

Joliet Township High School

*Empowering Students to
Compete and Contribute*



Annual Report
School Year 2013-2014

Introduction

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

Letter from Superintendent	4
Board of Education.....	6
Board President’s Message	8
JTHS Academy Structure.....	10
Academy Exploration	12
Academy Partnerships	14
Mentor2.0	16
Curriculum & Instruction	20
1:1 Technology	21
Student Growth & Assessment.....	22
Student Achievement	24
State-of-the-Art Facilities.....	26
Finance	30
Demographics	33
Athletics & Activities	34
Alumni Connections	38

Dr. McCarthy Superintendent's Welcome

Dear Partner in Education,

Joliet Township High School is proud to present the 2013-2014 Annual Report. The 2013-2014 school year was full of student achievements and educational successes that we are excited to share with our stakeholders.

Thanks to comprehensive Strategic Planning, a supportive Board of Education and dedicated staff, it is a great time to be a student at Joliet Township High School. Our 1:1 technology initiative is motivating and engaging students, eliminating the digital divide through the provision of netbook computers to all students. State-of-the-art facilities continue to expand as construction has begun on the Student Center and Galleria additions at Joliet Central High School. Students continue to demonstrate yearly academic growth as measured by the EPAS Assessment System, and a record number of Joliet Township High School students were enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. The JTHS character attributes are consistently implemented through service to the community and participation in student clubs and organizations.

A variety of opportunities and experiences continue to be available to our students due to the wealth of support that is demonstrated by our community. Within the pages of this report, you will read about educational programs that would not be possible without the partnerships that have been established within the JTHS Academy structure. These authentic real-world learning experiences prepare our students for college and career.

In addition, as we enter the 2014-2015 school year, we will examine our Strategic Plan to ensure that the expansion of opportunities available to our students continues. We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to develop this comprehensive plan.

As always, I am thankful to work in partnership with parents, staff and the community to make the mission of Joliet Township High School a reality. We will continue to empower our students to compete and contribute within our local and global society through the provision of quality education in an academy environment. Our teachers, administrators, and staff are committed to ensuring student success.



Our most precious commodity for a healthy future is the education of our children. Working in partnership with our families and community, I am confident that our students will possess the skills necessary for success during high school and after graduation. Together, we will continue to make Joliet Township High School a school district of choice for our students and community.

Sincerely,

Cheryl McCarthy, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Joliet Township High School Board of Education

Board of Education members are elected by residents within the school district's boundaries. They volunteer their time to lead the district and serve four-year terms on a staggered basis. Many people may not realize that Board of Education members do not receive pay. School Board members make personal sacrifices and spend countless hours tending to board business.

Board of Education members adopt policies and rules that govern the administration of the school district and operate in strict accordance with Illinois laws and Illinois State Board of Education regulations. Every day, JTHS students and our community benefit from the dedication and commitment demonstrated by the District 204 Board of Education. The JTHS Board of Education works together to make the mission of Joliet Township High school a reality.

The Joliet Township High School 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.

Joliet Township High School Board of Education Members



Jeff Pierson, President (Served since 2001); Arlene Albert, Vice President (Served since 1981); Paige Vanderhyden, Secretary (Served since 2011); Don Dickinson, Member (Served since 2011); R. Dale Evans, Member (Served since 2013); Tyler Marcum, Member (Served since 2013); Tracy Spesia, Member (Served since 2013)



The Joliet Township High School Board of Education broke ground for the Joliet Central High School Student Center addition during a special ceremony held on June 9, 2014.

Board of Education Meeting Dates

Board of Education meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the JTHS Administrative Center, located at 300 Caterpillar Drive in Joliet. For a complete listing of Board of Education meeting dates, please visit www.jths.org.

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

- Selection of the superintendent
- 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

Board of Education President Jeff Pierson's Message

JTHS Strategic Plan Charting the Future, Continuing Excellence

For over 14 years, the Joliet Township High School Strategic Planning process has charted the future of the district, creating a multitude of programs and opportunities for students, while ensuring fiscal responsibility and financial stability.

