

Joliet Township High School



Annual Report

School year 2012-13

Introduction

This publication has been prepared for the purpose of assisting the community in understanding District 204 programs and operations; challenges and growth; and finance. For more information about JTHS, visit www.jths.org.

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Superintendent's Letter

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 Annual Report. This report highlights district initiatives and achievements, while celebrating our accomplishments and acknowledging our challenges.

The 2012-2013 school year was filled with student, staff, and district accomplishments. JTHS implemented the 1:1 Computing Program, which provided all freshmen with a computing device and allowed access to learning "anytime, anywhere." JTHS is pleased to report that the students participating in this initiative have exceeded expectations and are efficiently using technology in a responsible and productive manner.

In addition, the 2012-2013 school year marked the 100th anniversary of the JTHS Band Program. Members of the community, alumni, parents and students celebrated 100 years of musical excellence through a variety of events and activities. The tradition of musical excellence continued throughout the year as the Joliet Central and West High School Band and Orchestra programs earned prestigious awards and honors.

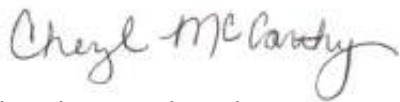
As a result of the programs in place during the 2012-2013 school year, student academic successes and achievements can also be found within this report. The average ACT score for the top ten percent of students who were tested in the Class of 2013 was 28.1, and 69 students earned the distinction of 2012-2013 Illinois State Scholar.

Several facility upgrades occurred during the 2012-2013 school year. On August 20, 2012, JTHS opened the doors of its new Transition Center located off Collins Street in Joliet. The Transition Center provides an array of opportunities for students ages 18 to 21 who need transitional services and support to develop independent living and vocational skills.

JTHS also recognizes that there are areas in need of improvement. During the 2012-2013 school year, the Strategic Planning Team met for a Periodic Update to amend and revise our school improvement initiatives. Revisions to the Strategic Plan were approved by the JTHS Board of Education on March 19, 2013 and details can be found within this report.

JTHS is dedicated to providing a rigorous and relevant education to each and every student. It is our hope that this report will provide an insight into the programs, services and plans in place to achieve this goal. For more information regarding JTHS, please visit www.jths.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryl" and last name "McCarthy" clearly legible.

Cheryl McCarthy Ed.D.
Superintendent



Joliet Township High School Board of Education





Jeff Pierson
President
Served since 2001



Arlene Albert
Vice President
Served since 1981



Paige Vanderhyden
Secretary
Elected 2011



Don Dickinson
Elected 2011



R. Dale Evans
Elected 2013



Tyler Marcum
Elected 2013



Tracy Spesia
Elected 2013

The Board of Education has specific duties and responsibilities to fulfill. Among them are:

- Selection of the Superintendent of Schools
- Establishment of general policies for the school system
- Employment of school personnel upon recommendation of the superintendent
- Adoption of the annual budget and approval of all expenditures
- Informing the public of the needs and progress of the educational system
- Exercising the legislative power conferred or implied by legislature in administering school functions

The Joliet Township High School District 204 Board of Education consists of seven citizens of the school district, each of whom is elected to a four-year term. Any adult resident may run for election to the board providing he or she meets certain legal qualifications. School board members serve without pay.



2013 Strategic Planning Team

Strategic Plan

The Joliet Township High School Strategic Plan is a comprehensive document that identifies the district's mission, objectives, strategies, parameters, and beliefs. The plan charts the future of JTHS and is a working document that is used to improve our schools. Every decision the district makes directly relates to the Strategic Plan, and all district and school improvement plans are directly aligned to the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan is a five-year document; however, it is reviewed yearly and periodic updates and renewals are held to make revisions that may be necessary due to changes in society, legislation or the circumstances of the district.

JTHS
JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
CENTRAL
VLET Since 1889 EAST

AP Honor Roll
CHARACTER
TOP WORK PLACES 2012
Joliet Township High School

**JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
STRATEGIC
PLAN**

Empowering
students to
compete and
contribute

Strategic Plan Periodic Update

During the 2012-2013 school year, a newly assembled Strategic Planning Team of 26 stakeholders participated in a periodic update to review progress on the 2009 Strategic Plan and to determine the need for revisions and changes. As a result of the update, the district's mission statement was re-affirmed and changes were made to the objectives, strategies, belief statements and parameters. At JTHS, each strategy contains a set of action plans that have specific steps written to accomplish the district's objectives. The JTHS Board of Education approved the revised Strategic Plan and all associated action plans at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on March 19, 2013.

Accountability

Every summer, the JTHS superintendent leads the administrative team in reviewing each set of action plans to assess progress and to determine implementation for the upcoming school year. JTHS administrators are responsible for action plan implementation and are evaluated annually based upon Strategic Planning progress.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO COMPETE AND CONTRIBUTE

The mission of Joliet Township High School, a diverse and unified learning community of choice, is to empower every student to acquire and apply the attributes to compete and contribute positively to our community and global society by providing a rigorous, relevant, and innovative education in a safe, supportive, academy environment through a quality, caring, and dedicated staff working in partnership with family and community.

<h4>WHERE WE ARE HEADED</h4> <p>The following strategic objectives will shape our growth during the next several years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Every student will meet or exceed annual growth targets in English Language Arts, math, and science as measured by district and standardized assessments.By the year 2014 the graduation rate, as defined by the state of Illinois, will be 90% or higher.All students will develop and implement a challenging Individual Career Plan (ICP) preparing them to make a successful transition to further education and a career endeavor of his or her choice.All students will consistently demonstrate the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.	<h4>HOW WE WILL GET THERE</h4> <p>The following strategies will be implemented to achieve our long-range objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">We will develop and implement innovative plans to motivate and engage students and their families in achieving our strategic objectives.We will develop an effective communication and marketing plan to recognize achievement and instill pride and support throughout our school and community.We will model, reinforce and measure the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.We will integrate the common core standards to deepen the implementation to the Academy Structure to ensure all students are college and career ready.	<h4>THE GROUND RULES</h4> <p>The following parameters will guide the implementation of the strategic plan:</p> <p>School and District Improvement Plans must always be consistent with the strategic direction of the district.</p> <p>We will not tolerate behavior which demeans the self-worth or dignity of any individual or group.</p> <p>No new program or service will be accepted unless it is consistent with the strategic plan, its benefits clearly justify the cost, and provisions are made for staff development with sufficient time for effective implementation and program evaluation.</p> <p>No program will be retained unless the benefits continue to justify the costs and the program makes an optimal contribution to the mission.</p> <p>We will always use data, effective instruction, and a continuum of academic support to improve student achievement.</p> <p>We will always work in collaboration with our sender school districts to develop and implement a cohesive, rigorous plan to ensure all students are college and career ready.</p>
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT WAS BUILT ON THESE BELIEFS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Every human being possesses inherent worth.Individuals are responsible for their own actions.Diversity strengthens and enriches society.Life-long learning is necessary to thrive in a continuously changing world.People learn at different rates, in different ways, and in a variety of settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High expectations positively influence performance.Motivation, determination, hard work and a positive attitude strengthen the ability of an individual to reach potential.The family environment has a strong influence on the development of each of its members.Education is a shared responsibility among students, family, staff, and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An educated public sustains our democracy.Honesty, integrity and respect are essential in building mutual trust.A safe environment is essential for every individual.High quality schools are essential to the quality of life for the whole community.All people can learn.
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Our Mission

The mission of Joliet Township High School, a diverse and unified learning community of choice, is to empower every student to acquire and apply the attributes to compete and contribute positively to our community and global society by providing a rigorous, relevant, and innovative education in a safe, supportive, academy environment through a quality, caring and dedicated staff working in partnership with family and community.

