



THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

The 2026 Bond Election

SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY UPDATE

BY JON H. ROTHER



Volume 20

Issue 3

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Jon Rother

Superintendent
402-921-0187

Justin Damme

Principal (9-12)
402-335-7815

Marsha Bacon

Principal (4-8)
402-335-7885

Beckie Robeson

Principal (PK-3)
402-335-7839

Laura Rademacher

Director of Student Services/
Special Education
402-335-7851

Garrett Collin

Activities Director
402-736-5757

JCC

In August, as the school board went through the budgeting process and finished up the first summer of major renovations in the high school, they came to the conclusion that a bond was the most affordable option moving forward with the district's facilities. A Special Board Meeting was planned and held on August 26, 2026, with a resolution calling for a November 2026 bond election. As the board sees it, the facility decision voters are being asked to evaluate comes down to:

- Spend \$57,500,000 over 25 years in "inefficient operations" by continuing to utilize our General Fund, Building Fund, & QCPUF to address facility issues
- Or
- Utilize a \$35,000,000 bond over 25 years and allow the district to utilize tax dollars in a more efficient manner

After the 2022 and 2023 failed bond attempts, the school board developed a plan that reflects considerable changes from the prior two bond proposals.

- Square footage - The previous bonds were for building a single PK-12 building (approximately 130,000 square feet). The current bond is for a 71,000 square foot PK-8 facility.
- Scope - Prior bonds were for one building to house PK-12. The proposed scope is to bring the existing high school up to code using our building fund and utilize a school bond to build a PK-8 facility.
- Location - The proposed PK-8 building will be located northeast of the high school football field to minimize the need for dirt work and be a one level structure that does NOT need elevators or lifts. Other factors for utilizing the Tecumseh site: most students reside near this location, the availability of utilities, and the openness of the site north of the football field.

The November General Election will give JCC residents the opportunity to vote on the bond, not to exceed \$35 million for the construction (including project costs and inflation). With the district's current valuations, a \$35 million bond over 25 years will remain constant over the life of the bond. The impact on the levy would not take effect until January of 2028.

A successful bond will result in JCC operating with increased efficiencies of staff, utilities, transportation, repairs and renovations. Once renovations are done to the high school and all facilities are in one town / two buildings, the "efficiencies" of the aforementioned would allow JCC to decrease our current levy by approximately 20 cents (assuming current projections) amongst the General Fund, Building Fund and QCPUF.

Following a successful bond election, the BOE and Administration will work with DA Davidson to sell the bonds. The \$35 million bond issue is expected to be tax-exempt and sold with maturities occurring over 25 years. Any local taxpayers interested in the general obligation bonds should reach out to the district office for more information.

If you have further questions, please do stop by or give me a call or contact a JCC school board member.