During my 13 years of service on the JTHS Board of Education, I can personally attest to the effectiveness that Strategic Planning has had upon our district. We have achieved a great deal with our comprehensive Strategic Planning. From the 1:1 technology initiative to the construction of our field houses, sound Strategic Planning has provided a variety of opportunities for our students and community, making JTHS a school district of choice.

To continue the path of targeted goal setting and progress, the Joliet Township High School Board of Education has approved a "Thorough Renewal" of our current Strategic Plan. In December of 2014, a planning team of 25 to 30 members will be assembled to represent all stakeholder groups, including parents, teachers, students, community members, JTHS staff, and Board of Education members. This diverse group will participate in a three-day planning session that will examine and revise the entire Strategic Plan.

Following the three-day planning sessions, action teams will be formed to write action plans for each strategy to make the strategic vision a reality. The action planning sessions will run from January to April.

Once action planning has been completed, the Strategic Planning Team will come together in April for a two-day session to review and evaluate the work of the action teams. The Strategic Planning Team is charged to accept the action plan as designed, reject the action plan for cause, accept a portion of the action plan and delete the rest for cause, or send the action plan back to the action team for additional work. The final product will be presented to the Board of Education in May for approval.

The Strategic Planning process has allowed the Board of Education to involve key stakeholders throughout all stages of planning to positively impact the future of JTHS. The process provides for annual planning towards a long-term vision and has been an effective blueprint for district goals and decision making.



JTHS values the input of all stakeholders and encourages participation in this collaborative process. For more information, please contact Kristine Schlismann at kschlismann@jths.org or (815) 727-6967.

Working in partnership with the community, I am confident in our ability to prepare generations of students with the skills necessary for college and career readiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pierson'.

Jeff Pierson
Board of Education President

JTHS Academy Structure

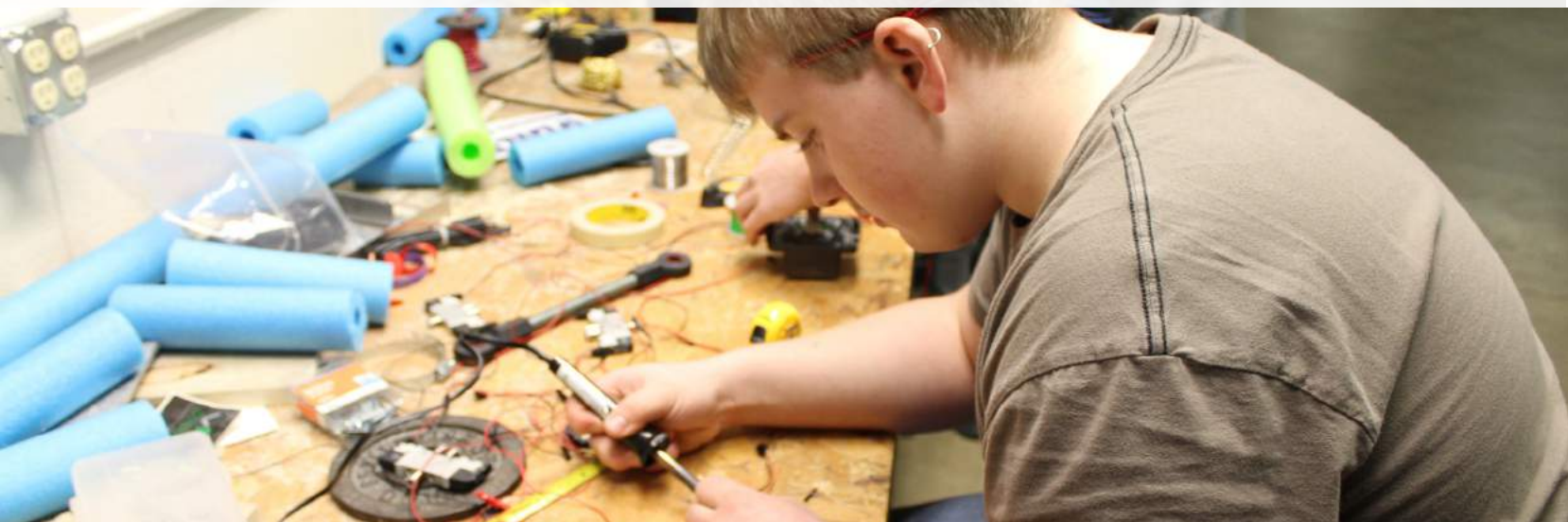
At JTHS, our mission is to ensure that all students are college and career ready when they graduate from high school. The JTHS Career Academy structure has been designed to make this mission a reality.

