



THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

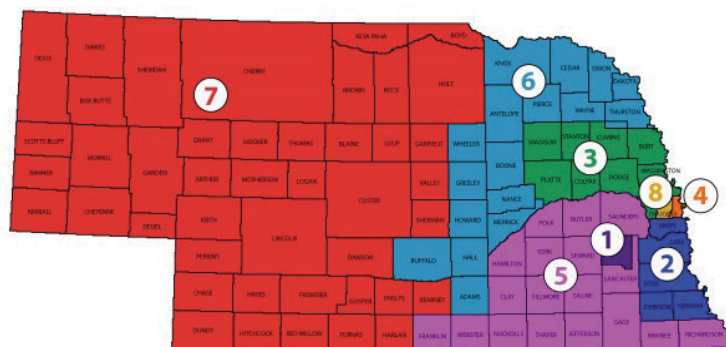
The Nebraska State Board of Education (Who they are and their role in education.)

SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE

BY JON H. ROTHER



Just as Johnson County Central (and every Nebraska public school district) is governed by a board of education to direct the superintendent of Schools, the Nebraska Department of Education has a board of education to direct the Commissioner of Education. The NDE's State Board of Education is made up of eight board members; one for each of the eight state board districts in Nebraska. The board members are elected on a non-partisan ballot and are not paid.



- District 1 - Kristen Christensen, kristin.christensen@nebraska.gov
- District 2 - Maggie Douglas, maggie.douglas@nebraska.gov
- District 3 - Lisa Schonhoff, lisa.schonhoff@nebraska.gov
- District 4 - Liz Renner, liz.renner@nebraska.gov
- District 5 - Kirk Penner, kirk.penner@nebraska.gov
- District 6 - Sherry Jones, sherry.jones@nebraska.gov
- District 7 - Elizabeth Tegtmeier, elizabeth.tegtmeier@nebraska.gov
- District 8 - Deborah Neary, deborah.neary@nebraska.gov

The board gives statewide oversight to education in Nebraska.

“The State Board of Education is an elected, constitutional body that sets policy and ensures that the State Department of Education functions effectively within the framework developed by the state Legislature and the board. By law, the board and the department have broad leadership functions to carry out certain regulatory and service activities.”

Volume 19
Issue 8

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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



Much in the same way our local board adopts a budget, agrees upon wages of those employed within the district and adopts and enacts policies, the State Board of Education does the same for us as a state. Many times, with policies, the State Board will adopt "model" policies that local districts can use. Not all model policies or recommendations must be adopted by local districts. Only those that are mandated by law.

The State Board of Education and the Commissioner, Dr. Brian Maher, also acts as advocates for our schools at the state level. In conjunction with other state organizations, they give direction to the commissioner to give feedback to legislative education committees and legislators on the stance the Board takes on proposed legislation.

For more information on the Nebraska State Board of Education, its mission, role and responsibilities, please follow the link to the website.

Nebraska Board of Education website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/>

Big News From First Grade! - Mrs. Faris

We are now published authors!

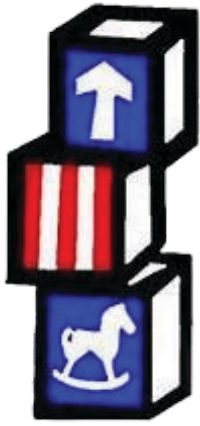
We just received our book in the mail! Our story is When You Give a Teacher a Daisy.

It's about a teacher who receives a daisy and how that started off a great adventure for her. She went to the flower shop on her motorcycle to get a flower pot. When she sees balloons at the flower shop, it reminds her of the fair so she goes there next, and from then on she goes skiing, to the North Pole, Walmart, and back to school. When she opens her Christmas gift from the class it is a flower pot with a penguin on it. That makes her smile and she will always remember the adventure.

Mrs. Robeson and Mr. Rother also contributed to the story. Mrs. Robeson grew a garden with her daisy, and Mr. Rother shared his with Mrs. Rother.

It was a lot of fun!





SENCA Early Head Start

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PREGNANT & AGES 0-3
JOHNSON & OTOE COUNTIES



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- **Health, nutrition, and wellness support**
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APPLY TODAY & CALL 402-862-5883

📍 Central Location: 802 4th
St. Humboldt, NE 68376

🌐 www.senca.org

✉ kgildersleeve@senca.org

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					

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						

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						

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						

November 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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						

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						

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 = 14						

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						

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						

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						

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						
Class C State Track & Field						
Student Days = 12 Teacher Days = 15						

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						

High School News

From Principal Justin Damme

Our school year is winding down, and as we approach the last two months of the school year, I want to congratulate our seniors on all their accomplishments this past year. Success in academics and extracurricular activities now will carry over into their future endeavors, and I wish the senior class much success as they graduate and move on to the next stage of their lives.

I have some important senior dates coming up that parents need to mark on their calendars:

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 - during study session in the cafeteria, I will meet with the seniors to hand out check-out sheets. The seniors will have the remaining two weeks to complete their check-out sheets.