Justin Beethe - justin.beethe@jccentral.org

Gail Hutt - gail.hutt@jccentral.org

Dan Jones - dan.jones@jccentral.org, 402-335-0583

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

See Proposed Building Plan on Following Page

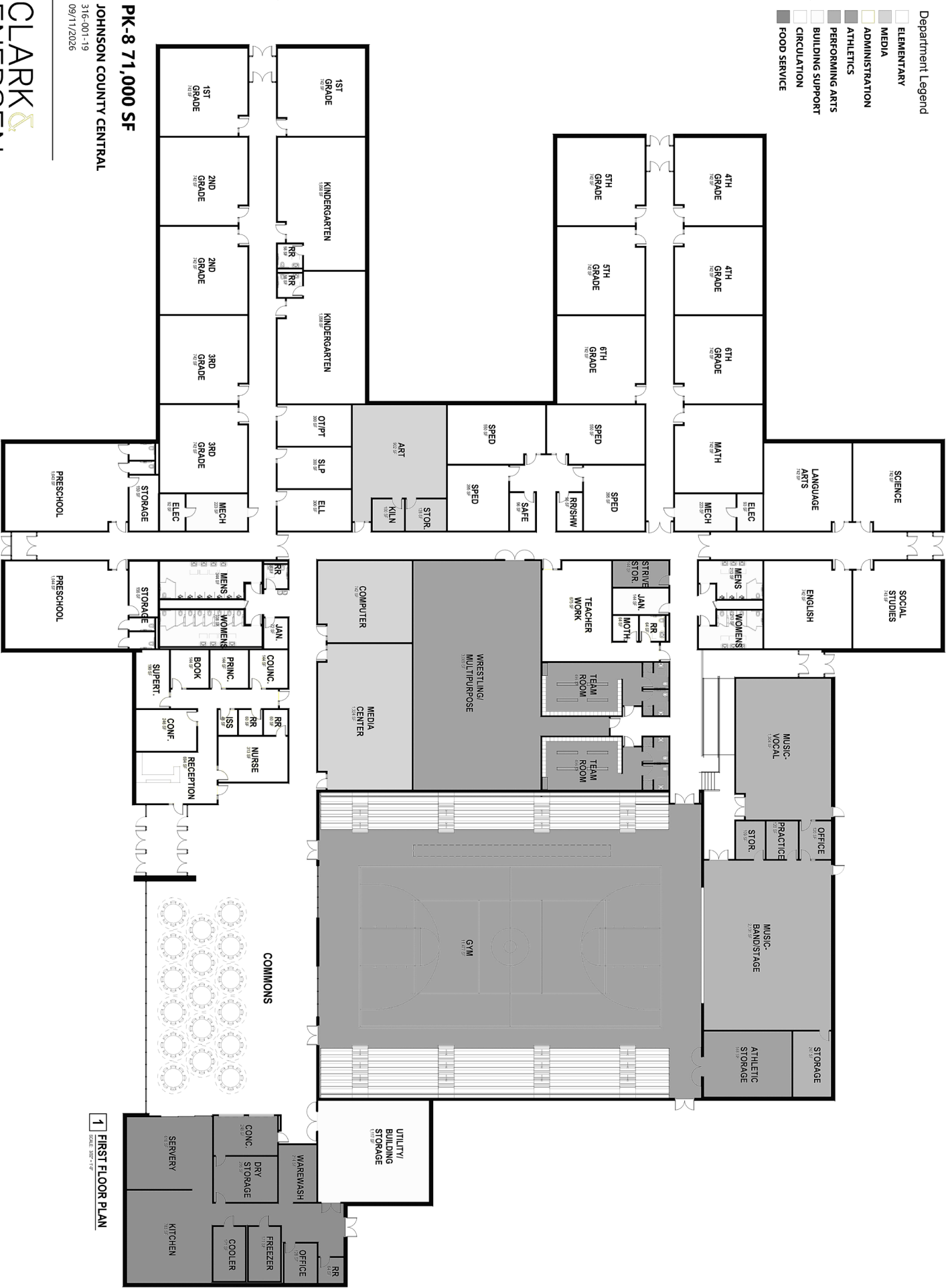
*The following preliminary plans are for a one story, one level building.



Proposed Building Plan

*The following preliminary plans are for a one story, one level building.

- Department Legend
- ELEMENTARY
 - MEDIA
 - ADMINISTRATION
 - ATHLETICS
 - PERFORMING ARTS
 - BUILDING SUPPORT
 - CIRCULATION
 - FOOD SERVICE



1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

CLARK &
ENERSEN

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL
316-001-19
09/11/2026

PK-8 71,000 SF

JCC's Annual Title 1 Pumpkin Night

Friday, October 16, 2026

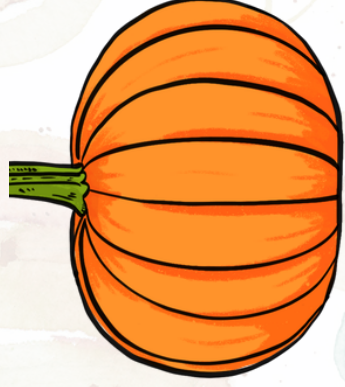
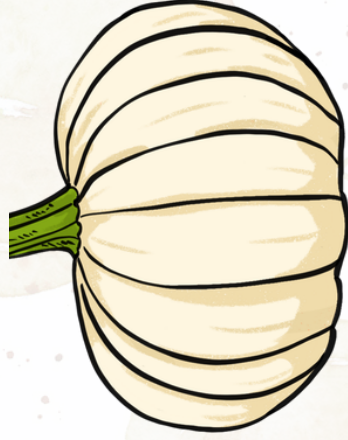


Informational Meeting and Decorating at 6:00 pm in HS Cafeteria

Free Hot Dog,
Chips, & Drink

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

Free Pumpkin
Decorating
Following Meeting



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

The Importance of Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Parent-Teacher Conferences are on October 12th
11:00 a.m.- 7:00 pm**

One of the most valuable ways parents and guardians can support their students is by attending parent-teacher conferences and staying connected with the teachers about their child's education.

Our teachers spend a significant amount of time with your children. They see their academic progress, classroom participation, strengths, challenges, interests, and areas where your child may need additional support. These valuable conversations can help parents better understand how their student(s) are doing, not just academically but with life in general.

Education works best when schools and families communicate and work together. Attending conferences helps build relationships between parents, students, and teachers. Parent-teacher conferences provide an opportunity to address questions or concerns before they become bigger challenges. Even when your student is doing well academically, conferences are valuable. They provide a chance to celebrate successes, learn more about your child's educational experience, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

We encourage all parents and guardians to make parent-teacher conferences a priority and take advantage of this important opportunity to connect, communicate, and support your child's success. Johnson County Central is stronger when our school, families, and students work together.



Importance of Attendance

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

Parents:

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

Students:

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

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

Access the school website at www.jccentral.org
Navigate to the Students Tab → Handbook → 2026-27 Student Handbook → go to pages 13-16

Check the JCC Calendar online for additional activities going on in our district

PHONE NUMBER:
402-335-7815



EMAIL:
JUSTIN.DAMME@JCCENTRAL.ORG



WEBSITE:
WWW.JCCENTRAL.ORG



United Way
of the Midlands

JCC High School JAG

Mrs. Betsy Herbert JCC HS JAG Career Specialist

What are Shine Bright Hygiene Kits?