Beliefs

Our Mission Statement was Built on These Beliefs We Believe:

Every human being possesses inherent worth.	High expectations positively influence performance.
Individuals are responsible for their own actions.	An educated public sustains our democracy.
Diversity strengthens and enriches society.	A safe environment is essential for every individual.
All people can learn.	Honesty, integrity and respect are essential in building mutual trust.
Life-long learning is necessary to thrive in a continuously changing world.	The family environment has a strong influence on the development of each of its members.
People learn at different rates, in different ways, and in a variety of settings.	Education is a shared responsibility among students, family, staff, and the community.
Motivation, determination, hard work, and a positive attitude strengthen the ability of an individual to reach potential.	High quality schools are essential to the quality of life for the whole community.

Our Objectives

Where we are Headed

Every student will meet or exceed annual growth targets in English Language Arts, math, and science as measured by district and standardized assessments.
By the year 2014, the graduation rate as defined by the state of Illinois will be 90 percent or higher.
All students will develop and implement a challenging Individual Career Plan (ICP) preparing them to make a successful transition to further education and a career endeavor of his or her choice.
All students will consistently demonstrate the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.

Our Strategies

How we will get There

1. We will develop and implement innovative plans to motivate and engage students and their families in achieving our strategic objectives.
2. We will develop an effective communication and marketing plan to recognize achievement and instill pride and support throughout our school and community.
3. We will model, reinforce, and measure the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.
4. We will integrate the Common Core State Standards to strengthen the implementation of the Academy Structure to ensure all students are college and career ready.

Parameters

Our Guiding Principles

1. School and District Improvement Plans must always be consistent with the strategic direction of the district.
2. We will not tolerate behavior which demeans the self-worth or dignity of any individual or group.
3. No new program or service will be accepted unless it is consistent with the strategic plan, its benefits clearly justify the cost, and provisions are made for staff development with sufficient time for effective implementation and program evaluation.
4. No program will be retained unless the benefits continue to justify the costs, and the program makes an optimal contribution to the mission.
5. We will always use data, effective instruction, and a continuum of academic support to improve student achievement.
6. We will always work in collaboration with our sender school districts to provide a cohesive, rigorous educational program to ensure all students are college and career ready.



On November 13, 2012, Joliet Township High School received the Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplace Award, a prestigious honor based solely upon employee feedback gathered through an online survey conducted by WorkplaceDynamics, a leading research firm on organizational health and employee engagement.

To be eligible for the Top 100 Workplace Award, companies or organizations must be nominated. Joliet West High School Teacher Michael O'Shea nominated JTHS for the award based upon his experience as an employee of the district.

JTHS falls within an elite group receiving the Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplace award. Two hundred and fifty-four companies participated in the program and only 100 were selected as award recipients.

The award represents JTHS District 204's high standards for students and staff members who are crucial to the success of the district. JTHS Superintendent, Dr. Cheryl McCarthy, expressed her thanks to those who make JTHS a top workplace. "None of our programs, awards or initiatives would be possible without the hard work of our staff and the support of our Board of Education and community," said McCarthy. "It is our entire JTHS family that works diligently to make our school district a top workplace each and every day."

As a top employer, JTHS was recognized in a special section of the Chicago Tribune and within an online directory. For more information visit: <http://www.topworkplaces.com/frontend.php/regional-list/company/chicagotribune/joliet-township-high-sch.>

Technology & Innovative Education

1:1 Computing

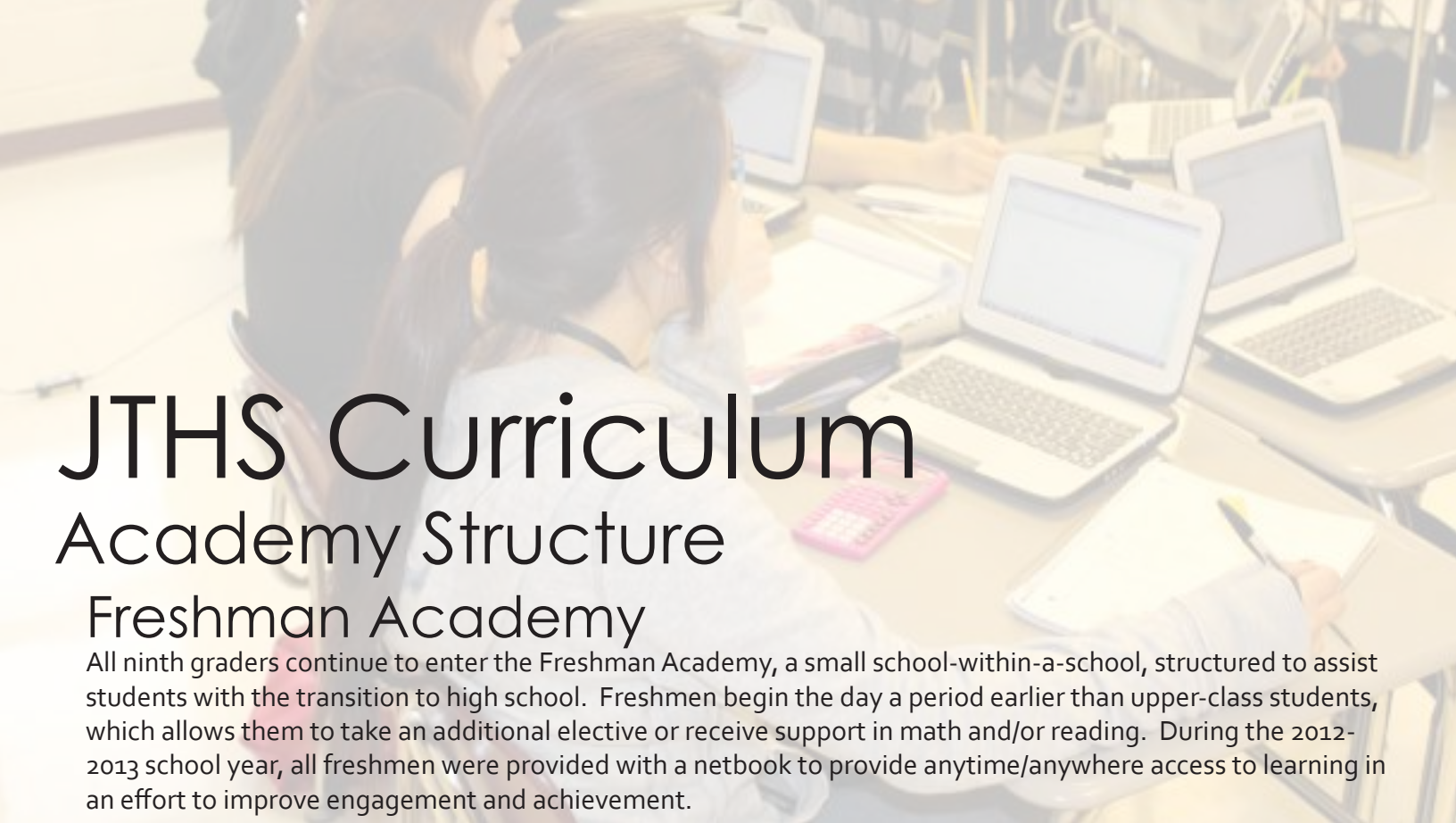
Implementation of the 1:1 computing initiative began at the start of the 2012-2013 school year with the distribution of laptops to all JTHS freshmen. JTHS students have exceeded expectations with their demonstration of responsibility. Teachers have adjusted the delivery of instruction and are successfully utilizing technology to motivate and engage students in their learning.