Freshman Academy

All ninth graders begin their education in the Freshman Academy. This small learning community is structured to assist students with the transition to high school. Freshmen begin the day a period earlier than upper-class students, which provides them with the opportunity to take an additional elective or receive academic support in math and/or reading.

The Freshman Academy structure incorporates cohort teaming and scheduling of teachers and students. This provides teachers with the opportunity to assist students through integrated lessons and shared student progress monitoring. Teachers work together in teams to provide students with unified support, which eases the transition into the larger school community.

During the freshman year of high school, JTHS students explore career options as they progress through the Freshman Academy, advisory and the online Career Cruising program. This career exploration prepares students for the Career Academy selection.





JTHS Career Academies

During sophomore year, students enter one of five career-themed Career Academies.

JTHS Career Academies increase student achievement by organizing students into small learning communities that offer a personalized learning environment within a large school setting.

In the JTHS Career Academies, students receive an individualized education relevant to their career interests. Teams of teachers work together to prepare interdisciplinary lessons that relate to each academy's theme. Students are provided with a rigorous and relevant curriculum that integrates course content and technology skills in alignment to the Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness Standards.

The five JTHS Academies are: the Academy of Arts and Communication; the Academy of Business Management & Information Systems; the Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); the Academy of Health & Medicine; and the Academy of Human Services.

Academy, Career & Course Exploration

JTHS Course Offerings Guide

JTHS believes that parents and guardians play an essential role in their student's educational and career planning. To assist with this endeavor, a comprehensive Course Offerings Guide has been developed that can be accessed online at www.jths.org. This interactive document is more than just a listing of courses that are available to JTHS students. The Course Offerings Guide contains a section dedicated to each academy, which encourages career exploration and educational goal setting.



"Within the Course Offerings Guide, the pathways, or the groups of related careers associated with the academy, are listed," said JTHS Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Karla Guseman. "Using the pathways, parents, guardians and students can discuss and review career clusters to determine what interests the student. This exploration can lead to thoughtful and meaningful conversations."

Academies

Freshman Academy

Arts &
Communication

Business Management &
Information Systems

Programs of Study

Each pathway in the Career Academy has unique and individualized Programs of Study that can also be found online in the Course Offerings Guide. Programs of Study are sequences of recommended courses that a student should take based on his or her career interests. They are templates for educational planning.

“The Programs of Study list the required core courses and recommended electives associated with each pathway,” said Guseman. “Within the online Course Offerings Guide, every course listed in the Programs of Study is hyperlinked to the course description. This interactive feature makes it easier for parents, guardians, and students to explore course suggestions and offerings.”

Health & Medicine

Human Services

Science, Technology
Engineering & Mathematics



JTHS Engine Challenge

Since 2009, Joliet Township High School students have participated in national engine competitions across the United States resulting in hands-on automotive experience and college scholarships.

The competitions require students to disassemble an engine using only hand tools. Two judges watch as teams are required to remove the air cleaner, carburetor, distributor, wires, spark plugs, manifold, headers, cylinder heads, lifters, rocker arms, push rods, timing chain, cover, oil filter, oil pan, all eight pistons, and rods.