Friday, May 1, 2026 - the last day for seniors is a regular full day of school for seniors. Tests and assignments must be done by this date.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - seniors can start to officially check out. Mr. Damme will check lockers and collect check-out sheets. This needs to be done by the end of the day on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 - Senior grades are due on the computer by 8:00 a.m. I will inform the Salutatorian and Valedictorian of their status.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 - seniors will have a graduation rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. After rehearsal, I will have a senior party/lunch at the fairgrounds for all seniors. At graduation rehearsal, I will verify and print report cards and also hand out cords to seniors with a GPA of 3.85 or higher.

As our seniors are preparing to graduate, our 8th grade students are looking to transition into high school. **8th Grade orientation will take place on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 3:15 p.m.** These current 8th graders will be divided into small groups and will be escorted on a tour of the high school facilities. They will also visit with the extracurricular activities sponsors and will have an opportunity to ask questions during a refreshment period at the end of the orientation.

Another important date I want to discuss is our **JCC Honors Day, which will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, starting at 2:30 p.m. in the high school gym.** This program recognizes our students' academic success. All students will be present at this assembly and will be honored for their achievements in the presence of their peers. We invite and encourage all parents to attend this assembly. We understand this is during the workday, but we hope parents will still attempt to be present as their students are being honored. There will be many awards given during this assembly: Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Classroom Awards, Military Awards, and many others. Please come and help recognize these award recipients.

Let's keep up the good work and end our school year on a high note. Good luck and congrats to all our seniors, and have a safe and exciting graduation!



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

2025-26 JCC HIGH SCHOOL THIRD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

FRESHMEN:

Bentley Campbell
Ulysses Duarte
Jackson Gottula (All A's)
Hadley Hartman (All A's)
Ashton Huskey (All A's)
Marley Jensen
Janel Leyva
Jude Longsine
Diego Martinez (All A's)
Reese McDonald (All A's)
Marvin Najera
Heidi Reyes (All A's)
Kenna Thomas
TyLynn Wellensiek
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 (All A's)
Abigail Burki (All A's)
Reese Carter (All A's)
Adree Case (All A's)
Grace Frederick (All A's)
Connor Gerking
Chase Harrifield
Dalton Henderson
Cooper Jones (All A's)
Bodhi Klein (All A's)
Trey Lubben (All A's)
Anthony Orozco
Stefani Peters (All A's)
Edgar Prado
Sophia Schmid (All A's)
Wesley Schmid (All A's)
Alex Thippavong (All A's)
Landon Toohey
Tegan Topp (All A's)
Rene Villalobes
Riley Wellensiek (All A's)

JUNIORS:

Brayden Beethe
Abigail Bloomstedt (All A's)
Trevor Bohling
Amelia Britt (All A's)
Nevaeh Brown (All A's)
Regan Campbell-Thies (All A's)
Anthony Campos
Maxwell Goracke
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
Wyatt Case
Jaquelin Duarte
Jocelyn Duarte
Trevin Huskey (All A's)
Chanhvi Lay (Danny)
Kongmanyvong (All A's)
Harley Lubben (All A's)
Marisol Mandl (All A's)
Caden McDonald
Tan Nguyen (All A's)
Levi Othmer (All A's)
Briana Robeson (All A's)
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
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.





First Grade News

With the support of the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment organizations, and the Kimmel Foundation, we are excited to tell you that we received a **School Bus for the Arts** grant from these organizations to support our visit to The Rose Theater in Omaha, Nebraska, on Friday, April 30, 2026. We will be watching the performance of *The Great Race*. We will be practicing our active listening skills and theater etiquette as we observe the elements of the theater - posture, movement, facial expressions, gestures, vocals, costumes and makeup, props and scenery. This is a fabulous opportunity for our students to see a book that they've heard in the classroom come alive with the performance of this story.

We are thrilled with this opportunity to attend this performance. We are so thankful to the Nebraska Arts Council. It is a state agency that provides numerous grants, services and special initiatives that help sustain and promote the arts throughout Nebraska. The Nebraska Arts Council is supported by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Kimmel Charitable Foundation, Nebraska Legislature, and National Endowment for the Arts. If you'd like to learn more about the Nebraska Arts Council, you can visit: artscouncil.nebraska.gov.



Spring Choir Activities

Students are gearing up for Contest and the Spring Programs at all levels in the choir department. The middle school students will have just competed at the HTRS Music Contest in Humboldt. Please look for details on the JCC website regarding scores!

The high school choir will be performing their contest pieces at the **April 14th concert** in preparation for the District Music Contest on April 20th. Listed below are the small groups and solos that will be performing. Anyone is welcome to attend!