At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, an additional 1/3 of the student population received laptops, and full implementation is expected to be complete by the 2014-2015 school year. This initiative provides ALL students with laptop computers to use in school and at home, which allows students to access their education beyond the walls of the high school.

Wireless Access & Collaborative Online Learning Environment

Full wireless access is available in all buildings, which allows students to become active participants in an online learning environment that supports electronic collaboration and communication between students and their teachers. Through the JT Learn platform, teachers can upload assignments, facilitate online discussions, post grades and plan interactive lessons. Students can submit assignments electronically and receive instant feedback and support.





JTHS Curriculum Academy Structure

Freshman Academy

All ninth graders continue to enter the Freshman Academy, a small school-within-a-school, structured to assist students with the transition to high school. Freshmen begin the day a period earlier than upper-class students, which allows them to take an additional elective or receive support in math and/or reading. During the 2012-2013 school year, all freshmen were provided with a netbook to provide anytime/anywhere access to learning in an effort to improve engagement and achievement.

"A huge benefit of the Freshman Academy is the cohort teaming of teachers and students," said Freshman Academy Coordinator Robin English. "Cohort teaming provides opportunities for teachers to assist students through integrated lessons and shared student progress monitoring. Teachers work together to provide students with unified support, which eases the transition into the larger school community."

Career Academies

During the sophomore year, students enter a career-themed academy that is designed to increase student achievement by offering a small learning environment within a large school setting. The academy structure allows teams of teachers to work collaboratively to deliver interdisciplinary lessons that relate to the academy's career focus. The five JTHS Academies are: the Academy of Arts and Communications; the Academy of Business Management and Information Systems; the Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; the Academy of Health and Medicine; and the Academy of Human Services.

Programs of Study

JTHS Career Academy Pathways

In alignment to the Common Core State Standards, comprehensive templates for educational planning have been developed to prepare students for college and career readiness. These templates, called Programs of Study, are located within an interactive, online Course Offerings Guide that can be accessed through the JTHS Website, www.jths.org.

The Programs of Study are recommended course sequences aligned to students' career interests. They are used to assist with the selection of courses pertaining to specific academies and career pathways.

During the 2012-2013 school year, JTHS piloted an online course selection process available to parents. The online program allowed parents to electronically enter course selections into a template that is then reviewed by the student's guidance counselor.

"When I sat down with my daughter, a sophomore, to review her course options for the next year, I found that the online course selection and curriculum guide brought our conversation to a completely different level than I had encountered with my older children who attended JTHS," said parent and Board of Education Member Tracy Spesia. "The guide gave us a platform to discuss her interests and potential career goals. She could see how high school courses apply to real-life careers and start to explore where she might want to devote her time at this stage of her life. Rather than taking classes simply because someone told her to, we were in a position to decide together what classes would be a better fit and, even though her career goals are not defined, how she could concentrate on areas that interested her and see how they might translate into her future."



JTHS students competed nationally at the Engine Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada



JROTC students in Washington D.C.

Student Achievement

Joliet Township High School is proud to highlight the achievement of our students.

ACT Scores for the Class of 2013

The average ACT score for the top ten percent of students who were tested in the Class of 2013 was 28.1. The top 20 percent of students who were tested in the Class of 2013 had an average ACT Score of 26.1. JTHS has approximately 1,000 students who take the ACT test each year.

Illinois State Scholars

Sixty-nine JTHS students earned the distinction of 2012-2013 Illinois State Scholar. The prestigious award is given annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to students who rank in the top ten percent of seniors from 749 high schools across the state. Selection is based upon standardized test scores and class rank.

College Board Advanced Placement Scholars

During the 2012-2013 school year, 43 students were named Advanced Placement Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Exams.

Five of these students received the Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction Award for earning an average score of 3.5 on all Advanced Placement Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Five of these students received the Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor Award for earning an average of at least 3.25 on all Advanced Placement Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

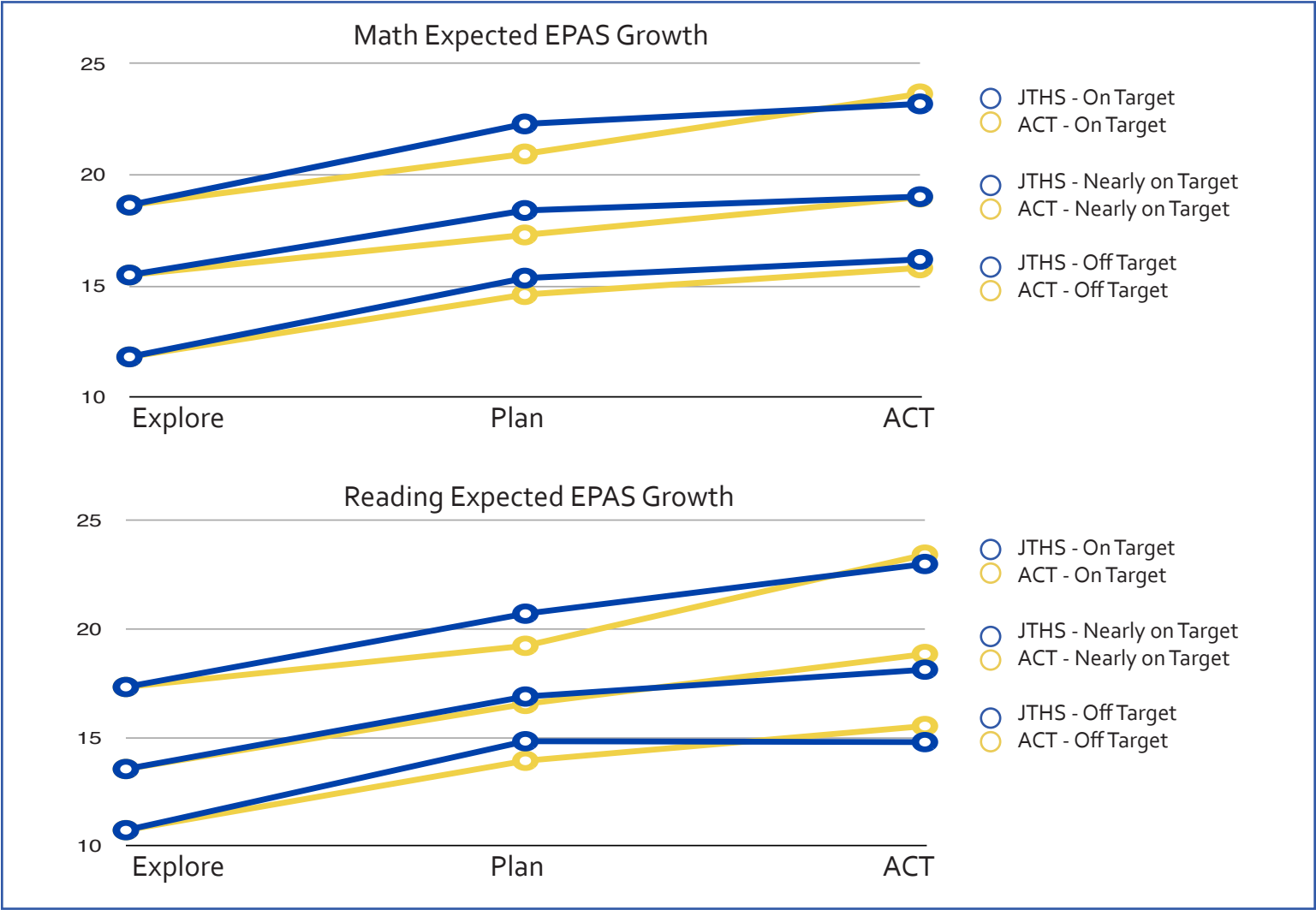
Student Scholarships

JTHS Guidance Counselors and staff work diligently with students to secure grants and scholarships for post-secondary and college/university study. In the 2012-2013 school year, over 4 million dollars in grant and scholarship funding was awarded to JTHS students.