Shine Bright is a United Way of the Midlands initiative that helps students start the school year feeling clean, confident, and ready to succeed and SHINE.

Through partnerships with local school districts and community organizations, United Way raises funds and collects essential hygiene items for JAG Nebraska programs. Each Shine Bright kit includes full-size personal care items, with kits thoughtfully designed to meet the different needs of students. (Tide pods, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, body wash and much more). Every JCCHS Jag student received a Shine Bright Hygiene kit to take home to share with their families to help alleviate rising costs of household goods.

Mrs. Herbert of JCCHS Jag, used the Shine Bright program as an opportunity to turn generosity into a real-world learning experience for her students.

During an interactive classroom activity, students learned about the important role donations, volunteers, businesses, and community partners play in making programs like Shine Bright possible. They were then challenged to estimate the actual cost of the hygiene products included in each kit.

Using whiteboards, students recorded their guesses as each item was shown and discussed. Points were awarded for the closest estimates, adding a little friendly competition to the lesson while helping students practice budgeting, pricing, and everyday financial skills.

By the end of the activity, students discovered just how quickly the cost of basic necessities can add up. The women's kit was valued at approximately \$93.52, while the men's kit totaled approximately \$76.87.

That realization led to an important conversation about gratitude. Students discussed the time, money, and generosity given by the people and organizations that make these kits possible and considered meaningful ways they could show their appreciation.

Together, the class decided that writing personal thank-you notes to United Way and the program's donors would be a great way to give something back. Those notes will be completed during an upcoming lesson.

Shine Bright is about much more than providing hygiene products. It is a reminder to students that their community cares about them—and an opportunity for students to understand the generosity, teamwork, and compassion that make programs like this possible.

To learn more about Shine Bright or ways to support the program, visit United Way of the Midlands. If you or your household are needing financial assistance, please contact the United Way of the Midlands at 2-1-1.

Participating Organizations of Shine Bright Initiative:

Asset Living, Bank of America & Merrill Lynch, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Caesars Entertainment, Centris Federal Credit Union, CHI Health, Children's Nebraska, Clarkson College, College Possible, Election Systems & Software Inc., Fiserv, FNIC, FotoFunSpot, Google, GFiber, Goosmann Law Firm, Holmes Murphy, Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates, Liberty Packaging, MidAmerican Energy, Millwork Commons, Molina Healthcare, Metropolitan Utilities District, Nebraska Medicine, OBI Creative, Omaha Storm Chasers, OPPD, Opti9, Pella Omaha, PJ Morgan Real Estate, RDG Planning & Design, Rocket Carwash, Tim & Terri Burke, T-Mobile, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Wellabe, Werner, and WoodmenLife.

Cook Site News

By Marsha Bacon



Halloween Saturday, October 31

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

Parent Teacher Conferences are Monday October 12

Parent Teacher Conferences are Monday, October 6 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The first quarter ends on Friday, October 9th. Please make plans to attend conferences to discuss your child's classroom performance with their teachers. One of the most important factors in determining student academic success is parent involvement. Middle School teachers will be available in the old gym. Please work with the teachers in grades 4 & 5 to schedule your student's conference. Elementary conferences will be in the classroom.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's performance before conferences, or if you will be unable to attend conferences, please contact your child's teachers. We hope to see everyone at conferences.

Fall MAP Testing Completed

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

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

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

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

Individual student reports will be available at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Student Activities

Richardson County Parade

The 7th & 8th grade Band marched at the Richardson County Fair in Humboldt on September 17th and have been performing in the Pep Band at our home football and volleyball games. The band, did an outstanding job marching in unison while playing the Johnson County Central Fight Song.

Middle School Athletics

Middle school athletics continues as we are in the last half of the fall sports season. The Junior High Football Team and Volleyball Teams are improving each day. Sixty-nine percent (43 out of 62) of our 7th & 8th grade students are involved in one of our fall sports. These student-athletes and their coaches are working hard to improve their fundamentals and come together as a team, and are committing a great deal of time and effort to participate.

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



JCC
THUNDERBIRDS



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

BOOK FAIR

Find Your Next Great Read



October 8 - 16th during
school and online
October 12th- 11am-7pm
during parent-teacher conferences

Tecumseh Elem



Cook Site



**JCC Tecumseh Elementary
& Cook site locations**



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

We hope to see you there!

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

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

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

Greetings From the Elementary!

by Beckie Robeson

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

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

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



Scholastic Book Fair

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

Paperwork Reminder

- If you haven't already, please make sure all required paperwork is up to date, including your phone numbers. ParentSquare is our main communication tool for the district. If you have not filled out paperwork with the office, you may not receive those messages.
- Remember, meals and milk snack must be paid for in advance.