Lastly, please come attend our **Spring Musical, Once Upon A Mattress**; a silly and extravagant telling of the story The Princess And The Pea. Tickets are available at the door; \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

Girls Duet	Tegan Topp, Adree Case
Girls Duet	Nevaeh Brown, Marisol Mandl
Mixed Duet	Reese Carter, Kael Fricke
Mixed Duet	Tony Orozco, Josie McDonald
Men's Quartet	Kene Ofoegbu, Alex Thipphavong, Edgar Prado, Jesus Hurtado
Boys Ensemble	Kene Ofoegbu, Alex Thipphavong, Edgar Prado, Jesus Hurtado, Kael Fricke, Tony Orozco, Wes Schmid, Marvin Najera
Triple Trio	Charlyn Bobadilla, Tegan Topp, Josie McDonald, Ashley Beethe, Angel Buchanan, Abby Burki, Payton Brandt, Adree Case, Marisol Mandl
Mixed Ensemble	Nevaeh Brown, Charlyn Bobadilla, Reese Carter, Amelia Britt, Adree Case, Marisol Mandl, Heaven Adams, Abby Blomstedt, Wes Schmid, Kene Ofoegbu, Tony Orozco, Marvin Najera, Alex Thipphavong, Jesus Hurtado, Edgar Prado, Kael Fricke
Soprano Solo	Heidi Reyes
Soprano Solo	Nevaeh Brown
Soprano Solo	Reese Carter
Alto Solo	Abby Blomstedt
Alto Solo	Adree Case
Bass Solo	Aiden Strecker

April	14	Tuesday	HS Contest Concert @ 7:00 PM - Auditorium & HS Gym
	20	Monday	HS District Music Contest - Tecumseh
	24	Friday	Musical @ 7:00 PM
	26	Sunday	Musical @ 2:00 PM
May	1	Friday	HS Spring Concert & Art Show @ 7:00 PM - Auditorium
	7	Thursday	4-8 Spring Concert - Cook @ 7:00 PM
	9	Saturday	HS Band at Graduation
	11	Monday	ECNC Honor Band - Freeman
	13	Wednesday	Band Recruitment Day
	19	Tuesday	K-3 Spring Program - HS Gym @ 7:00 PM

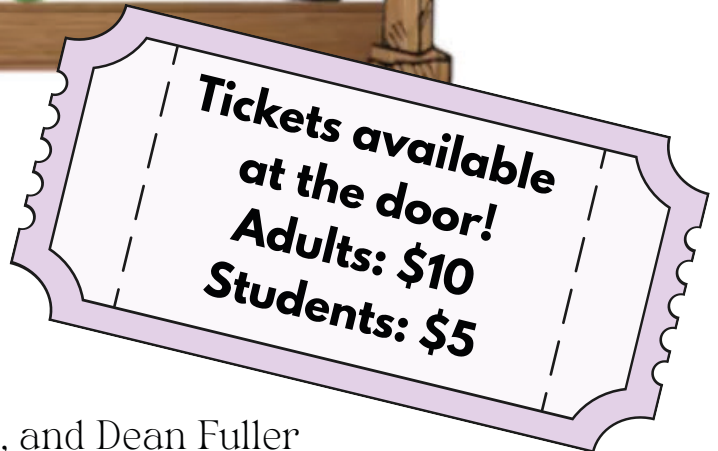
Johnson County Central Proudly Presents

Once Upon A Mattress



Directed by Emily Fricke
Assistant Director: Matt Dierking

Music by Mary Rodgers
Lyrics by Marshall Barer
Book by Jay Thompson, Marshall Barer, and Dean Fuller



Friday, April 24th at 7:00pm
and
Sunday, April 26th at 2:00pm

Johnson County Central's Elementary Auditorium in Tecumseh

Presented through special arrangement through Concord Theatricals. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Concord Theatricals.

"Lucky" Learners!

Kindergarten was buzzing with excitement during the first week of March as we kicked off Read Across America week with special guest readers each morning in the elementary auditorium. The high school students even joined in on the fun on Friday, sharing their love for reading with us. We also celebrated with a silly and delicious treat inspired by Dr. Seuss! After reading *Green Eggs and Ham*, we enjoyed our very own green eggs and ham in the classroom! The bright green eggs looked hilarious, but they tasted absolutely delicious – and everyone was brave enough to give them a try!

To add a little St. Patrick's Day magic, we designed and built leprechaun traps, hoping to catch a sneaky visitor. Using boxes, paper, and lots of shiny gold decorations, students had to think creatively and work together to design their traps. While that tricky leprechaun managed to escape, he definitely left behind smiles and lots of excitement!

- Mrs. Borrenpohl
- Ms. Gabriel



Middle School News

From Principal Marsha Bacon

As the school year moves into its final stretch, April brings an exciting mix of learning, growth, and celebration for our students and staff. Warmer weather means more activity around the building, from NSCAS testing to spring sports and concerts. We appreciate everyone's continued support in helping our students finish the year strong!

