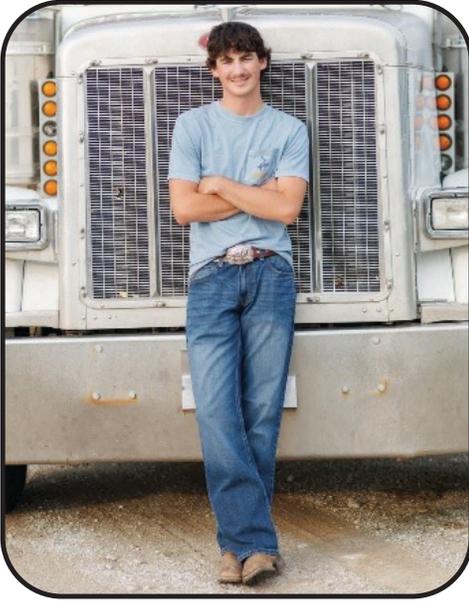
Outside of school, Charlyn likes to bake. Her favorite musical artists are The Weekend, Bruno Mars, Drake, Kali Uchis, Eslabon Armado, Primos Del Este, Ivan Cornejo, and Junior H. Her favorite TV show is The Rookie, and her favorite movies are White Chicks, Princess and the Frog, and The Book of Life. Her favorite books are The Outsiders, the Percy Jackson series, and the Hunger Games series. After high school, Charlyn plans to attend Southeast Community College-Lincoln to study Radiologic Technology.

In ten years, Charlyn says, "I hope to stay in Nebraska and have a house that is close to Lincoln, but still in the country. I'll be working as a radiologic technologist in a children's hospital. Every Sunday, I'll go to church with my husband and two kids. By then, I'll have traveled the world enough that I'm happy to settle down. We will celebrate every holiday and create family traditions that can be passed down for generations to come."



Charlyn Bobadilla
JCC Class of 2026

Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026



Draven Campbell
JCC Class of 2026

Draven Scott Campbell is the son of Anthony and Julie Campbell. He lives in Tecumseh. He has one brother, Bentley, who is 15, and a freshman at JCC. Draven's favorite class in high school was Agronomy because he enjoys learning about agriculture. His most challenging classes have been his math classes because he doesn't like math. During his high school years, Draven has been involved in FFA and baseball.

After high school, Draven is planning to attend Metropolitan Community College in Omaha for their Utility Line program. Outside of school, Draven likes to work, fish, hunt and trap, and hang out with friends. In ten years, he says that he will be working.

Theresa Joy Doiel is the daughter of Jodi Doiel and Ralph Doiel. She lives in Tecumseh. She has 5 siblings, Andrew Spalding, Levi Doiel, Collin Doiel, Gunnar Burger, and Cheshire Burger. Theresa has been involved in unified bowling and art club all four years of high school. She was also involved in varsity bowling and One Act for two years, and FBLA, FFA, Skills USA, and choir for one year. Her favorite school lunch is chili. According to Theresa, when asked about her favorite classes, "Art or JAG are my favorite high school classes because those classes made me expand my imagination in ways I didn't know were possible. The teachers also helped me get through things like homework and life struggles; they were always there for me." When asked about her most challenging classes, Theresa said, "Any history class is my main struggle, and always has been since middle school. I am just not that interested in history, so I get bored. Then, I also have a hard time remembering names and dates, and that is a big issue in those types of classes."

After high school, Theresa plans to attend Southeast Community College in Lincoln to obtain her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. Her career goal is to teach pre-school; she would especially like to teach pre-schoolers with special needs.

Outside of school, Theresa loves to hang out with her friends and play board games with them and her mother. She also loves to read, and hang out in her room with her dog. As for her favorite music, Theresa loves Taylor Swift, Bon Jovi, Morgan Wallen, Alan Jackson, and other artists. Her favorite movie is Grease. Her favorite author is Freida McFadden. In ten years, Theresa says, "Hopefully, I will have my own preschool classroom with amazing kids, I might also have a husband by then, but having a career teaching pre-school is my number one goal for ten years from now."