Measuring Student Growth—EPAS Assessment

JTHS uses the EPAS assessment system to measure student growth from one grade level to the next. The EPAS system contains three assessments: EXPLORE, which is taken during the 8th and 9th grade; PLAN, which is taken during the 10th grade; and ACT, which is taken during the 11th and/or 12th grade.

The graphs on this page illustrate district assessment growth for the Class of 2013 as compared to the ACT study, “How Much Growth toward College Readiness is Reasonable to Expect in High School?” For more information about the EPAS assessment, please visit <http://www.jths.org/district204/assessment/default.aspx>.



Advanced Placement & Dual Credit Course Offerings

An extensive selection of Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit classes are available at JTHS. These classes allow students to earn college credit while enrolled in high school. During the 2012-2013 school year, JTHS students saved over \$350,000 in college tuition by taking rigorous, college level Dual Credit or AP courses.

“The Advanced Placement classes I took at Joliet West prepared me for the rigorous coursework I was faced with my freshman year of college,” said Alyssa Cicero, JTHS alumna. “I was able to transfer 17 credits from JTHS, which allowed me to save over \$13,000 and graduate college a semester early.”

JTHS works hard to increase the amount of AP and Dual Credit available to students. During the 2012-2013 school year, the following courses were added as AP or Dual Credit course options available to JTHS students:

Dual Credit	Advanced Placement
American National Government	Microeconomics
Arboriculture	
Floral Design 1	
Greenhouse Management & Production	
Introductory Horticulture Science	
Landscape Plans	

Student Support & Grant Funding

The JTHS Strategic Plan has guided the development and growth of AP and Dual Credit course offerings. In addition to increasing the number of courses, the Strategic Plan calls for the establishment of academic support and a monitoring structure in honors and/or AP courses so that each student enrolled can be successful.

To meet this goal, JTHS applied for and received a \$47,000 renewable “Advanced Placement Classes—College and Career Success for all Students Program” grant provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. Grant funding will be used to ensure that a diverse student population has access to Advanced Placement classes and the necessary support to achieve success. The grant will provide professional development to JTHS teachers who serve as Advanced Placement instructors and will provide support opportunities outside the normal school day to students who are enrolled in AP classes, prior to taking the AP exams in the spring.



Advanced Placement Classes for Freshmen

The implementation of Advanced Placement classes for freshmen will begin at the start of the 2013-2014 school year with the addition of AP Human Geography. This is the first time that JTHS has offered an Advanced Placement class to freshmen, and JTHS is working hard to ensure the necessary support is available to ensure success within this rigorous college-level course. To meet this goal, JTHS utilized its grant funding during the summer of 2013 to provide enrichment opportunities and support to incoming freshmen during a two-week AP Boot Camp held at Central and West Campus. The camp focused upon building students' analytical reading and writing skills. Students were provided with hands-on learning opportunities that allowed them to think critically, while locating information to utilize within their writing.



JTHS & Route 66 Banner Project

On May 14, 2013, Route 66 Raceway and Joliet Township High School unveiled the result of a seven-month partnership designed to provide students with a hands-on business experience. This partnership, called the Route 66 Raceway 15th Anniversary Banner Project, engaged students in the design, marketing and sale of eight 25 foot banners that were displayed around the exterior of Route 66 Raceway during race season.

The Banner Project was created to engage students in real world, project-based learning experiences. Students were mentored by Chicagoland Speedway employees who provided the students with feedback on all aspects of the project, which required advanced digital production, marketing, design, and sales skills.

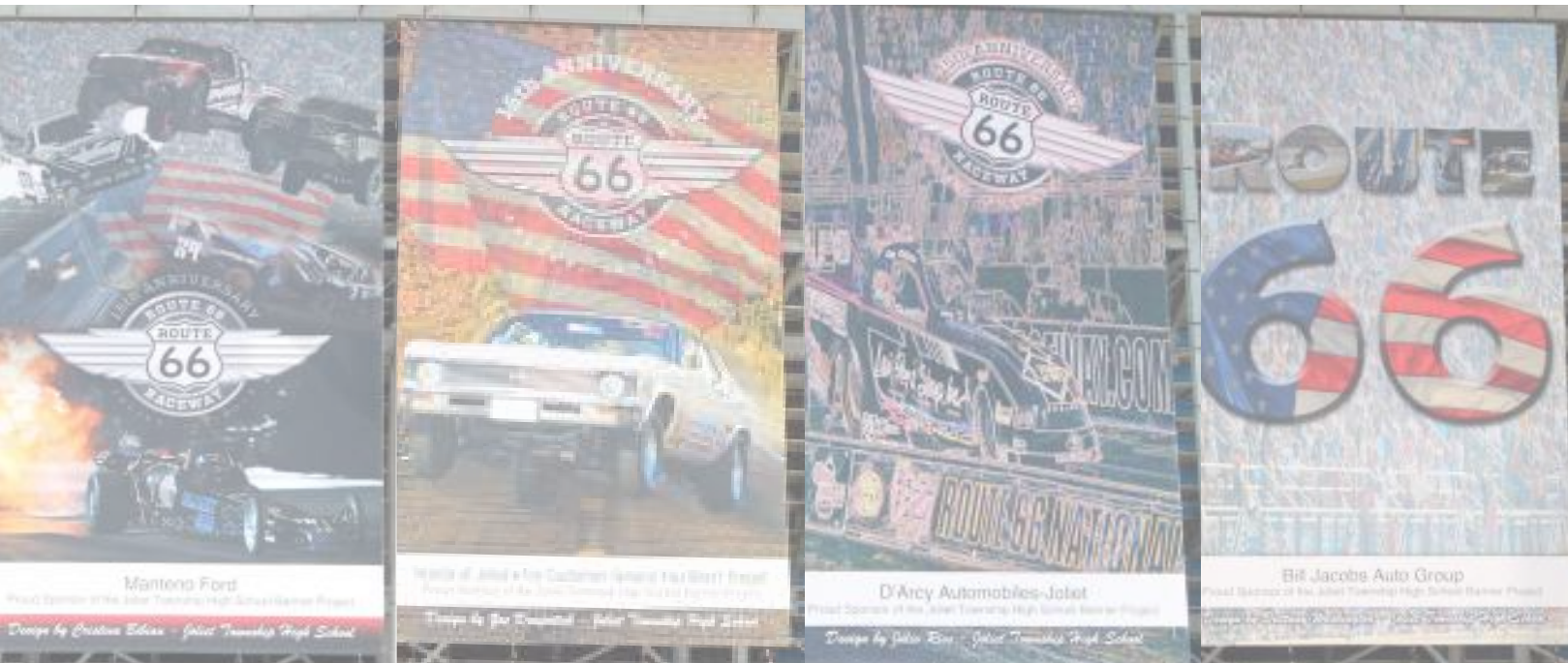
"Working with Chicagoland Speedway has been a great experience for our students," said Joliet Central High School Teacher Jeff Riley. "These projects have provided relevant and authentic learning that makes everything we do in the classroom more meaningful. When the Speedway personnel visit our classroom, students gain a perspective that takes learning to the next level."

The project also taught the value of giving back to the community. Proceeds from the banner sales were donated to Joliet Area Community Hospice, a charity that was selected by the students. All totaled, the partnership raised \$10,000 for Hospice, which has served Joliet since 1982.