During the 2013-2014 school year, JTHS automotive students placed second and third at the 2014 Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Race and Performance Expo. The group was also invited to compete in the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge at the National Hot Rod Association Nationals event on June 27-29, 2014 at Route 66 Raceway in Joliet.

"The competitions are intense," said JCHS Automotive Instructor Mark Brannick. "The teams are timed while they tear down and rebuild V8 engines. Penalties are given if a team member drops a tool, so the team needs to be in sync and work together."



The corporate sponsor of the 2013 Indy team was Motive Gear (Chicago) and the 2014 corporate sponsor was Competition Cams (Memphis, TN).

Industry event judges expect the engines to run if gas, oil and water were added. Time penalties are given to a team, as described in the 18-page rulebook, for missteps such as dropped components, improper disassembly or assembly, parts breakage and poor sportsmanship.

The team's past success includes a second place finish at the Seventh Annual Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge held in St. Charles, Illinois during February of 2014. With the second place honor, each student received a \$3,000 scholarship to attend Ohio Technical College.



In 2009, the automotive students competed in the Showdown at SEMA Hot Rodders of Tomorrow national competition in Las Vegas with an impressive first place finish after qualifying for the championship round. Students were awarded a \$20,000 scholarship to Ohio Technical College or the University of Northwestern Ohio.

Through events like the engine competitions, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy provides students with hands-on, real world experience. Participation in experiences such as these increase student achievement by offering relevant college and career readiness activities, along with personal success.

Mentor2.0

Innovative Student Mentoring with a Purpose

On November 13, 2013, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties (BBBS) and Joliet Township High School announced its Mentor2.0 partnership, a technology-driven, email supported one-to-one youth mentoring program that directly focuses on JTHS students. BBBS is one of only 12 agencies in the nation to pilot Mentor2.0 in the 2014-2015 school year. JTHS is excited to participate in this innovative mentoring partnership.

Mentor2.0 launched in the fall of 2014. One hundred JTHS students have been matched with mentors from local businesses that were selected based upon the student's career interests and academy. While the program is beginning with 100 students, the overall goal of Mentor2.0 is to provide every single JTHS student with a mentor who will provide ongoing college/career preparation and guidance throughout his or her sophomore, junior and senior years of high school.



Coined as the "mentoring program for busy professionals," the innovative program supports high-impact mentoring relationships aimed at providing high school students with the support and guidance they need to graduate high school, succeed in college and join the workforce. Mentor2.0 uses the iMentor curriculum, which has proven success.

Upon graduation, 75 percent of iMentor participants from New York City public schools went on to enroll in college, compared to 55 percent of their non-participant peers. In addition, 88 percent of iMentor participants persisted in college for more than one year compared to 46 percent of their non-participant peers.

"With today's access to technology, opportunities are available to our students that were never possible before," said JTHS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl McCarthy. "We are excited to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide quality mentors for our students. Mentor2.0 truly sets the stage for a new culture of innovation that will motivate our students as they connect with mentors that can provide wisdom, support and encouragement on a regular basis."

Individuals participating as mentors will follow a structured curriculum that consists of one e-mail a week and one face-to-face meeting every four to six weeks.

JTHS has the framework in place to make this program a success due to the district's 1:1 technology program, which provides all JTHS students with netbook computers, allowing 24/7 access to their education.

To learn more about becoming a mentor, visit www.bbbswillgrundy.org/mentor2.0 or call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (815) 723-BBBS.

Mentor2.0 Partners

JTHS and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties thanks the following corporate sponsors that have provided mentors and/or financial support: AT&T, Aux Sable, Caterpillar, Comcast, ExxonMobil, Holly Club of Joliet, Joliet Junior Woman's Club, Joliet Police Department, The Kresge Foundation, Lewis University, LyondellBasell, Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center and the United Way of Will County.



Abri Credit Union

Real World Money Management

Students in the Business Management and Information Systems (BMIS) Academy have the opportunity to gain real-world money management and investment skills through participation and employment within the Abri Credit Union branches located on-site at Central and West Campus.