Important Dates

- Monday, October 5: No School
- Monday, October 12: No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 15: First-grade Trip to the Tecumseh Fire Station 11:45 a.m.
- Friday, October 16:
 - Kindergarten field trip to Roca Berry Farm
 - Title 1 Pumpkin Night 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 19: No School
- Friday, October 17: Kindergarten Field Trip to Roca Berry Farm
- Monday, October 19: No School
- Monday, October 26: No School - Teacher In-service
- Friday, October 30: JAG 'Haunted Hallway'

Contact Info:

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

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

School Attendance and Absenteeism: What Parents Need to Know

As we approach the end of the first quarter, I want to emphasize the importance of regular attendance for your child's academic success. We are committed to supporting you in maintaining consistent attendance. Please review the following attendance policies and contact an administrator with any questions.

Compulsory Attendance

All children in our district aged 6 to 18, unless they have graduated from high school, are required to attend school regularly. Please get in touch with us if you have questions about your specific situation. A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child.

Exceptions to Compulsory Attendance

We recognize that severe weather or illness may prevent attendance. Exceptions also apply if your child is caring for an unwell child. Children under the age of 7 may be excused if a parent or guardian submits an affidavit requesting alternative educational arrangements.

Discontinuing Enrollment

To discontinue enrollment for a student who will not reach age 6 before January 1 of the current school year, parents or guardians must submit a written request to the superintendent. Please get in touch with us to ensure all steps are completed.

Excused Absences

We understand that absences are sometimes unavoidable. The following situations may qualify as excused absences:

- Severe weather conditions
- Medical appointments
- Family emergencies, such as the death or serious illness of a family member
- Important family events, such as weddings or graduations
- Legal obligations, such as court appearances
- Religious observances of the student's own faith
- College visits for older students
- Family vacations

Please notify the school of these absences so we can record them as excused.

Addressing Excessive Absenteeism

Excessive absenteeism is a concern. We address it with the following steps:

- 5 unexcused absences: You may receive written notification from our attendance officer.
- 10 unexcused absences: You will receive a notification, and we will offer to meet with you to discuss barriers to attendance.
- 15 unexcused absences: A meeting with relevant stakeholders will be scheduled to identify and address barriers to attendance.

"When a student has accrued 20 days of unexcused absences, or the hourly equivalent, the district may report the matter to the county attorney in the county where the student resides" (Policy 5001, pg. 4)

We are committed to working with you to support your child's consistent attendance and academic success. Our principals are here to ensure every child receives the education they deserve. If you have questions or need clarification about our attendance policies, please get in touch with us.

Contact Info:

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

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



NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

Apply to College Day- October 2nd

On October 2nd, all JCC seniors are invited to apply to at least one college or university, or learn about signing with a military branch or apprenticeship program. We will have several college/university reps, military reps, and union reps to help seniors apply to their programs, colleges, or universities. Both seniors and juniors will also be able to schedule time to talk to reps of colleges, universities, or programs that they are interested in.

ACT Prep Night- October 7th

On October 7th, all JCC High School students are invited to attend an ACT prep night. This is for all students. It will definitely help those who signed up to take the ACT in October, but it is also good prep for any students taking the ACT at any time this school year. A free supper will be served to any students who attend from 5:45- 6:25 PM, catered by Farm Berry Kitchen, courtesy of the College Access Grant. The ACT prep sessions will be from 6:30- 7:10 PM and 7:15- 7:55 PM. Students will need to sign up to attend with Mrs. Reuter by October 6th.

College Fair for Juniors at SCC-Lincoln- October 9th

On Friday, October 9th, all JCC High School juniors will be attending the NACRAO (Nebraska Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) college fair at SCC- Lincoln. We will leave school at 8:15 AM and will return right before second lunch. At this event, students get the opportunity to talk to 30-50 college representatives from both in-state and out of state as well as some military branch representatives.

Nebraska's Universal FAFSA Requirement- All Seniors in the Class of 2027 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.

NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR (Cont.)

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

High School Students and Parents- EducationQuest is an Important Resource

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

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2027

Each month, I will feature some of our seniors at JCC High School. **This month, meet Max, William, Abigail, Trever, and Amelia.**