NSCAS Testing

Beginning the last week of March, students in grades 3–8 will participate in the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Testing. These assessments provide valuable information about each student's academic progress and help the district evaluate curriculum effectiveness. Parents can support their children by ensuring they get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and maintain a positive mindset on testing days. Encouraging daily reading and reviewing basic test-taking strategies also helps students feel confident and prepared.

Spring Activities & Athletics

Our Junior High Track teams have begun their season with over 30 student participants! Practices began the week of April 16th and participants are working hard to be ready for their first competition. We look forward to cheering them on at upcoming meets, including the JCC Invitational on Thursday, April 30th and the ECNC Championships on Friday, May 8th at Auburn. Go Thunderbirds!

Fine Arts Highlights

Congratulations to the middle school students selected to perform with the Meridian Honor Choir on March 27th. Your talent and hard work continue to make us proud. We also look forward to our upcoming spring concerts later this month—please watch school communication for dates and times.

Celebrating Student Achievement

Congratulations to all students who achieved Honor Roll and Honor Roll with Distinction for the 3rd quarter. Your commitment to academic success and positive citizenship sets a wonderful example for our school community.

Looking Ahead

As we move into May, we'll have several year-end events, including field trips, concerts, track meets, and recognition assemblies. Please watch for updated schedules and permission slips coming home in the weeks ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement at JCC—our students thrive because of the strong partnership between home and school.

Have a wonderful April, and as always — Go Thunderbirds!



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-26 JCC MIDDLE SCHOOL THIRD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

6TH GRADE

Harper Beck
Quinlynn Beethe
Nora Britt (All A's)
Gabriella Brown (All A's)
Josephine Burki
Rylin Campbell (All A's)
Ivan Cornejo
Alivia Gottula (All A's)
Maelyn Hamilton
Madilyn Jensen
Evelyn Little (All A's)
Abby Oenbring
Axel Prado

7TH GRADE

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

8TH GRADE

Lilyana Birdwell
Edith Blomstedt (All A's)
Lila Britt (All A's)
Saul Cabrales
Jay Chaudhari
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)

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.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE BY GARRETT COLLIN

Greetings Thunderbird Family



Winter Sports Round Up

In basketball, the girls finished as District Runner Up. They ended their season at Pender to the eventual state champs. This was the best finish for the girls since the 2011 season. Harley Lubben became the first 1,000 point scorer in school history! It was a good season to be Lady Thunderbird

The boys finished their season at 14-10 when they were defeated by Syracuse in the sub district tournament. Out of 10 losses the boys suffered, 9 of them came from a team that qualified for the state tournament. Wesley Swanson finished as JCC's 2nd all time leading scorer with 1,464 points.

Both Wesley and Harley will be participating in some upcoming All-Star games. Harley will be playing in the MUDECAS Senior All Star Game on March 21st and World Exposure Report All Star Game on March 22. Wesley will also be playing in the World Exposure Report Game. This game takes place in Lindsay.

In wrestling, the two teams sent Caden McDonald, Juan Aguilar, Erik Prado, Haylee Trew, and Alejandra Reyes to Omaha for state wrestling. Caden placed sixth, Alejandra finished as the runner up, Erik & Haylee both came back State Champions! Coach Bowman was also the first coach in the country to challenge a call via replay in a finals match up! JCC was well represented in Omaha during the week.



Spring Start Up

April is finally here and with that comes spring sports! The boy's track team has 35 athletes participating and is coached by Mrs. Angela Huskey. The girls' track team has 22 athletes participating and is coached by Mr. Nick Weber. The track team is also assisted by Mr. Reid Genuchi and Mr. Brad Gabriel. Junior High track has 30 athletes participating (15 boys, 15 girls). They are coached by Mr. Scott Straka and Mr. Cody Franklin. They are assisted by Mrs. Bri Pfeiffer and Mr. Brandon Speckmann.

Boys golf has 15 golfers out this year and is coached by Mr. Benjamin Swanson and assisted by Mr. Russel Waring. JCC also has 1 girl & 3 boys that are participating in soccer and 2 boys for baseball in a co-op with Nebraska City.

To stay up to date with these teams throughout their seasons you can follow them on 'X' (formerly known as Twitter). Give them a follow!

@runjcc
@jcccentralgolf

Here are the home events that we are having this spring:

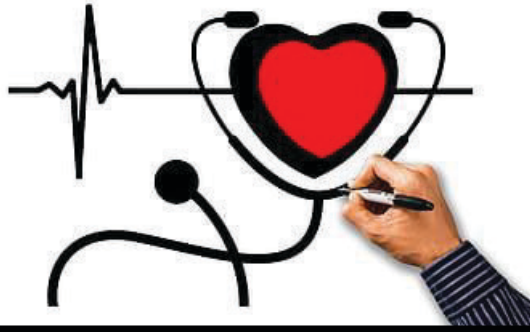
- April 7** - 1st Annual Rich Bacon Track Invite (HS)
- April 30** - Thunderbird Invitational Track Meet (JH)
- May 7** - JCC Invitational Golf Meet
- May 8** - JCC Invitational Track Meet (HS)
- May 14** - District Track Meet
- May 15** - K-6 Track and Field Day

Saige Rother was recognized as one of the NSAA Believers & Achievers statewide recipients during the girls state basketball tournament.