Theresa Doiel
JCC Class of 2026



Caden McDonald
JCC Class of 2026

Caden McDonald is the son of Haleigh McDonald and Jace McDonald. He lives in Tecumseh and he has four siblings - Reese, Jace, Liam, and Holden. His favorite high school class is Team Games because he likes to be competitive and his most challenging high school class was advanced algebra because he is not very good at algebra. During high school, Caden has been involved in wrestling, football, choir, FFA, and golf. His favorite school lunch is chicken fajitas.

Outside of school, Caden likes to golf and hang out with his friends. Caden’s favorite band is Treaty Oak Revival. Caden plans to attend Southeast Community College in Beatrice for their utility line program.

Ten years into the future, Caden predicts that he will live either here in Nebraska or in Maryland, and have a great job, a nice house, and a lot of money.



Shelbi Peters
JCC Class of 2026

Shelbi Riane Peters is the daughter of Curtis and Cathie Peters of Elk Creek. She has one sister, Stefani, who is 15 years old. Her favorite class in school is JAG because they do a lot of fun things. Her most challenging class is Business Math because she is not a math person.

During her high school years, Shelbi has been involved in JAG, 4-H, choir, track, and wrestling. Her favorite school lunches are the popcorn chicken bowl and chili with a cinnamon roll. Her favorite TV show is Home Improvement. Shelbi plans to attend Peru State College after high school to major in Early Childhood Education.

In ten years, Shelbi predicts, “I will be teaching somewhere and I will have a couple of kids.”



Lee Xayaphonesongkham
JCC Class of 2026

Lee Xayaphonesongkham is the son of Heather Stone and Sam Xayaphonesongkham. He lives in Tecumseh. He has one brother, Quentin, who is 23. His favorite class in high school is Team Games and his most challenging class is English IV.

During high school, Lee has been involved in FFA, FBLA, choir, football, wrestling, and golf. His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. When he is not at school, Lee likes to relax, play games, watch TV, and hang out with friends.

After high school, Lee is interested in a career in welding as there are many jobs available in the field, and he enjoys welding. His favorite bands are Ole 60 and Treaty Oak Revival. In ten years, Lee says, “I have no idea what I will be doing for sure, but I hope to have a wife and kids, and live in a nice house out in the country.”

Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026



Aleciauna Young
JCC Class of 2026

Aleciauna Rose Young is the daughter of Corey and Virginia Young and Jennifer Young. She lives in Talmage. She has eight siblings - Kaeliauna (28), Ashlyn (26), Christina (24), Josh (23), Carrie (22), Brianna (20), Jonathan (18), and Kaitlin (15).

During high school, Aleciauna has been involved in choir, Skills USA, and JAG. Her favorite school lunch is pizza. Her favorite class in school is American History because she loves learning about history. Her most challenging class was Personal Finance because it was hard for her to fully understand it.

Outside of school, Aleciauna likes to read and play on her phone. Her favorite musical artists are Carrie Underwood and NF. Her favorite movie is 101 Dalmatians. Her favorite book is Saving and Finding Zasha.

After high school, Aleciauna plans to attend Wayne State College to become a special education teacher. In ten years, she hopes to be married and have a few kids. She hopes to be a special education teacher in Norfolk or Grand Island, Nebraska.

Jonathan Young is the son of Corey and Virginia Young and Jennifer Young. He lives in Talmage. He has eight siblings - Kaeliauna (28), Ashlyn (26), Christina (24), Josh (23), Carrie (22), Brianna (20), Aleciauna (17), and Kaitlin (15).

During high school, Jonathan has been involved in choir, BUDS, Skills USA, and JAG. His favorite school lunch is the fiestada. Jonathan's favorite classes in high school have been Strength Training and Welding. His most challenging class is Welding because it takes so much time to fully understand everything.

When he is not at school, Jonathan likes to play games on his Xbox. He likes a lot of different kinds of music, and he doesn't have a favorite TV show or movie.

After high school, Jonathan wants to have a good job in some kind of a trade, maybe in welding or truck driving. Ten years from now, Jonathan says, "I want to be successful, have a good job, and live in a nice house here in Nebraska."



Jonathan Young
JCC Class of 2026

MARCH NEWSLETTER - MRS. FARIS - FIRST GRADE

Yay! It's Winter! Well, it's almost over, but we have a few more days of winter left. First Graders love snow! We've learned how snowflakes form in the clouds from bits of dust or pollen and stick together as snow crystals. We've studied the water cycle and how precipitation leads to collection, which then leads to evaporation, and then back to the clouds and condenses until it's ready to come back to Earth again. Depending on the temperature, we will see it come as raindrops, snowflakes, sleet, or hail. We've talked about forms of matter along the way.

