



J-HAWK JOURNAL

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

MAY ACTIVITIES:

Monday, May 26 – NO SCHOOL
(Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 27 – 6:30 pm
8th Grade Promotion Celebration
@ South Gym

Friday, May 30
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Early dismissal at 1:15 pm
(End of 4th Qtr, 3rd Trim.)
8th Grade Grill-out/Yard Party @
Fontana Park



**FOR ALL ATHLETIC EVENTS
PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR**

**MAY CALENDAR
ONLINE**

*All event dates and times
are subject to change due
to weather, illness or other
unforeseen circumstances.*

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Parent and Teacher Open Forum

A monthly opportunity to ask questions about your student's services

**Join us on Zoom every
second Thursday of the
month, from 6 PM to 7 PM.
Get your questions answered!**

ZOOM LINK

<https://zoom.us/j/92004351957>
1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 920 0435 1957



Why Attend?

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation believes in employment for all Iowans in their community and we want to provide the information that you need to make employment choices for your student with a disability. This statewide offering is the chance to collaborate with other parents and teachers. IVRS job candidate's parents & family members and others interested in supporting their student with a disability are invited to attend.

Topics are based on needs and will be introduced at the start of the meeting.

- ✓ **Social Security**
- ✓ **Guardianship and Conservatorship**
- ✓ **Medicaid and Medicare**
- ✓ **Parent Choice**



Iowa Workforce
Development
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

workforce.iowa.gov/vr

**To request an accommodation for this meeting please contact
Angela Young at 712-389-8650 or angela.young@iowa.gov**

Iowa's Vocational Rehabilitation program is supported by the U.S. Department of Education. 78.7% of the program is traditionally provided by federal funds. For FFY24, a total of \$34,060,986, of the program is financed with federal funds, and \$6,245,238 is funded by the State of Iowa. (Steven's Amendment.)



Celebrating Our Amazing Teachers

Elementary marked Teacher Appreciation Week with support from our Elementary PTO. We're proud of the incredible teaching staff who make our school such a great place to learn and grow. Thank you, teachers, for all you do!



Early Childhood Playground Fundraising Update

Our Early Childhood Playground fundraising effort is wrapping up, and we're excited to share some great news! We've been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation. Combined with the other generous donations and grants we've received, we're getting much closer to reaching our fundraising goal.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project – we're one step closer to building a brand-new, accessible play space for our youngest students! The Jesup Industrial Tech high school class recently dismantled much of the old playground structure.

Spring Musical Fills the House

The elementary spring musical concert played to a packed crowd once again. Students took the stage and wowed the audience with their singing talents in front of many proud families and friends. A special thanks to Mrs. Manning, our elementary music teacher, for putting together such a fun and memorable event for everyone. And congratulations on your new baby, Mrs. Manning!



Third Graders Learn to Tell Time

Telling time is an important lifelong skill, and our third graders have been hard at work learning how to do just that. Recently, they practiced reading clocks and putting their new skills to use. With all this practice, these students won't have to worry about being late anymore!



Pre-K Plants a Rainbow

Our 4-year-old Pre-K classes recently had a fun and hands-on lesson about planting seeds, thanks to our longtime friends from Fontana. Students learned how to plant a variety of colorful flowers and vegetables – creating their very own “rainbow garden.” This partnership with Fontana’s naturalist has been going strong for years. Through it, students discover more about nature, animals, plants, conservation and the importance of caring for our Earth.



Congrats to Mrs. Bird's 1st Grade Class

A big congratulations to Mrs. Bird's 1st grade class at Jesup Elementary for winning this year's Black Hawks Attendance Contest! They were chosen from over 80 classrooms across 26 schools. To celebrate, Teddy Townsend, Bradley Walker, Dylan Compton, Ty Mason and team mascot Tommy Hawk stopped by to join the fun.

Thank you to all the classrooms that participated!