Congrats, Saige!

From the School Nurse's Office

April



School Physicals & Vaccinations!

It's time to schedule your students' school physical!

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

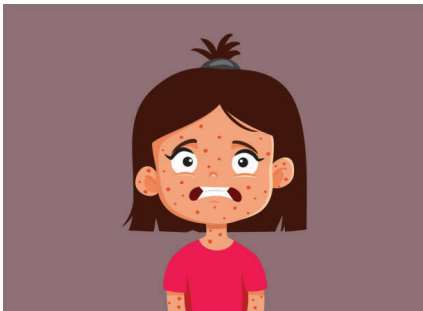
- Evidence of a physical examination completed by a physician, physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse.
- Students must be current with all school required immunizations and provide proof to the school. There are new immunizations needed for **Kindergarten & 7th Grade**.

Please note that High School athletic physicals need to be completed May 1st or after for the 2026/2027 sports season

MEASLES

Measles cases are on the rise nationally. Measles is a highly contagious virus and a serious health concern that can disrupt learning due to students out of school for illness and exclusion from school.

The best protection against measles is vaccination. Protection against measles is



provided by the MMR vaccine. School-age children should have 2 MMR vaccinations to be fully protected; one MMR is given at age one and a second is

given during the Kindergarten physical. 2 doses of the MMR vaccine are 97% effective at preventing **measles**. If unvaccinated people are exposed to measles, there's a high likelihood around 90% that they will contract the disease. If your child is not fully vaccinated from measles, it is recommended that you reach out to your child's provider at this time.



SUNSCREEN

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children use sunscreen that is labeled "broad-spectrum" with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. The spring brings an increase in field trips and outdoor school activities such as field days. Keep this in mind when sending students outdoors or on field trips.

Greetings From the Elementary!

by Beckie Robeson



It's hard to believe we've reached the last quarter of the school year! As we move into the spring season, there are many exciting events and important dates to keep in mind. From testing schedules to special events, our calendar is filled with activities that provide our students with wonderful opportunities for growth and learning. Please continue to check our school calendar for updates on what's happening. Communication is always key. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification about the upcoming events.

Thank you for the continued dedication and support for our students and staff. As we gear up for the end of the year, let's celebrate the achievements and hard work of our students. Whether it's through testing, performances, or competitions, every event is a chance for them to shine and showcase their talents.

Thank you for being such an essential part of our school community. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where every child is encouraged to excel and dream big. Here's to a fantastic finish to the school year!

Spring Testing Schedule

- **Kindergarten:**
 - April 21: MAPS Reading
 - April 23: MAPS Math
 -
- **First-Grade:**
 - April 22: MAPS Reading
 - April 23: MAPS Math
- **Second-Grade:**
 - April 29: MAPS Math
 - April 30: MAPS Reading
 - May 1: MAPS Language Arts
- **Third-Grade:**
 - April 21: NSCAS Reading
 - April 22: NSCAS Math
 - April 23: MAPS Language Arts
 - April 24: MAPS Science

Important Dates

- **Monday, March 30:** School in Session
- **Friday, April 3:** No School, Easter Break
- **Monday, April 6:** No School, Easter Break
- **Tuesday, April 7:** JCC Track Invite, Coffee Truck Fundraiser
- **Monday, April 13:** Teacher In-Service, no school for students
- **Tuesday, April 14:** Kindergarten Round-Up, no school for preschool and kindergarten students, only.
- **Friday, April 17:** Golden Sower Reading Competition at Peru State College
- **Friday, Apr 17:** The NED Show
- **Monday, April 20:** Teacher In-Service, no school for students
- **Thursday, April 23:** Musical Matinee for K-8
- **Monday, April 27:** No School
- **Wednesday, April 29:** Future Fourth-Grade Orientation
- **Thursday, April 30:** First-Grade Field Trip to Rose Theater

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

3rd Quarter Thunderbirds

April 2026



Kindergarten: Ma'Teah Throckmorton-Ellsworth, Anderson Macias Paz, Aiden Najera Andrade, Donta Williams, Levi Rech, and Nixon Pollard



First-Grade: Norah McCoppin, MaKayla Sell, Graham Gist, not pictured Vanessa Sterup



Second-Grade: Dalary Zepeda, Yuleidi Cardona-Juarez, Christopher Duarte-Chavez, Emmarie Shulla, and Izzabella Brown



Third-Grade: Ayden Cottrell, Penny Barnes, Beau Lada, Brensy Cardona, Aurora VanLaningham, and Carsyn Gregory

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Throughout the school year, your child has faced different types of tests. Our goal is to ensure that all students feel calm and confident during these assessments, and we need your help. Please assist in explaining that tests, including standardized achievement tests, are important tools for supporting children's learning. A well-designed test can show a child's strengths and areas where they may need extra support. At school, we talk about the purpose and importance of testing and practice essential test-taking skills, such as following directions and managing time well. Here are some ways you can help your child perform better on tests.