MAX
Goracke



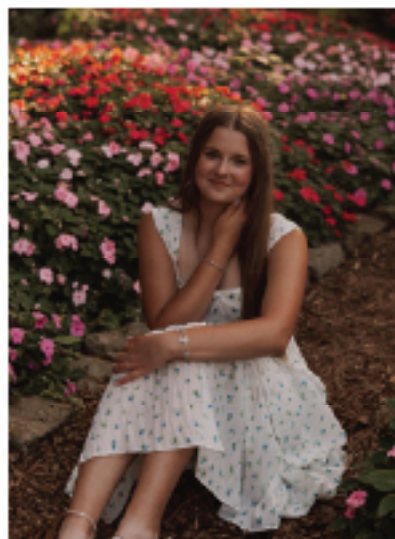
Max Goracke is the son of Jackie and Travis Goracke of Tecumseh. He has two older siblings; Gwen- age 24 and Austin- age 21. During his high school years, Max has been involved in choir, art, wrestling, football, and Skills USA. When asked about his favorite class, Max said, "My favorite class is Jag because Mrs. Herbert is the best." He said that his most challenging class is English because there is a lot of work. Outside of school, Max likes to hang out with his friends. His favorite movie is Billy Madison. After high school, he plans to attend a trade school or a community college to have a career as either an electrician or in HVAC. When asked about what he thinks he will be doing ten years from now, Max predicts, "I'll be living by a beach with a nice house working as a H-vac or electrician. I'll be married and will have two kids."

William Rademacher is the son of Laura and Nick Rademacher. He lives out in the country, straight south of Cook. He has one sister, Lucy. This year, William is participating in Striv, Skills USA, and basketball. In past years of high school, he also participated in football and band. According to William, "My favorite class is Team Games because there are a lot of funny moments when you are playing a game with friends." William said that his most challenging class is, "Composition I because I am not very good with grammar." His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, William likes to play video games. His favorite song is Jane! By the Long Faces. At this time, William plans to attend Northeast Community College and study Sports Media Production. He is very interested in a future career in sports media because he always finds it interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes of a sports production. In ten years, William predicts "I might be living in an apartment in Lincoln, and still be single."

**WILLIAM
Rademacher**



**ABIGAIL
Blomstedt**



Abigail Blomstedt is the daughter of Vincent and Morgan Blomstedt of Cook. Her siblings are Catherine- age 20 (a junior at UNK), Edith- age 14 (a freshman at JCC), and Vincent- age 12 (a 6th grader at JCC). During high school, Abigail has been involved in Golf, NHS, FBLA, Choir, HOSA, and Academic Decathlon. When asked about her favorite high school class, Abigail replied, "My favorite high school class is English Composition 2 because it is such a laid back class where we are really allowed to just focus on writing our essays instead of worrying about a bunch of small random assignments." When it comes to her most challenging class, Abigail said, "My most challenging high school class is Psychology. It is very fast paced and there are a lot of extra assignments like notes outside of class and the FRP's which makes it stressful and demanding of my time." Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Abigail likes to bake and spend time with her family. When asked about her favorite music, TV shows, movies, and books, she said, "The majority of the music I listen to is country, but I also listen to some 90s rock from time to time. My favorite tv show is "The Rookie." I don't really have a favorite movie. If I had to pick one, it would probably be "White Chicks" or really most any comedy or horror movie. My favorite author is Freida McFadden. My favorite book of hers is "Never Lie." After high school, Abigail plans to attend the University of Nebraska- Omaha to major in secondary education. Her current career goal is to become a high school teacher. When asked to predict where she will be in ten years, Abigail said, "In ten years, I'm not totally sure where I will be. I will definitely be teaching somewhere in Nebraska, and will most likely be married. Hopefully, I will have one kid, if not two, and will probably own a house

AMELIA Britt



Amelia Mae Britt is the daughter of Brian and Ann Britt of Tecumseh. She has three younger sisters, Lila- age 14, Nora- age 12, and Merida- age 9. During high school, Amelia has been involved in choir, NHS, FBLA, girls' golf, HOSA, student council, summer softball, academic decathlon, quiz bowl, and art club. When asked about her favorite class, Amelia replied, "My favorite class right now is Composition II. It's the only class that I've found that I'm able to fully unwind in – it always goes by so fast, too." She said the following about her most challenging class, "Currently, my most challenging class is Physics. There are so many different aspects to it and things that are easily forgotten or overlooked." Her favorite school lunch is creamed chicken over biscuits. When asked what she likes to do outside of school, Amelia said, "I enjoy being outside kayaking, golfing, fishing, walking, playing pickleball, and playing with my dogs. I enjoy lazy Saturdays and love spending time hanging out with my family and friends. I love all kinds of different music—my favorites change weekly; currently I have been listening to Linkin Park, Tame Impala, Steve Lacy, Staind, and Lana Del Rey. I love way too many movies to list, and I love reading murder mystery and rom com type novels." When asked about her plans after high school, she said, "I am planning on attending college after high school. I'm considering UNK, SCC—Lincoln, Bryan College of Health Sciences, and UNMC. My goal is to major in nursing, with the ultimate goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. I am interested in becoming a nurse practitioner because I enjoy having advancement opportunities, diverse paths, and the ability to combine my personal passion for helping others with my love of science." When asked where she sees herself ten years from now, Amelia said, "In ten years, I hope to have a job that supports me comfortably and a house on some land wherever the wind takes me – maybe back in a small town in Nebraska or who knows... I hope to be married and possibly have a kid or two or three."