This led us to discussions about how animals survive in the winter. In the fall, we watched how some butterflies and birds migrated to warmer climates. We've seen some animals out and about and adapting to the temperatures and snow cover by growing warmer coats and searching for and storing away food. We've also read about animals that hibernate through the winter.

We did a fun project and made birdfeeders with pinecones, peanut butter, and birdseed. If you look outside our window on the south side of the elementary building in Tecumseh, you will see them hanging by a birdfeeder. We are watching to see what kinds of birds stop in for a snack. Our only problem is that when we see a bird, we get so excited and run to the window, and that scares them away for a while. We are happy even if we see them for a second or two.

Happy last days of winter! We hope you all are keeping warm and toasty!



Greetings From the Elementary!

March 2026



by Beckie Robeson, PK-3 Elementary Principal

March marks a turning point in our school year. With longer days and spring approaching, our students are making strong progress academically, socially, and emotionally. I appreciate this season because it highlights how much our children have grown since August.

Celebrating Growth

In our elementary classrooms, this season is all about growth. Preschoolers are becoming more independent and building academic skills. Kindergarteners are advancing as readers and writers. First graders are gaining fluency and confidence. Second graders are strengthening their understanding and math skills. Third graders are developing critical thinking and preparing for key academic milestones.

Growth in early childhood education extends beyond grades or test scores. It's also about curiosity, perseverance, kindness, and confidence. I am proud of how our students are learning to solve problems, collaborate, and support one another.

Literacy in Action

March is an excellent time to celebrate reading. Our classrooms will participate in Read Across America in the coming weeks. Please watch for information about upcoming activities. You can support reading at home by:

- Reading together for at least 20 minutes each evening
- Asking your child questions about the story (Who are the characters? What was the problem? How was it solved?)
- Encouraging your child to retell the story in their own words
- Visiting your local library

Strong reading habits developed at a young age set the foundation for lifelong learning.

Attendance Matters

Spring is a busy season, but regular attendance remains essential. Each day at school builds important skills, and missing even a few days can impact reading and math progress. Thank you for prioritizing regular attendance and on-time arrival as a priority when you can. As a reminder, if your child is absent, please notify the building secretary as soon as possible.

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

Greetings From the Elementary!

March 2026



Preparing for the Final Stretch

Even though summer seems far off, we are now nearing the final quarter of the school year. Now is the time to stay focused and finish strong. Our teachers are reviewing progress, working with small groups, and ensuring each child continues toward grade-level goals. If you have concerns about your child's learning or social growth, please contact your child's teacher. Open communication allows us to work together and provide support where needed.

Thank You for Your Partnership

As PK-3 principal, I am reminded that our youngest learners benefit from a strong support team. Your involvement, whether reading at night, checking folders, attending conferences, or volunteering, makes a significant difference.

March reminds us that growth requires time, patience, and care. Thank you for trusting us with your children each day. Together, we will continue helping our students become confident learners, ready for the next step in their education.

I wish you a happy and productive March!

Important Dates

- **Monday, March 2:** Teacher In-Service, no school for students
- **March 3 - 6:** Read Across America Week
- **Monday, March 9:** No School
- **Monday, March 16:** Teacher In-Service, no school for students
- **Monday, March 23:** No School
- **Thursday, March 26:** Submit and Shine 6:30 PM
- **Monday, March 30:** District Music, no school for students

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



*News from the Director of Student Services
and Special Education
Dr. Laura Rademacher
March 2026*

There are two points I want to convey in this month's newsletter: 1) Testing Season and 2) Executive functioning skills and strategies.

TESTING season is about to ramp up at school. Between MAPS, ACT, and NSCAS, students are being assessed on what they've learned throughout the school year. These tests are important to show how well we educate students and how the state grades us as a school. REMIND messages will be sent prior to these tests being administered. PLEASE, help your child by reminding them to take their time and try their best on these

- L** Leave the hard ones for last
- E** Erase and fix your answers when checking your work
- A** Add details to your paragraphs to make them more interesting
- R** Read and reread to dig out answers you need
- N** Never give up, and do your best!!

assessments. The images here offer a couple of ideas for how you can help your child as they prepare to take these standardized tests. Also, remember as their adults- this is a snapshot of where they are at- so be open to whatever they score. Their value as a person is so much more than the number they receive on a standardized test. Yes, these tests are important; however, it's just one of many in their educational journey. They are not competing with their classmates, their goal should be to show progress for themselves.