Before a Test, Children Need:

- A restful night's sleep
- A nutritious breakfast
- Consistency in their routine, such as arriving at school on time
- Understanding and support if they are feeling anxious or upset

How to Talk With Your Child About Tests:

- Communicate that you value tests because they help children improve their learning.
- Encourage your child to take the test seriously and do their best, but reassure them that they won't face trouble for any incorrect answers.
- Avoid adding pressure through threats or rewards linked to test outcomes.
- Refrain from making comparisons to siblings or other students.
- Emphasize that every child is unique in their strengths and learning styles, and deserves to be cherished for their individuality.

As we get closer to testing dates, Remind messages will be sent out to notify you of the days your children will be tested and the academic area they will be assessed in. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.



Contact Info:

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

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NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

SCC Dual Credit Courses at JCC High School: HS Students Can Register Now

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.

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.

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.



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 Owen, Briana, James, and Saige.



Owen Weber
JCC Class of 2026

Owen Weber is the son of Nick and Lisa Weber of Tecumseh. He has one brother, Aiden, who is 20 years old.

Throughout his high school years, Owen has participated in band, cross country, golf, FBLA, and play production. When asked about his favorite class and his most challenging high school class, Owen replied, “I enjoyed physics class because we got to make a boat. Calculus is my most challenging class because it is a lot of work.”

Owen’s favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl.

Outside of school, Owen likes to golf. His favorite musical artist is Drake. After high school, Owen plans to attend either the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or the University of Nebraska-Omaha to major in either mechanical engineering or architectural engineering. He is interested in the field of engineering because he likes math and science.

When asked what his life will be like ten years from now, Owen said, “I will be living in Omaha, working as an engineer.”

Briana Robeson is the daughter of Jeff and Beckie Robeson of Table Rock. She has one brother, Ian, who is 13.

During her high school years, Bri has been involved in volleyball, golf, basketball, track, softball, FFA, FBLA, FCA, HOSA, band, student council, National Honor Society.

Her favorite classes are her agriculture classes. When asked about her most challenging class, Bri replied, “My most challenging class has been chemistry. Mrs. Rother has really challenged us to help prepare us for college.”

After high school, Bri plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to major in animal science to work towards her career goal of becoming a veterinarian. As for music, Bri’s favorite band is the Turnpike Troubadours. Her favorite movie is Rango.

In ten years, Bri says, “I will hopefully be done with vet school and working as a veterinarian in rural Nebraska.”



Briana Robeson
JCC Class of 2026

Johnson County Central High School Class of 2026



James Stalions-Nixon
JCC Class of 2026

James Stalions-Nixon is the son of Micah Nixon and Maggie Nixon. He lives in the country near Tecumseh. He has one brother, Jacob, who is a junior at JCC.

During his high school years, James has been involved in football, track, choir, Skills USA, and JAG. According to James, his favorite high school classes have been his English classes with Mrs. Little because her classes are always great environments to learn in. His most challenging class is Botany because there is so much subject matter to cover throughout the class. His favorite school lunch is fried chicken and waffles.

Outside of school, James likes to work on his car and go out. He likes all kinds of music, especially 2Pac. He also enjoys reading the CHERUB series.

After high school, James plans to attend SCC-Milford and to be in their diesel technology program. He has received an NMC-CAT scholarship to pay for his entire education.

After college, he plans to work for CAT as a diesel technician. In ten years, James says, "I see myself married with kids, living somewhere nice, and working as a mechanic for CAT."

Saige Rother is the daughter of Jon and Maggie Rother of Vesta. She has three older siblings, Simon (25), Saylor (23), and Sunnie (20).

During her high school years, Saige has been involved in basketball, volleyball, track and field, FBLA, FFA, HOSA, Quiz Bowl, Academic Decathlon, Student Council, One Act Play, National Honor Society, and FCA.

Her favorite class is advanced architectural drafting and design because she gets to see her plans come to life. Her most challenging class is chemistry because it is a very complicated subject with lots of dual-part problem solving.

After high school, Saige plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to major in Construction Management. She is interested in Construction Management as a future career because it involves planning and designing projects.

Saige likes to read; her favorite author is Jules Verne.

In ten years, Saige says, "I plan to live somewhere in Nebraska, with a family, working as a construction manager."



Saige Rother
JCC Class of 2026

Books
ARE
FUN

¡MUY
PRONTO!

BOOK BLAST

Ayude a su estudiante a hacer crecer su biblioteca de libros en casa.

**Nuestra misión comienza el
Wednesday, April 15th**

Nos asociamos con Books Are Fun y el programa Book Blast para poner libros nuevos en manos de todos los estudiantes.