TREVOR Bohling

Trever Bohling is the son of Bob and Kristen Bohling. He lives out in the country of Tecumseh. He has one brother, Brett, who is 21. During high school, Trevor was involved in wrestling and Skills USA. Brett's favorite class is Team Games because he gets to hang out with his friends. His most challenging class is English because there is so much to go over. His favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Outside of school, Trevor likes to hang out with his friends. Spider-Man is his favorite superhero because kids look up to him and dream of being him. After high school, Trevor plans to become an electrician because it keeps him busy, and he is already doing that type of work. He also loves the result of his work, when something works that didn't before. When asked what he will be doing ten years from now, Trevor replied, "In ten years, I will be married with children. I will live closer to Omaha for my job doing electrical."



From the Nurse Office



Every Day Counts! Take steps to keep students healthy.....

With students back in school, so are the germs. Here are some ways you can help keep your family safe and reduce the number of days that they are home sick from school

- **Make sure your child eats nutritious meals, stays hydrated with water and gets plenty of physical activity and sleep**
- **Remind students to cough and sneeze in their elbow or into a tissue**
- **Stay up-to-date with routine well-child and dental visits.**
- **Keep vaccines current, including flu shot.**
- **Work with your healthcare provider and the school health office to manage chronic health conditions and develop a school action plan.**

If your child has been sick (stayed home or dismissed), they can return to school when, for at least 24 hours, all the following are true.

- **Their symptoms are getting better overall.**
- **They have not had a fever (and not using fever-reducing medication)**
- **They have not been vomiting or watery bowel movements.**



News from the Director of Student Services and Special Education

Dr. Laura Rademacher

October 2026

In just a couple of weeks, the first quarter of the school year will be over. Please come talk to your student's teachers at **Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday, Oct 12, from 11:00am-7:00PM** in your students building.

Fall is a great time to slow down, reconnect, and remember that learning happens everywhere—not just inside a classroom.

At Johnson County Central, we work alongside teachers, families, and community partners to help ensure that **ALL students can learn when given the right support**. That support may look different for every student: strong classroom instruction, additional practice, special education services, social-emotional support, opportunities to build independence, or simply having a trusted adult who believes in them. At JCC, we are continuing that work through improved literacy instruction with a new ELA Curriculum, intervention and progress monitoring, collaboration between general and special education teachers, and increased attention to executive-functioning skills such as organization, planning, self-regulation, and independence. Academic success matters and so does creating an environment where students feel safe, supported, challenged, and connected.

Fall Family Challenge: Learning Beyond the School Day

Families do not need expensive supplies or complicated activities to keep students learning. Try one of these free fall activities together:

- **Take a fall walk.** Look for different leaf colors, animal tracks, seeds, clouds, or other signs of the changing season. Younger students can count and sort; older students can identify, photograph, graph, or research what they find. Work on using words to describe what they see.
- **Read somewhere different.** Take a book outside, read under a blanket, or have family members take turns reading aloud. Even 10–15 minutes makes a difference. Use closed captioning when you watch TV, any exposure to the written word is helpful.
- **Create a neighborhood scavenger hunt.** Find something orange, something rough, something round, something that makes noise, and something that tells you fall has arrived. For younger kids, this could be to find something that starts with a certain letter or color.
- **Try some fall math.** Collect leaves and sort them by size, shape, or color. Count, estimate, graph, measure, or calculate percentages depending on the student's age.

- **Leaf Art:** Use a crayon, paper, and leaf. Place the leaf between two sheets of paper and then use the crayon to rub the outline or texture of the leaf or leaves.
- **Share a family story.** Ask a parent, grandparent, or caregiver about a favorite school memory, fall tradition, or childhood experience. Older students can write it down or record an interview.
- **Get moving.** Walk, bike, play outside, rake leaves, create an obstacle course, or see how many active minutes your family can accumulate together.
- **Practice kindness.** Rake leaves for a neighbor, write a thank-you note, help with a household job, or do something thoughtful without being asked.

For our older students, fall is also a great time to practice real-life skills: planning a meal, budgeting for groceries, organizing a space, helping younger siblings, volunteering, or taking responsibility for part of a family routine.

Looking Ahead at JCC

This November, our community will consider a bond proposal that includes a new K–8 school building. The decision belongs to our voters, but school facilities can have an important connection to how student services are delivered.

Thoughtfully designed learning spaces can provide opportunities for flexible small-group instruction, intervention areas, accessible classrooms, related-service spaces, collaborative teaching, sensory and regulation supports, and greater opportunities for teachers and specialists to work together around student needs.

This information is intended to help families consider how educational spaces may support student programming and is not a recommendation regarding how anyone should vote. We encourage community members to learn about the bond, ask questions, and review the district’s factual bond information before making their own decision.

Whether students are learning at school, walking through crunchy leaves at home, reading with a family member, or practicing an everyday life skill, each experience helps them grow.

Thank you for continuing to partner with JCC as we work to support **every Thunderbird, every day.**

**Feel free to reach out to Dr. Laura Rademacher
with any questions, thoughts, or concerns you may have.
Email: Laura.Rademacher@jccentral.org or Call/Text: 402-335-7851**

Attached are some learning opportunities and experiences for families to explore.