Keep Kids Reading This Summer

Summer is almost here – but that doesn't mean reading should stop! The best way for kids to become better readers is to keep reading. A few simple rewards or fun incentives can help keep them motivated all summer long.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM FREEBIES

BARNES & NOBLE
FREE book for reading books and writing about them in their Reading Journal!

BOOKS-A-MILLION
FREE backpack just for reading books!

IMAGINATION LIBRARY
FREE books for ages 1-5 from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

PIZZA HUT BOOK IT!
Earn a FREE personal-sized pizza and more!

PANDA EXPRESS
FREE kids meal coupon when students read 5 books!

CHUCK E. CHEESE
10 FREE play points for reading and filling out the Reading Rewards Calendar,



Introduce a Girl to Engineering

A group of our 7th grade girls recently attended the Introduce a Girl to Engineering event, hosted by John Deere and the Society of Women Engineers. They spent the day diving into hands-on projects like building candy cars, testing egg crash designs and even making metal melts and take-home lamps.

The day was full of curiosity, creativity and learning about the many paths in engineering. On the ride home, the excitement was clear as students shared their favorite parts and what they discovered.

"I loved that we got to make metal melts. Another thing we made was a lamp that we got to keep. We were able to learn more about engineering and what different engineers do. It's definitely something I would do again and recommend for others to do!" –Alexa Youngblut, student

Events like this give our students a chance to imagine new possibilities and maybe even see their future careers take shape.



Middle Schoolers Step Up on Leadership Day



Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students took part in Leadership Day, a morning full of teamwork, learning and inspiration. The event was planned by high school student Kendall Earles as part of her CAPS project, and it gave our middle schoolers the chance to explore what leadership looks like in real life.

Students rotated through stations with team challenges that required problem-solving and cooperation – tasks that became a lot easier when someone stepped up to lead. They also took part in a panel with high school students who shared honest stories about what leadership has meant to them, both the successes and the struggles. Later, local community members spoke about how building leadership skills early helped them in their adult lives.

Here's what a few students had to say about Leadership Day:

"My favorite part was the blindfolded puzzle because it made you use lots of communication and leadership skills." –Rylee Cherry, 7th grader

"To be a leader, you don't just need to work by yourself; you have to work well with others, and I think they did a really good job of trying to get us to work with others." – Jada Weber, 8th grader

"I thought Leadership Day was fun. It gave us a good opportunity to learn from people. The breakout session activities were entertaining and taught us how to work in a group and be a leader." –Nolan Sabers, 8th grader

It was a morning full of encouragement, real-life lessons and chances for students to practice their own leadership. **A big thank you to everyone who helped make the day meaningful for our students!**



5th Graders Visit State Capitol & Sculpture Park

By Henley Andreassen, 5th Grader

On Friday, April 25, our fifth-grade class took a field trip to the State Capitol in Des Moines. It was a two-hour bus ride from school, but many of us brought phones or electronics to pass the time. When we arrived in Des Moines, we stopped at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park for lunch. Since the ground was too wet, we ended up eating on the bus, which got a little chaotic!



The Capitol building was beautiful, especially the dome, which was covered in real gold leaf. Inside, we met our tour guide, who showed us around. One of the highlights was lying on the glass floor and looking up at the whispering gallery. We also got to explore the law library, which had three floors and tons of books.

At the end of the tour, we climbed 130 stairs to reach the whispering gallery at the top of the dome. It was amazing to look down from so high up and see the rest of the Capitol below. Overall, the trip was very fun, and I think it's something we'll all remember!

7th Grade Drama Students Shine in Final Performance

Our 7th grade drama class wrapped up the year with a lively and entertaining performance of *The Not-So-Mysterious Disappearance of Cinderella*, written by Chuck Novatka and published by Drama Notebook. The students brought the story to life with great energy, expression and movement, keeping the audience engaged from start to finish.