Por qué nos encanta Book Blast:

- Cada estudiante recibe libros apropiados para su edad que le encantarán.
- El 100 % de las contribuciones se destina directamente a libros y necesidades del aula.
- La lista de libros es fantástica: cuidadosamente seleccionada y emocionante.

**ESTÉ ATENTO A UN MENSAJE DE NUESTRO DIRECTOR
CON MÁS DETALLES.**

Su estudiante también se llevará a casa un Mapa del Tesoro impreso. Completarlo es la clave para unirse a la diversión y ganar premios y libros. ¡Pronto habrá más información!



**Obtenga más información sobre Books Are Fun
y el programa Book Blast AQUÍ:**



SOLO PARA TUS OJOS

Books
ARE
FUN

COMING
SOON!

BOOK BLAST

Help your student grow their
at-home book library.

Our mission begins on
Wednesday, April 15th

We're teaming up with Books Are Fun and the Book Blast program to put brand-new books into the hands of every student.

Why We Love Book Blast:

- Every student receives age-appropriate books they'll love
- 100% of contributions go directly to books and classroom needs
- The book list is fantastic – curated and exciting

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL
WITH MORE DETAILS.**

Your student will also bring home a printed Treasure Map – completing it is the key to joining the fun and earning prizes and books. **More info coming soon!**



Learn more about Books Are Fun & the Book Blast Program **HERE:**



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY.



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

Autism Awareness Month is observed every April to promote understanding and acceptance of autism. It begins with World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), often referred to as Autism, is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation (Autism Society of Nebraska). Autism is a neurological disorder that

affects a person's ability to communicate, socialize, and interact with other people. Signs of autism may include: lack of eye contact, lack or loss of language skills, lack of appropriate play skills, sensory overload, self-stimulatory behaviors (such as spinning, hand flapping, hair pulling or head banging), sensitivity to environmental stimuli, and the inability to understand social cues (Autism Family Network). The Autism experience is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently and to varying degrees (Autism Society of Nebraska).

The cause for Autism is undiscovered, however it is generally accepted that it is caused by differences in brain structure or function. There has been misinformation about the cause of Autism. It is not caused by vaccines, due to parenting style, or nutrition. In many families, there appears to be a pattern of Autism or related disabilities, further supporting the theory that the disorder has a genetic basis. While no one gene has been identified as causing Autism, researchers are searching for irregular segments of genetic code that people with Autism may have inherited (Autism Society of Nebraska).

Research in the past has mostly focused on boys with autism and programs focus on boys' needs. Recently the differences between Autism in boys and girls is coming forward with new research. Girls on the Spectrum is a new training and bringing awareness that girls with Autism are often discovered later, this is due to girls' increased masking of their symptoms and hiding their struggles (Autism Works).

Interesting Facts about Autism Awareness Month from Autism360

1. Autism Awareness month began in April 1970 and was founded by Dr. Rimland, a researcher and psychologist.
2. President Reagan became the first US President to issue a proclamation recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month
3. The Light It Up Blue campaign by Autism Speaks was launched in 2004 to increase awareness of Autism Awareness Month.
4. The Puzzle Piece is a globally recognized symbol of hope, strength, and power for people with Autism. It symbolized the complex nature of autism, and reminded us to stay connected.

Autism resources in Nebraska:

- Autism Society of Nebraska – <https://autismnebraska.org/>
- Autism Family Network – <https://www.autismfamilynetwork.org/>
- Munroe Meyer Institute (MMI) – <https://www.unmc.edu/mmi/>

Autism resources

- [Girls on the Spectrum](#)

Activities:

★ Autism Run- See image

★ Read a book.

- Uniquely Wired- Julia Cook
- Team Players by Mike Lipica
- Watchdog by Will McIntosh, James Fouhey,
- Franky and Amelia by Cammie McGovern, Josh Innerst
- All Brains Welcome

★ Practice Social Situations/ Scenarios

★ Create Art and Crafts- Be accepting of all



MARCH 3, 2026



Parent Learning Opportunities

Transition to adulthood can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to walk it alone. Join Megan Misegadis (ASD Network) and Aaron Bly (Kids and Dreams Foundation) for an honest parent-to-parent conversation about raising young adults with disabilities. They will share the wins, the hard moments, and the wisdom they wish they had known sooner in our April Agencies and Anxiety series.

Register [HERE](#) - Registration includes all sessions of Agencies of Anxiety

Tip of the Month -

Graduation = Shift in Responsibility

Before students walk across the stage, make sure they can explain:

- Their disability
- How it impacts them
- What accommodations help
- How to request support

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), schools identify and provide services. After graduation, protections fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — and students must self-disclose and self-advocate.

A quick “exit interview” practice conversation can make all the difference.