THE ROAD AHEAD: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

9:00 a.m. Roadmap to Supports: Navigating DHHS Waiver/Medicaid Application

Presented by Jenni Miller and Lisa Hobza of PTI-Nebraska. This session breaks down eligibility, application steps, timelines, and what services can look like in real life with DHHS waiver services.

10:00 a.m. Choosing the Right Route: Guardianship & Supported Decision-Making

Presented by Molly Blazek of Blazek Law and Laura Maddox Bechard. This session explains guardianship and supported decision-making, and how to choose the path that fits your family.

11:00 a.m. Stops Along the Way: Understanding Day Services

Presented by Jen Melnis of Hands of Heartland. This session introduces day services, what they look like, and how they can support skill-building, community engagement, and meaningful daily routines.

12:00 a.m. Mapping Your Journey: Individualized Transition Programming

Presented by Michalla Schartz of SE Nebraska Transition. Learn how to connect school plans, goals, and services into a clear, step-by-step roadmap for your child's future. Walk away with practical tools to understand coordinated services from school to agency supports.

January 9, 2027

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Registration - https://esu6-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HDp7DYS4SrmrYZTKXBFBtRQ



Build Stronger, Work Smarter, Deliver Better

Monthly Events

Knowing to Doing

For Educators - Join live or watch a recording as professionals share hot topics in transition. Registration - <https://bit.ly/Knowing2Doing2027>

Agencies and Anxiety

For Parents and Caregivers - Learn about what you need to know to get your child with disabilities ready to adult. Registration - <https://bit.ly/AgenciesRegistration2027>

Chat n' Chow

For Students - Join with your class to see what transition ready means from a student's perspective. Registration - <https://bit.ly/ChatnChow2027>

Subscribe to the THRIVING FORWARD NEWSLETTER

<https://bit.ly/ThrivingForwardNewsletter>

Check your ESU/District for training opportunities

Keyword - Student Services or Transition

Register here -	Register here -	Register here -	Register here -
https://www.esu4.org/news/go page	https://www.esu6.org/news	https://bit.ly/ESU17transition	https://www.lincolncol.org/abt/agencyhome

Have a Question or Need 1:1 Help?

Book Time with Michalla - <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ru6AYS2mEB9>

- **Leaf Art:** Use a crayon, paper, and leaf. Place the leaf between two sheets of paper, and then use the crayon to rub the outline or texture of the leaf or leaves.
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Looking Ahead at JCC

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Feel free to reach out to Dr. Laura Rademacher with any questions, thoughts, or concerns you may have.
Email: Laura.Rademacher@jccentral.org or Call/Text: 402-335-7855

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ACTIVITIES UPDATE

BY GARRETT COLLIN, ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Thunderbird Family,

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

We have seen a lot of success this fall and we hope to see that continue moving onward.

It was an eventful month of September with hosting our cross country and girls golf invite, numerous volleyball matches, and a few football games. Our athletes have had strong showings in all sports. Some notables are: girls golf finished runner up at the ECNC meet with Amelia Britt finishing 2nd, Harley Reyes finishing 3rd, and Haylee Trew finished 10th. Marley Jensen also placed 2nd in the JV competition! The volleyball girls finished runner up at the MUDECAS tournament in the A division. They played the defending state champions (Freeman) to the final point.

Molly Weber & Riley Wellensiek were named to the first team while Brynn Weber was named Honorable Mention at the MUDECAS Tournament. Congrats, girls!

Congratulations to the class attendants Brynn Weber & Saul Cabrales Pena (freshmen), Faith Tex-Sherman & Ryan Flores Rentas (sophomores), Sofia Golda & Anthony Brooks (juniors). King and Queen candidates for the senior class were Harley Reyes, Nevaeh Brown, Amelia Britt, Haylee Trew, Molly Weber, Brayden Beethe, Harrison Bacon, Regan Thies, AJ Rautenbach, and Erik Prado. Congratulations to Haylee and Erik on being voted Queen & King!

During the month of October we will begin to wind down on events but here are some notable competitions that will be happening:

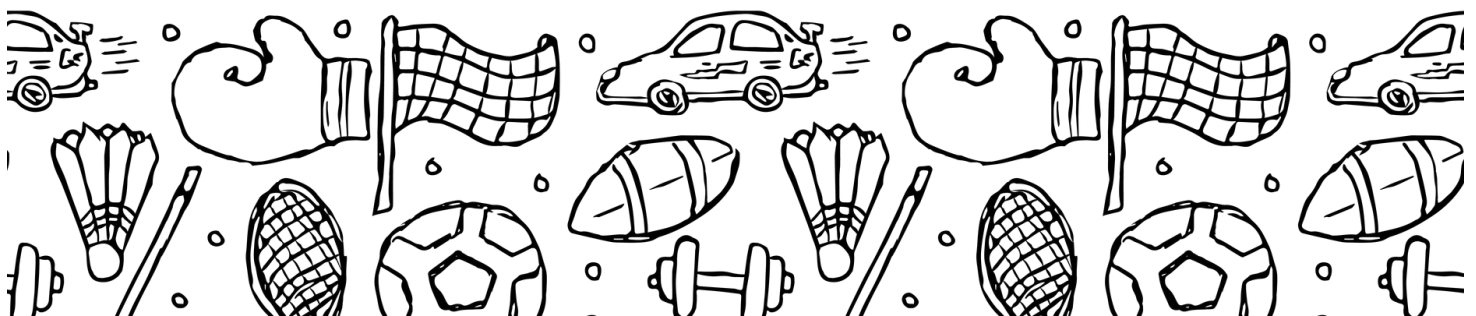
Cross Country: ECNC meet will be October 6 at Auburn and districts take place on October 14th.

Girls Golf: Districts take place on October 5th.

Football: 4 games left in October (2nd @ Tri County, 9th @ Thayer Central, 16th v Johnson-Brock, and 23rd vs Falls City)

Volleyball: We host our invite on the 3rd at both sites, ECNC tournament begins on the 12th and subs will begin on the 26th.

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



October 2026



Monthly Calendar View

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE						
				1 Girls Golf @ Lincoln Christian @ Hidden Valley GC - 9 AM Cross Country @ Lincoln Lutheran Invite - 4 PM JH Volleyball vs Tri Co - 4:30 PM HS Volleyball @ Johnson-Brock Reserve/JV/Varsity - 5 PM	2 Varsity Football @ Tri County 7 PM	3 Varsity Volleyball JCC Invite @ HS & MS Gyms 9 AM
4 NO SCHOOL	5 NO SCHOOL Girls Golf @ Districts JH Football vs Southern - 4 PM JV Football vs Weeping Water - 6 PM	6 Girls Golf @ Districts Cross Country @ ECNC Invite @ Auburn CC - 4 PM JH Volleyball @ Freeman - 4:30 PM HS Volleyball vs Conestoga Reserve/JV/Varsity - 5 PM	7	8 HS Volleyball @ Auburn Reserve/JV/Varsity - 5 PM	9 END OF 1ST QUARTER Varsity Football @ Thayer Central 7 PM	10 JH Volleyball @ Lewiston Tourney - 8 AM JCC 9/10 Volleyball Tourney @ Cook - 9 AM
11	12 NO SCHOOL Varsity Volleyball @ ECNC @ TBD Parent/Teacher Conferences 11 AM - 7 PM	13 Varsity Volleyball @ ECNC @ TBD Girls Golf @ State JH Volleyball vs Southern - 4:30 PM	14 FFA State Land Judging @ Beatrice - 8 AM JAG Career Exploration Day @ Kearney - 9 AM JCC School Board Meeting - 6 PM @ HS Computer Lab (Rm 204)	15 Varsity Volleyball @ ECNC @ TBD JAG Leadership Development Conference @ Omaha - 8 AM	16 Kindergarten @ Roca Berry Farm Varsity Football vs Johnson-Brock 7 PM	17
18	19 NO SCHOOL HS Volleyball vs Elmwood-Murdock Reserve/JV/Varsity - 5 PM	20 National FFA Convention HS Volleyball @ Diller-Odell JV/Varsity - 6 PM	21 National FFA Convention Winter Sports Pep Rally @ HS Gym - 3:30 PM	22 National FFA Convention Music Pie Night @ Auditorium - 7 PM	23 National FFA Convention Varsity Football vs Falls City 7 PM Cross Country @ State	24 National FFA Convention
25	26 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service Varsity Volleyball @ Subdistricts	27 Varsity Volleyball @ Subdistricts	28 Varsity Volleyball @ Subdistricts FFA District Land Judging @ Beatrice - 8 AM	29 Unified Bowling @ Wilber @ Wili-Bol Lanes - 9:30 AM	30 JAG Haunted Hallway	31 Varsity Volleyball @ District Final

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		Menu is subject to change without notice "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."		1 Goulash Hot Veggie WG Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Hot Ham & Cheese on WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3
4	5 NO SCHOOL	6 Turkey & Cheese Wrap Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7 Hamburger/WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Sweet & Sour Chicken Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Pizza Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 
11	12 <i>Happy Columbus Day</i>  NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences	13 Corn dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	14 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Chef's Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Chicken Patty/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17
18 	19 NO SCHOOL	20 Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Bug Bites Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21 Sloppy Joe/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Totchos Dinner Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 BBQ Chicken Breast/WG Bun Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24
25	26 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service	27 Macaroni & Cheese w/Ham Cornbread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	28 Rib Patty/WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Fiestada Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	30 Mini Mummie Legs (Chicken Drumstick) Zombie Hair (Marinara Pasta) Witches Fingers (Green Beans) Frightening Fruit & Vicious Veggie Bar Ghost Blood (Milk) 	31

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.