



JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Serving our communities of Jackson County Central since 1997

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SUPERINTENDENT

Barry Schmidt

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RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

820 Park St.

Jackson, MN 56143

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Dear Jackson County Central Families,

Jackson County Central Schools is embarking on a strategic planning process with an organization called TeamWorks International, and we are reaching out for your input. This process will allow Jackson County Central to develop an up-to-date operational plan for continuous improvement and provide clarity and focus for our work. The last time the district went through a strategic planning process was in 2020..

A key part of this process is hearing from students, staff, and families regarding their **Desired Daily Experiences**. To begin this process, we are holding focus group meetings to listen to families and better understand what experiences they want to have as they engage on a daily basis with their child's school, teachers, administrators, and the greater Jackson County Central community.

As we continue this important work, we are preparing to hold focus groups with parents and staff during January and February. Today, **I'm reaching out to invite parents of current Jackson County Central students to participate in one of the upcoming parent focus groups.**

The main goal of the parent focus groups is to listen to families and better understand what experiences they want to have as they engage on a daily basis with their child's school, teachers, administrators, and the greater school/district community. The information gathered on these "Desired Daily Experiences" from multiple groups – including parents, staff, students, and community members – will be shared with the Strategic Planning Leadership Team as they continue to develop a comprehensive operational plan moving forward.

Focus Group Details:

- **Meeting Options:** Two parent focus group meetings will be held:
 - A meeting for parents of students in **grades 7-12** will be held on Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the High School media center.
 - A meeting for parents of students in **grades PK-6** will be held on Monday, January 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the High school media center.
 - Parents who may have children in both grade bands (PK-4 and 5-12) are asked to select and attend only one focus group.
- **Meeting Duration:** Focus group sessions will last approximately 1.5 hours.
- We will be selecting a limited number of parents that represent a cross-section of parents from each building.
- **Facilitator:** Meetings will be facilitated by Julie Baeb, a consultant with an organization called TeamWorks who is working with the school board on strategic planning.

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- **Privacy:** To ensure open and candid discussion, members of the school board and administration will not be present during these meetings.

We greatly value your voice and believe your input is vital to shaping the future of our district.

If you are interested in participating in one of the two focus group meetings, please indicate your interest by signing up at this link by Friday, January 10. Those who sign up will receive an official reminder/confirmation the week before the focus group meetings.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute to Jackson County Central's strategic planning process. Your insights and experiences are invaluable as we work together to ensure a bright future for our district.

Sincerely,

Barry Schmidt
Superintendent

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