The partnership culminated in an unveiling ceremony held at Chicagoland Speedway and attended by an audience of over 100 spectators. The event allowed the students to speak about the skills acquired through their participation, while showcasing the banners to the community. In addition, Chicagoland Speedway awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to Joliet Central High School Senior Hector Zavala for his leadership and advocacy for Joliet Area Community Hospice.

This is the second year that JTHS has partnered with Chicagoland Speedway to provide interdisciplinary projects for students in JTHS academies. During the 2011-2012 school year, JTHS students designed, built and sold 20 custom benches. The project raised \$20,000 that was donated to local charities.

Projects such as these are a direct result of the JTHS Academy structure, which is designed to increase student achievement by offering relevant college and career readiness activities. The academy structure allows teachers to partner with members of the business community to plan and implement real world, project-based curricular experiences relevant to each academy's theme.



Banners were designed by: Cristina Bibian, Zoe Krmpotich, Julie Rios and Brittany Washington

Joliet Cyborgs Robotics Team

For the second consecutive year, JTHS students gained extensive hands-on experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through participation in the prestigious FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) held at the UIC Pavilion in April of 2013. In just six weeks, the Joliet Cyborgs robotics team designed, built and programmed a Frisbee-throwing, pyramid-climbing robot. Mentors from JTHS and the business/technology industry worked alongside students to design and construct a robot that participated in four rounds of ultimate high-technology competition. This year, the team finished 15th out of a field comprised of 58 teams and participated in the quarterfinals.

"JTHS administrators, staff and students are grateful to our community partners, and everyone involved, who have given their time and energy to provide a real-world experience for our students," said JTHS Project Director Carol Collins. "This partnership has allowed our students to develop the skills that are necessary to become college and career ready. The students are learning skills that go far beyond the classroom setting."

In addition to the success of the robot, the Joliet Cyborgs' student-designed Website placed first in the high school category of the Joliet Junior College Web Design Contest. FRC also selected the Cyborgs as one of four teams that were highlighted on the FIRST Website.

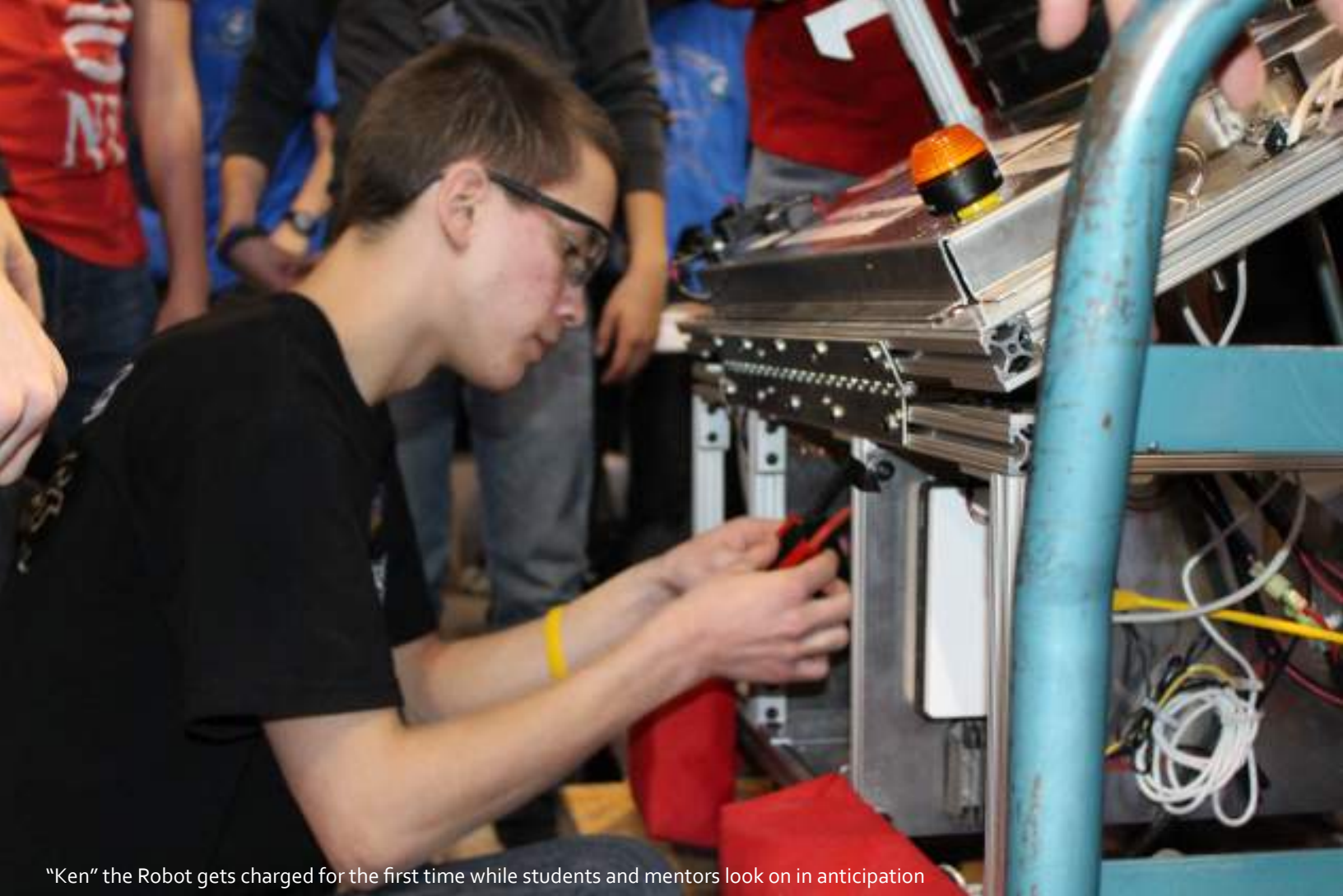
The Joliet Cyborgs robotics team is comprised of students in the STEM, Arts & Communication and BMIS Academies. Participation in the team enabled students to gain real-world application of technology, graphic design and marketing skills.



Joliet Cyborgs mentors Tom Connelly and Bob Tota collaborate with students



Students receive a lesson in Physics from mentor Ken Minor



"Ken" the Robot gets charged for the first time while students and mentors look on in anticipation

Joliet Cyborgs Sponsors & Mentors

Joliet Township High School greatly appreciates the support of the 2013 Joliet Cyborgs sponsors and mentors. Financial sponsors include Vulcan Material Company, KWM Gutterman, Inc., Caterpillar, R Berti Building Solutions, JC Penney, and the University of Illinois Extension-4H. The JTHS faculty mentors are Christopher McGuffey, Thomas Connelly, John Figliulo, Carol Collins, John Barber and Michael O'Malley. The professional mentors for the Joliet Cyborgs are Bob Tota, Plant Manager at Vulcan Materials; Ken Minor, Owner of KWM Gutterman, Inc.; Guillermo Barragan, CEO of Digital Electronics Design Engineers; Curt Ward, Professor at Joliet Junior College; and Brian Ryjewski, 2012 Joliet Cyborgs student participant.

100 Years of Musical Excellence

Joliet Township High School Band Program

Established in 1913, the JTHS Band Program celebrated 100 years of musical excellence during the 2012-2013 school year. The JTHS Band has created lifelong memories for its alumni, fans and the community throughout the past century. It is considered one of the greatest band programs in the United States and has a long-standing history of award-winning performances, which earned the City of Joliet its moniker, "The City of Champions."





JTHS Band Centennial Celebration

Over 1,000 members of the JTHS community celebrated the success of the JTHS Band Program through a variety of festivities held throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

On July 27, 2012, the Joliet Area Historical Museum opened the doors to its year-long "Strike Up the Band" special exhibit, featuring 100 years of JTHS Band history. The exhibit won three major awards at the national, state and Midwest levels. The Joliet Area Historical Museum also secured a grant to make a portion of the exhibit a permanent fixture within the museum.