The second point I wanted to explain this month was executive functioning.

“Executive function describes a set of cognitive processes and mental skills that help an individual plan, monitor, and successfully execute their goals. The *executive functions*, as they're known, include attentional control, working memory, inhibition, and problem-solving, many of which are thought to originate in the brain's prefrontal cortex” ([Psychology Today](#), 2026).

Over the years, we have learned that our brains are not fully developed until the mid-20s, because executive function takes a while to develop. Executive dysfunction—may appear similar to ADHD; some experts believe that ADHD is itself a disorder of executive function. People with ADHD—especially children—usually struggle with one or more executive functions, in addition to other symptoms such as hyperactivity and distractibility.

So, what are the Executive Function (EF) skills? They are broken into two groups: Cognition (brain) and Behavior. Cognition relates to working memory, planning, organization, time management, and metacognition (self-awareness). Behaviors are classified into response inhibition, emotional control, sustained attention, task initiation, goal persistence, and flexibility. I imagine everyone can think of someone (of any age) who struggles with one or more of these things.

There are many different **strategies** to help support EF skill development. Creating a checklist, breaking tasks into smaller pieces (chunking), “First ___, Then ___” language, and using a body double are the ones I have used the most in both my personal life and professional careers.

EF, ADHD, and Autism are disorders that people don’t physically see, however, you may see the overstimulation (or behaviors) that can come with a lack of EF skills. This is where I want to stress that behavior is communication. When people react and fail to react, this is part of EF development. These can be improved and taught. Similar to reading, they have to be practiced and taught in manageable pieces.

Strategies for Supporting Executive Functioning Needs
 ©Pathway 2 Success - www.thepathway2success.com

- Have homework written down in the same spot every day (Icon: TO DO LIST)
- Explicitly teach executive functioning & study skills (Icon: Lightbulb)
- Give an extra 3-5 minutes to organize before transitions (Icon: Clock)
- Schedule a weekly organization time (Icon: Calendar)
- Create routines and practice them often (Icon: Pencil holder)
- Incorporate movement during instruction (Icon: Running stick figure)
- Create an end-of-the-day checklist to remember materials (Icon: Clipboard)
- Provide brain breaks during and after instruction (Icon: Brain in jar)
- Clearly explain academic & social expectations (Icon: Speech bubble with 'Pathway 2 Success')
- Keep an extra set of books at home and in the classroom (Icon: Books)
- Use countdowns & time checks during work periods (Icon: Alarm clock)
- Have students set up homework binders (Icon: Binder)

Find more tips at: www.thepathway2success.com Clipart by Kate Hadfield

Who has a child who doesn’t know how to clean or keep their room clean? I hear myself as a parent say, “Go clean your room,” and my children go, pick up 3 things, and then say, “I did it.” When I went to check, the items were not picked up. This was my parenting flaw. My children did not know when I say ‘clean your room’ that means- pick up dirty clothes and put them in the hamper, put away clean clothes where they belong, take the trash to the trash bin/dumpster, take the dirty dishes to the dishwasher, sweep/vacuum the floor, and change the sheets. A person with EF sees this as at least 6-12 directions. So if your child is struggling with starting a task, start with one: bring all the dishes from your room and put them in the kitchen sink. Then, when they’ve done that, ask them to bring all the dirty clothes and bedding to the laundry room/area. This is called a chunking task. Often, children just need a brief directive and a list of what to do to get started. Without those small things, a person with EF/ADHD/Autism, the decision of what to do first is paralyzing. Start with one small task like gather the dirty cloths,

The other piece that is often associated with lack of EF skills and ADHD/Autism is defiance. This is often diagnosed as "Opposition Defiant Disorder (ODD)" or Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)". These both take a unique way to help students get started on a task. Think of when you say “do this now” and they refuse or won’t budge- or they are in the middle of doing something and you tell them to do something and they stop what they are doing and still don’t do what you asked them to do. It takes EF skills to switch tasks or to plan how to finish one task and to begin the next task.