Student Learning Opportunities

Chat n Chow: Via zoom from 12:30-1:10 CST

March 18th: Work Based Learning/Pre Employment Skills - featuring employers who will share what they look for in strong job candidates and employees. Students will hear firsthand about important workplace skills like reliability, communication, attitude, and teamwork—and what really makes someone stand out during the hiring process. This is a great opportunity for students to connect classroom skills to real-world employment expectations and build confidence for their future careers.

April 15th: Transition from a Student Perspective: Tools for Self-Advocacy and Participation in your Future - Can you self-advocate? Do you wonder who will make decisions about your future? Learning to determine and participate in the decision making process for your planning is a skill you can start learning NOW!

👉 Register today for the Chat 'n Chow sessions! All sessions are recorded for your convenience



Hot Tip: These are excellent starting points for engaging student in transition activities!

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
			<p>1 JCC Foundation Meeting 6:30 PM - HS Computer Lab</p>	<p>2 Middle School Dance - 7 PM</p>	<p>3 NO SCHOOL Easter Break</p>	<p>4</p>	
	<p>5 NO SCHOOL Easter Break</p>	<p>6 NO SCHOOL Easter Break</p>	<p>7 Varsity Track @ JCC - 9:30 AM Varsity Boys Golf Dual @ Southern - 4:30 PM</p>	<p>8 Varsity Boys Golf @ Friend CC - 9:30 AM ESU4 JH Quiz Bowl @ Peru JCC School Board Meeting - 6 PM @ HS Computer Lab (Rm 204)</p>	<p>9 Nebraska State SkillsUSA Conference and Career Skill Championships Zoology Field Trip - 8 AM 7th Grade Field Trip @ Schramm Park</p>	<p>10 Nebraska State SkillsUSA Conference and Career Skill Championships Zoology Field Trip - 8 AM 7th Grade Field Trip @ Schramm Park</p>	<p>11 Annual Cheer Banquet @ Hartmans - 5 PM</p>
<p>12 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl @ JCC - 10 AM</p>	<p>13 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl @ JCC - 10 AM</p>	<p>14 Kindergarten Roundup - 9 AM Varsity Boys Golf @ Kirkman's Cove - 9 AM MUDECAS JH Quiz Bowl @ Palmyra - 1 PM HS Music Contest Concert @ Auditorium - 7 PM</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 FBLa State Leadership Conference Varsity Boys Golf @ Wildwood GC - 10 AM JH Track Quad @ Palmyra - 10 AM</p>	<p>17 FBLa State Leadership Conference Golden Sower Reading Competition @ Peru</p>	<p>18 FBLa State Leadership Conference JH Track MUDECAS Meet @ Palmyra - 8:30 AM</p>	
<p>19 NO SCHOOL District Music Contest @ JCC Varsity Boys Golf @ Falls City - 1:30 PM</p>	<p>20 NO SCHOOL District Music Contest @ JCC Varsity Boys Golf @ Falls City - 1:30 PM</p>	<p>21 Varsity Boys Golf ECNC @ Crooked Creek - 9 AM Varsity Track @ Tri County - 10 AM JH Track @ Falls City - 4 PM</p>	<p>22 Leaders in Ag Day</p>	<p>23 Musical @ Auditorium Varsity Boys Golf @ Wildwood GC - 10 AM JH Track Quad @ Palmyra - 10 AM</p>	<p>24 Athletic Awards Ceremony & IntraSchool Quiz Bowl HS Gym - 1 PM Musical Public Performance @ Auditorium - 7 PM</p>	<p>25 Varsity Track MUDECAS @ Tri County - 8:30 AM</p>	
<p>26 Musical Public Performance @ Auditorium - 2 PM</p>	<p>27 NO SCHOOL Varsity Track @ Falls City - 2:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Varsity Boys Golf @ Tecumseh CC - 2:30 PM</p>	<p>29 Blood Drive - 7:30 AM Varsity Boys Golf @ Woodland Hills - 8:30 AM</p>	<p>30 JH Track @ JCC - 10 AM</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>32</p>	



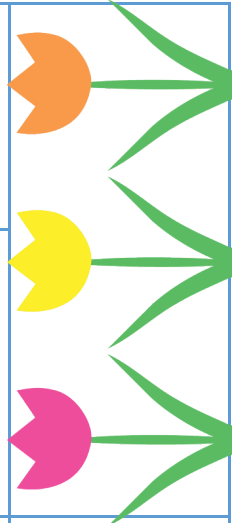
ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

QR Code for JCC Event Calendar on Google!



April 2026

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
 Menu Is Subject to Change Without Notice "This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"	NO SCHOOL Easter Break	Chicken Quesadilla Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Spaghetti w/Meatsauce Green Beans Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pizza Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	NO SCHOOL TEACHER IN-SERVICE	Thai Meatballs Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Corndog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Totcho's Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Hamburger/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	NO SCHOOL District Music Contest @ JCC	Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Deli Meat & Cheese Wrap Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Sloppy Joe/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	
26	27	28	29	30		
	NO SCHOOL	Scalloped Potato w/Ham Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pulled Pork/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Sweet & Sour Chicken Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		

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.