The JTHS Band Alumni Association held a celebratory dinner on July 28, 2012 at the Carpenter's Hall in Joliet. Over 200 alumni traveled from throughout the United States to share 100 years of JTHS band memories and pride during this event.

An alumni centennial concert was held on July 29, 2012 at Joliet Central High School. With over 800 people in the audience, the 120 members of the JTHS Alumni Band delivered a spectacular performance.

The Joliet Area Historical Museum bestowed the JTHS Band Program with the prestigious honor of "DreamMaker" at the 11th Annual DreamMakers Ball on October 6, 2012. Individuals and organizations are selected as DreamMakers based upon their contributions to the Joliet Community. It is a prestigious award given to a select few.

During the 2012-2013 school year, The *Herald News* detailed the JTHS Band Program's history in a special series entitled, "The Best Band in the Land." The series included segments on each band director, since the band program's inception in 1913.

The Tradition of Excellence Continues

2012-2013 Band Program Success

Joliet Central High School Band Receives Grand Champion Award at ISU Competition

On April 26, 2013, the Joliet Central High School Symphonic Band was named Grand Champion at the Illinois State University State of Illinois Invitational Concert Band Contest.

The JCHS Band placed first in Class 6A and first overall out of 26 bands, with a score of 94.33 out of 100. This is the 15th time that the Symphonic Band at Joliet Central has won the Grand Champion Trophy.

"This is a huge honor for the JCHS Band," said Joliet Central High School Band Director Mike Fiske. "Their musical performance was tremendous, and these students are some of Joliet's finest musicians."

Joliet Township High School Orchestra Brings Home Over 100 Medals at IHSA Contest

On March 2, 2013, Joliet Township High School Orchestra students who competed in the IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest were awarded 71 Division I and 69 Division II Medals. In addition, students who participated in a string quartet received the "Best of the Day Award" in recognition of the most superior musical performance of the day.

Joliet West High School Symphonic Band Qualifies for Superstate

The Joliet West High School Symphonic Band qualified for the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Invitational and delivered a sensational performance on May 4, 2013 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Follinger Great Hall.

The invitational invites the finest middle school, junior high and senior high school concert bands from the state of Illinois to present a performance. This is the 6th time since 2003 that the Symphonic Band has qualified for Superstate.

"This is a huge honor for the band," said Joliet West Band Director Kevin Carroll. "It's the most prestigious recognition for a concert band program in the state of Illinois."



Joliet West High School Band Director Kevin Carroll Receives Golden Apple Award

On May 1, 2013, Joliet West High School Band Director Kevin Carroll was awarded the prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching during a surprise presentation from members of the Golden Apple Foundation.

Each year since 1986, the Golden Apple Foundation has selected 10 outstanding teachers from the Chicago area to receive the Award for Excellence in Teaching. Carroll was chosen from more than 510 nominations and 215 applicants. The rigorous selection process included classroom observations of all finalists, and interviews with colleagues, administrators, students, and parents.

Carroll leads the Joliet West Concert, Jazz, Pep, and Marching Bands. His excellent teaching can be seen within the numerous awards and honors earned by the Joliet West bands throughout the past 20 years.

"Mr. Carroll has the ability to connect and communicate using a student-centered approach that fosters creativity, expression, leadership and musical growth," said Joliet West Principal Teresa Gibson. "His 'gift' of teaching is evident within just minutes of entering his classroom."

As a Golden Apple Award recipient, Carroll receives a tuition-free, spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University and a \$3,000 cash award.

A black sign for Joliet Township Athletic Boosters is mounted on a trailer. The sign features the words "JOLIET" and "TOWNSHIP" in large, yellow, block letters with a blue outline. Below the text is a stylized, blue and white graphic of a person in a dynamic, athletic pose, possibly a basketball player or a runner. The sign is part of a larger display on a trailer, with another sign visible in the background that also says "ATHLETIC BOOSTERS".

JOLIET TOWNSHIP

Athletics and Activities

Joliet Township High School District 204 is dedicated to creating opportunities and strengthening the abilities of our students through athletics and activities. Creating a balance between athletics, activities and academics is the primary goal of the athletics and activities departments.

JTHS Athletic Booster Concession Trailer

Concessions and spirit wear are now available at JTHS outdoor athletic events thanks to a trailer purchased by the JTHS Booster Club. The Booster Concession Trailer can be seen at track meets, soccer games and has even served as a press box for the IHSA Regional Softball and Baseball Tournaments.

Due to the portability of the trailer, the JTHS Boosters have also sold concessions and spirit wear at charitable events held off campus, such as the 2013 Relay for Life which took place at Memorial Stadium.

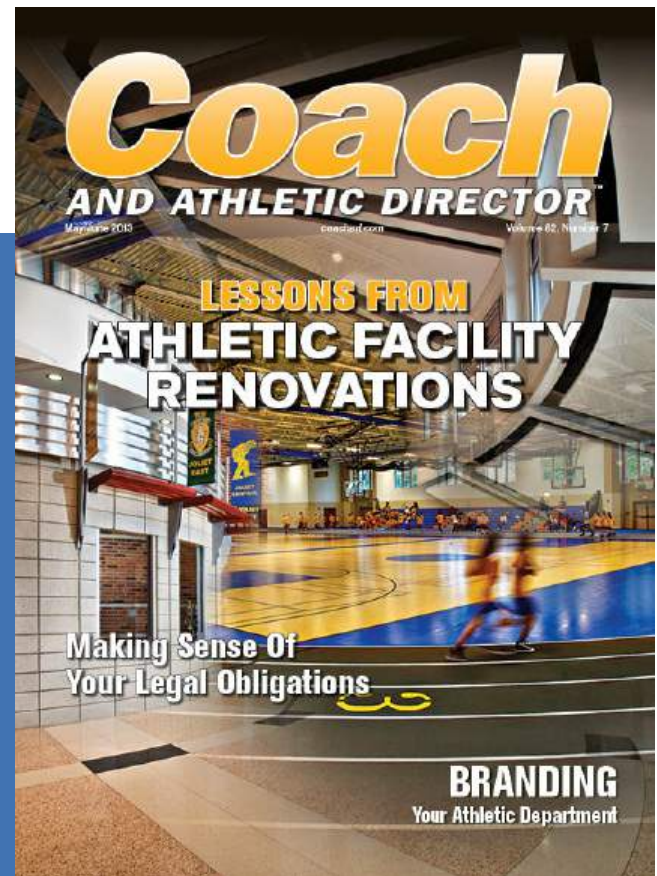
JTHS State-of-the-Art Athletic Facilities Featured in *Coach and Athletic Director* Magazine

The Joliet Central and West High School athletic facilities received front page recognition in the May/June 2013 edition of *Coach and Athletic Director* magazine. The magazine's feature highlighted the Central and West Field Houses and athletic turf.

To read the article visit: <http://tinyurl.com/JTHScoachmag>

Joliet Central and West Campus Spirit Stores

The 2012-2013 school year marked the opening of the Joliet Central and Joliet West Campus Spirit Stores. Parents, students, community and JTHS staff members can purchase a variety of school spirit wear on campus during days and hours of operation. The Joliet Central Spirit Store is located in the field house atrium, and the Joliet West store is located in the D Building by the Main Gym. Each spirit store is managed and operated by members of the JTHS Booster Club. Hours of operation vary; however, the store is primarily open during School Improvement Planning (SIP) days from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and during varsity athletic events. The Joliet Township High School Web Store also opened during the 2012-2013 school year. With just a click of the mouse, spirit items can be purchased and paid for online. To visit the Web Store, go to www.jths.org.