We were thrilled to welcome a full crowd of parents and 4th grade students to the show. It's clear that many of these students have a real talent for the stage. We're excited to see them continue in drama next year, especially with a brand-new stage on the way!



8th Grade End-of-Year Celebrations

As the school year winds down, we're excited to celebrate our 8th graders as they finish their time in middle school and prepare for high school.

Join us for the 8th Grade Promotion Celebration on Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 pm in the South Gym. Students should arrive at the cafeteria by 6:10 pm to get lined up. Families and friends

are welcome to attend as we honor the Class of 2029 and all they've accomplished.

Then on Friday, May 30, students will enjoy a fun-filled day at Fontana Park for a grill-out and yard party! We'll spend the day playing games, enjoying the outdoors and sharing a picnic lunch with grilled hot dogs.

It's a great way to wrap up their last day of middle school!

Track Teams Make a Strong Finish at Our Home Track Meet

We couldn't have asked for better weather during our home junior high track meet. Our athletes gave it their all, earning points for their teams and achieving several personal bests. The 7th grade boys took 1st place, while the 7th and 8th grade girls both finished 2nd and the 8th grade boys placed 3rd.



*It was great to see such strong support from the crowd – your cheers made a difference!
Our athletes wrapped up a great season and are looking ahead to summer sports.*



Elementary Archery Team Competes at Nationals

Our elementary archery team, including many of our 5th graders, traveled to Kentucky to compete in the National Archery Tournament. Several students hit personal bests, and the whole team represented our school with skill, focus and great sportsmanship. We're proud of how they performed and how they carried themselves on and off the range!

Thank You, Teachers

We had a great time celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week with help from our amazing Student Council and supportive families. Student Council members got creative, putting together small gifts and treats for staff, while parents helped stock the lounge with snacks and sweets. A big thank you to the families who donated and helped us put together a taco bar – our staff felt the love and stayed fueled for the final stretch of the school year. The week was a great reminder of how much our teachers are appreciated.

Technology Turn-In Reminder

As the school year wraps up, students will need to return their chromebooks, chargers and cases – the same items they received back in August. We will let students know their exact turn-in date as we get closer, once teachers finalize when they'll be done using the devices.

Now is a great time for students to start finding and gathering these items. If something is missing or damaged, families will be responsible for the replacement cost. Charges will be added to the student's account if needed:

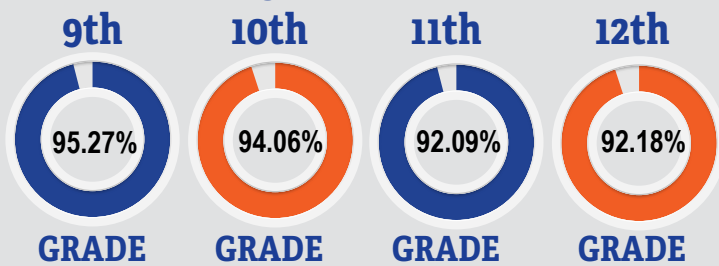
Chromebook	\$300
Case:	\$30
Charger cord:	\$20
Broken screen:	\$35

Thanks for helping make the turn-in process smooth for everyone.





As of May 12, 2025, here's the latest attendance update for our high school students.



Overall High School Attendance: 93.79%

Jesup CAPS Innovation Celebration

On May 7, Jesup high school CAPS students gathered at the Co-Work 591 building to showcase their hard work at the Innovation Celebration. Students did a fantastic job presenting their projects, sharing their future plans after high school and reflecting on how they've grown through public speaking. It was a great evening full of creativity, confidence and celebration!



Jesup High School Concert & Senior Recognition

On May 6, Jesup High School held its spring concert, featuring performances from both the band and vocal groups. We honored our senior musicians for their hard work and dedication over the years. Thank you to all the parents and community members who came out to support our students.



Congrats to the Jesup High School Class of 2025

We're proud of all you've accomplished and excited to see where your journey takes you next.



Way to Go Graduates!