A great strategy to help children who struggle with getting started is called BODY DOUBLING- this is having someone near or present while working on a task. It helps reduce distraction and adds gentle accountability. An example of this may be sitting next to your student doing homework, while you read a book or do your own ‘homework’- you are both focused on something near each other. Sometimes a list helps with hey we need to do these 4 things, I’m going to do this first, you pick which one to do first and then when the list is done we can do _____. First this, then that language helps both with EF and making it a directive- which can cause defiance.

The point is if you, your child, or any one struggles with EF- you may not know- this is where grace and accountability comes in. They need a reminder to do their homework, maybe they need you to take the phone away/ turn off the TV and sit next to them while they do their homework. Creating study habits earlier in your child's life will be beneficial when they are older- because eventually you want them to be able to do this without you there. Even high school students need help with EF skills, so sometimes taking that cognitive load off them and saying this or that first, and then the other, helps get them started.

 Executive Function Psychology Today	 Executive Function: What It Is, How To Improve & Types	 ADHD Body Doubling: How To Get Things Done
DETAILED Executive Function Skills Checklist (Downloadable PDF) 	10 Executive Functioning Skills: The Ultimate Guide The Pathway 2 Success 	Executive Function Skills Development - by age 

Feel free to reach out to Dr. Rad at 402-335-7851 or Laura.Rademacher@JCCentral.org.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
1	2 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service JCC Quiz Bowl	3 Freshmore Clinic & Concert @ TBD Auditorium	4 Varsity Girls Basketball State Tournament TBD	5 JH Boys Wrestling @ Auburn - 4:30 PM	6 Varsity Girls Basketball State Tournament TBD	7 Varsity Girls Basketball State Tournament TBD JH Boys Wrestling @ Norris - 9 AM	
8	9 NO SCHOOL HS & JH - ECNC Quiz Bowl @ Freeman - 10 AM HOSA State Leadership Conference	10 JH Boys Wrestling @ Nebraska City - 4 PM HOSA State Leadership Conference	11 JCC School Board Meeting - 6 PM @ HS Computer Lab (Rm 204)	12 Varsity Boys Basketball State Tournament TBD MS Music Contest Concert @ Cook Site - 6:30 PM	13 Varsity Boys Basketball State Tournament TBD End of 3rd Quarter	14 Varsity Boys Basketball State Tournament TBD	
15	16 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service	17 JH Boys Wrestling ECNC @ Falls City - 4 PM	18	19 MS Music Contest @ HTRS	20 Varsity Track Indoor Meet @ Doane	21 JCC Prom @ Hartman Cattle Co MUDECAS All-Star Basketball Game @ Diller-Odell - 5 PM	
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24 Peru State College Mathematics Challenge - 8 AM	25 ECNC Art Clinic @ Peru State College - 9 AM State FFA Convention @ Lincoln JAG - Tour of Cooper Nuclear Plant	26 State FFA Convention @ Lincoln JAG Legislative Day	27 State FFA Convention @ Lincoln Meridian Honor Choir/Band @ Meridian - Concert TBD Class C All-State Band @ Kearney	28 Class C All-State Band @ Kearney	
29	30 MUDECAS Music Contest @ Johnson-Brock Varsity Girls Golf @ Auburn CC - 9 AM <i>[NOTE: SCHOOL IN SESSION!]</i>	31 Varsity Track @ Auburn - 2:30 PM	ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE				QR Code for JCC Event Calendar on Google!

March 2026

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	Chicken Quesadilla Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Sloppy Nachos Breadstick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Patty/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Cheese Pizza Hot Veggies Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	NO SCHOOL	Chili Dog-HS/MS Hotdog/WG Bun-EL Hot Veggies Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Fajitas Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Cheeseburger/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	PB&J-Cheese Stick Hot Veggies Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	Comdog Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	BBQ Chicken Breast/WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Taco Salad Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Fish Sticks Macaroni & Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	NO SCHOOL	Ham & Cheese Wrap Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Enchilada-HS/MS Burrito-EL Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Br. Cheese Stick/Marmara Hot Veggies Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
29	30	31	Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"			
	Sloppy Joe/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Totcho's Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk				

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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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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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.