IHSA State Qualifiers and Team Achievements 2012-2013 State Qualifiers

JTHS Boys Golf: Individual

JTHS Boys Tennis: Singles

JTHS Girls Swimming and Diving: Individual

JCHS Boys Track and Field: Individual

JCHS Chess: Team

JCHS Choirs: Concert and Show Choirs; Mixed Chorus

JCHS Mathletes: Individual

JCHS Wrestling: Individual

JWHS Girls Badminton: Individual

JWHS Bands: Symphonic Wind and Concert Bands

JWHS Girls Bowling: Individual

JWHS Chess: Team

JWHS Competitive Dance: Team

JWHS Mathletes: Individual

JWHS Boys Track and Field: Individual

JWHS Wrestling: Individual

2012-2013 Regional Champions

JWHS Varsity Boys Basketball

IHSA Academic Achievement Awards

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Academic Achievement Award recognizes a team's ability to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher throughout their respective season. The program is designed to reward academic teamwork. The following teams earned this award during the 2012-2013 School Year.

JTHS Girls Golf	JCHS Girls Bowling	JCHS Girls Softball	JCHS Girls Volleyball
JTHS Girls Swimming	JCHS Competitive Dance	JCHS Girls Track and Field	JWHS Girls Bowling
JTHS Tennis	JCHS Boys Cross Country	JCHS Boys Track and Field	JWHS Girls Softball
JCHS Girls Badminton	JCHS Girls Cross Country	JCHS Girls Soccer	JWHS Girls Volleyball



Special Olympics State Competitors

Three JTHS students competed in the State Special Olympic Summer Games held in Bloomington, Normal on June 14-16, 2013. Stephanie Pransky took home a gold medal in the softball throw and 7th place in the 100 meter run; Mitchell Houlihan was awarded a silver medal in the 100 meter run and a 4th place in the standing long jump; and John Gutierrez earned a bronze medal in the softball throw.

AVAC Teacher Matthew Kennedy started the Special Olympic Program at JTHS during the 2012-2013 school year. Competing in the Special Olympics has provided JTHS students in the AVAC program the opportunity to develop physical fitness, sportsmanship and team work.



2013 Special Games

Joliet Township High School students in the Adaptive Vocational and Academic Center (AVAC) program participated in the Special Games held at Lincoln-Way Central High School on March 1, 2013. At the event, special education students from twelve schools competed in a variety of events such as beanbag toss, relay races, target throws and bowling.

A Tradition of Financial Excellence

Richard Pagliaro



The end of the 2012-2013 school year marked the retirement of JTHS Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel, Mr. Richard Pagliaro.

Mr. Pagliaro dedicated 10 years of service to Joliet Township High School District 204 and has proven himself to be a passionate educator and an exceptional leader. During his tenure at JTHS, the district's \$11 million dollar deficit was eliminated without the sacrifice of instructional programs.

In 2010, Mr. Pagliaro received the ASBO International Eagle Award, an honor given to top school business officials who demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and an exemplary commitment to education. He has also received the Illinois ASBO Monarch Award.

Mr. Pagliaro is known as a leader who has always asked, "Is this best for our students?" It is this attitude that led to a successful referendum that permitted District 204 to construct two field houses and expand its athletic and physical education opportunities for all students. He also shepherded multiple renovation projects that produced clean, modern facilities without any disruption to the educational process.

JTHS thanks Mr. Pagliaro for his service to District 204 throughout the years and deeply appreciates his dedication.





A Tradition of Excellence Continues Ilandus Hampton

On January 15, 2013, the JTHS Board of Education approved the appointment of Mr. Ilandus Hampton as the next Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. While JTHS will greatly miss the experience and dedication that Mr. Pagliaro brought to JTHS, we are confident in Mr. Hampton's ability to lead the district during a time of financial uncertainty. Mr. Hampton has worked closely with Mr. Pagliaro to develop a smooth transition plan.

Mr. Hampton has an extensive background in finance and operations and is a certified Chief School Business Official with 12 years of experience working within the educational system. Prior to coming to District 204, he served as Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations at Rich Township High School District 227, a position he held since 2005. Mr. Hampton holds a master's degree with a concentration in School Business Management from Northern Illinois University and an Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in administration and supervision from National Louis University. He is currently an Educational Doctoral (Ed.D.) candidate at National Louis University.

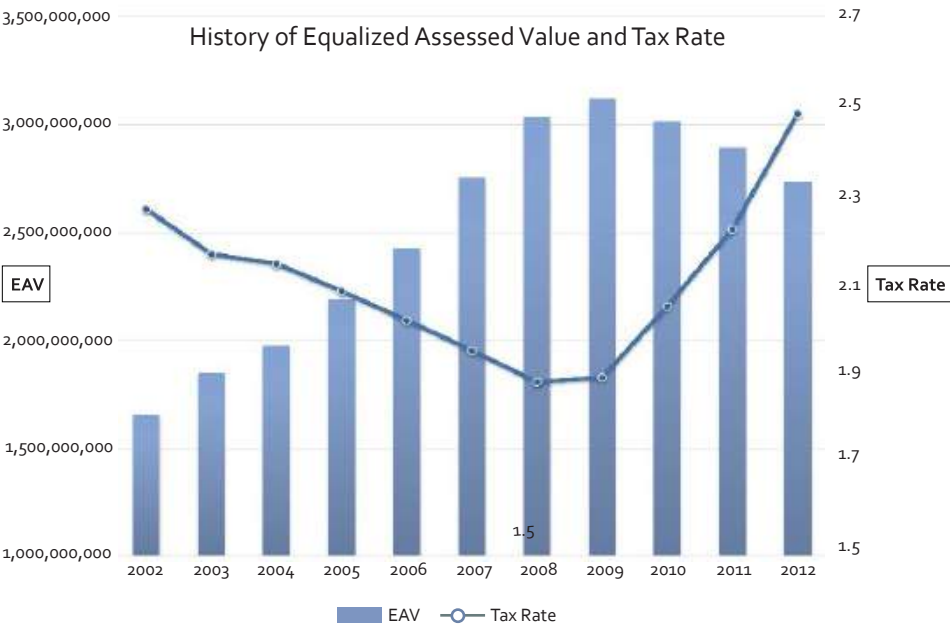
JTHS Financial Planning

Protecting the Education of our Youth

JTHS continues its tradition of financial stability; however, there are many factors that are creating fiscal uncertainty in public schools across the state of Illinois.

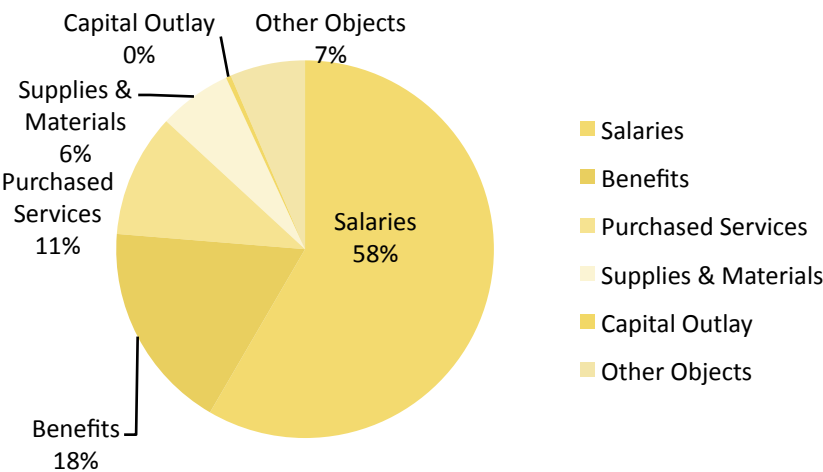
Reductions in State Support

Despite reports of gradual economic recovery, property values have declined on average five percent during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. This has a direct impact upon the district's ability to generate tax dollars, which provides less funding for the provision of essential services and programs.



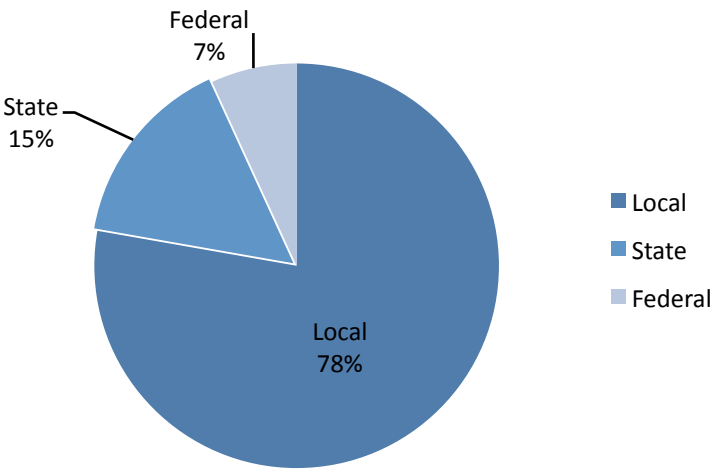
Reductions in Spending

For the second consecutive year, JTHS has instituted a reduction in purchased services, supplies, and capital outlay expenditures. This reduction will continue throughout the 2013-2014 school year and is an essential component to the proactive financial planning that is necessary to ensure that the education of our youth is protected. Reductions in these financial areas have also allowed JTHS to provide innovative educational opportunities and services, such as the 1:1 computing initiative.



Reductions in State Support and Proposed Legislation

School districts in Illinois continue to see a decrease in state funding. At this point, educational services and programs at JTHS have not been affected or minimized due to this external financial factor. Sound financial planning is the key to maintaining stability; however, reductions and proposed legislation regarding pension and transportation does have the potential to drastically minimize school funding and could be devastating to school districts throughout the state of Illinois.



JTHS Financial Excellence

During the 2012-2013 School year, The Association of School Business Officials International’s (ASBO) recently honored Joliet Township High School District 204 for over 26 years of participation in the Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Financial Reporting.

“This award supports and recognizes our district’s high-quality financial reporting to the community through exceptional comprehensive annual financial reports,” said Assistant Superintendent Richard Pagliaro.

As a (COE) recipient, the award represents a significant achievement and reflects Joliet Township’s commitment to the highest standards of school financial reporting.

“In dire financial times, our district has been able to retain all employment positions essential to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our children. Sound financial reporting is a key component of this accomplishment,” said Pagliaro.



JTHS Transition Center

On August 20, 2012, JTHS opened the doors of its new Transition Center located at 127-131 Collins Street in downtown Joliet. The Transition Center provides an array of opportunities for students with disabilities who need transitional services and support to develop vocational, community, and independent living skills.

“The Transition Center provides JTHS students with disabilities, ages 18-21, a more age appropriate environment,” said Transition Center Coordinator Becky Kemp. “Students are provided unique, real-world opportunities that foster independence in the areas of vocational training, independent living and social skill development. Through their participation in a variety of community-based programs, students are not only members of the district, they are members of the Joliet-area community. The ultimate goal is for students to have a smooth transition to adulthood.”

2012-2013 Transition Center Highlights

Kiwanis Aktion Club

The students of the JTHS Transition Center are dedicated to serving the community through fundraising and volunteer work. With sponsorship from the Kiwanis Club of Joliet, Transition Center students formed an Aktion Club to increase community service opportunities. Aktion Clubs provide adults with disabilities the opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their communities.

Project Discovery Curriculum

Instructors utilize the Project Discovery Curriculum to meet the vocational needs of students at the Transition Center. This curriculum provides a hands-on method to learning, and it introduces students to a variety of career areas.

Community Partnerships

In May of 2013, the JTHS Transition Center hosted a community luncheon recognizing those who have provided student employment and educational opportunities for the 2012-2013 school year. Through these collaborative efforts, many students enrolled in the Transition Center hold paid positions at a number of local businesses and participate in community trips to prepare them for the adult world.

Community and Business Partners:

Abri Credit Union	Joliet Boys and Girls Club
Kiwanis Club of Joliet	Joliet Police Department
Cornerstone Services	Joliet Park District
Department of Human Services	Trinity Services
Guardian Angel Community Services	Will County Clerk
Illinois Department of Employment Security	Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living

Transition Center Facility Specifications

The 5,000 square foot facility is equipped with:

Vocational Work Room	Living Area	Kitchen Equipped with Gas and Electric Stoves
Laundry Facility	Conference Room and Office	Three Bathrooms
Three Classrooms		

CHARACTER

Character in Community

On October 26, 2012, JTHS kicked off the city-wide promotion of its seven character attributes with "Character in the Community Day."

"Character in Community Day" encouraged local businesses, community organizations and individuals to send a visual message to students by wearing JTHS character t-shirts and displaying signage. Those who chose to participate in this day were also encouraged to wear their shirts on the last Friday of each month to send a sustainable message of support. In addition, the City of Joliet graciously provided space for advertisement of the attributes on electronic billboards throughout Joliet and on Interstate 80.

The seven JTHS character attributes of confidence, compassion, respect, responsibility, tolerance, perseverance, and integrity are a result of the Joliet Township High School Strategic Plan and were selected collaboratively by a committee comprised of parents, students, staff, community and Board of Education members. The seven attributes are unique to the Joliet Township High School community and are an important part of providing our students with the necessary characteristics to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.

JTHS thanks the following supporters of this initiative: Abri Credit Union; Babes; Chicago Street Pub; City of Joliet; Joliet Area Historical Museum; Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry; JTHS Athletic Boosters; JTHS Athletic Department; JTHS Board of Education; JTHS Support Services; Housing Authority of Joliet; Law Office of Thomas P. Naughton; Mark Baker Farmers Insurance; Numark Credit Union; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home; People's First Bank; R. Berti Business Solutions; Rialto Square Theatre; Senior Services of Will County; The Office of Dr. Tom Streitz, DDS; United Way of Will County; Will Buy Locally Alliance; Will County Health Department--Division of Behavioral Health; and WJOL Studios.

Communication

A comprehensive system of communication delivery has been implemented that utilizes multi-faceted modes of media, including a weekly broadcast e-mail, social media, Home Access Center and more. During the 2012-2013 school year, JTHS received four communication awards from the Illinois and National School Public Relations Associations.

JTHS uses a variety of resources to communicate school and district information.

JTHS Website

A great source for school information includes important dates, news and campus announcements

www.jths.org

RSS Feeds

Subscribe and JTHS news and events will be sent to your e-mail inbox

<http://www.jths.org/rss/>

Flickr

Photo slideshows highlight school activities and events

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jths204/sets/>

Home Access Center (HAC)

View student grades, attendance and discipline records

<https://dist.jths.org/homeaccess>

Voice Messenger System

Communicates information of high importance such as school closings and information pertaining to safety

Electronic Newsletter JToday

Sent quarterly via e-mail and communicates school news, student and staff recognition, podcasts and video

<http://www.jtoday.org>

Weekly E-mail

Communicates information from the principal

Sign up at JTHS.org

School Mailings

Used to communicate information essential to your student's education

Social Media

Follow JTHS on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

<http://www.facebook.com/JTHS204>
http://twitter.com/#!/JTHS_204
<http://www.youtube.com/user/JTHS204>



www.jths.org

Joliet Township High School