To provide a work-based learning experience, the student-run credit union branches were established in 2008.

"The partnership allows student employees to enhance service skills and get a feel for the real world by serving the students and staff members of JTHS," said Abri Credit Union CEO Brian Cedergren. "This has even led to employment beyond high school as several JTHS students have continued their careers at Abri after graduation and/or college."

For JTHS alumna Maria Patino, this is truly the case. After graduating from Joliet Central, Patino found that the skills and knowledge she acquired in high school were quickly put to use when she was hired as part-time employee for Abri. Patino attributes this employment to her time spent within the school credit union. "It prepared me for the real world in so many ways," said Patino. "Not only did I learn what it takes to be a successful employee, I learned the importance of managing money and savings. This is a great program for JTHS students."

In addition, as a member of the Financial Literacy Initiative team at JTHS, Abri Credit Union has partnered with JTHS to hold a Reality Fair at each campus. The fair provides students with hands-on experience in budgeting and finance management through simulations that require financial decision-making based on a salary and occupation. During the 2013-2014 school year, 984 students participated in the Reality Fair, which is now integrated into the curriculum of all Consumer Economics and Economics classes.



Abri Credit Union staff and board members who volunteered their time to participate in the Reality Fair include: Morgan Zinkie, Marketing Coordinator; Kim Nichols, VP Marketing & Training; Greg Morin, Board Member; Carlene Amwoza, Internal Marketing & Business Development Specialist; Samantha Edler, Executive Assistant; and Susan Grask, Financial Educator/Student Branch Liaison.

CNA Certification

Health & Medicine Career Preparation

Joliet Township High School students in the Health & Medicine Academy have a unique opportunity to become Illinois Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA) thanks to a partnership with Joliet Junior College.

Through enrollment in the Nurse Assistant (NA) 101 class, a one semester dual-credit course offered in conjunction with Joliet Junior College, JTHS students can obtain their CNA coursework designed to prepare qualified nurse assistants to administer care in hospitals, long-term care and other healthcare arenas. The course content includes principles of patient care, and laboratory/clinical experience. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive two high school credits, 7.5 JJC credits, and are eligible to take the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) state competency exam. Once students pass the exam, they become certified as a nursing assistant.

JTHS students have a history of high performance on the certification exam. Joliet Junior College Manager of Health Care Continuing Education Katie Fazio reported that 92 percent of JTHS students enrolled in both the fall and spring semester course for the 2013-2014 school year passed the exam on their first attempt.

Becoming a Certified Nurse Assistant while still enrolled in high school gives JTHS students entering the health and medicine career field a competitive advantage. "Students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field can gain valuable patient care experience working as a CNA," said Fazio. "Many competitive entry programs, such as Physician's Assistant, require students to have a significant amount of patient care hours. Working as a CNA is a great way to meet this requirement."

Photo Caption: JCHS student Leticia Garcia takes the blood pressure of JCHS student Michelle Conley as part of the NA 101 coursework.





1:1 Technology Blended Learning Expands Education Beyond the Classroom Walls

With the roll-out of the 1:1 technology initiative now complete, all students at JTHS have been provided with netbook computers that they use in school and at home. This allows students to access their education beyond the walls of the classroom on a 24/7 basis.

During the 2013-2014 school year, JTHS took the 1:1 technology initiative a step further when the Board of Education approved the blended learning pilot that was implemented in the fall of 2014.

Blended learning challenges and empowers students to become active learners through a combination of face-to-face and online instruction that can be accessed off campus. During blended learning courses, students experience a reduction in the amount of time spent on-site in the classroom, while continuing to participate in active, independent learning that is facilitated by the teacher.

"At JTHS we believe that students learn at different rates and in different ways," said JTHS Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Karla Guseman. "The blended learning format allows students more flexibility and control over when and where they choose to learn. In addition, blended learning exposes students to the online learning environments they are likely to experience in college and the workplace."

The blended learning pilot is available to senior students in the subject areas of College Prep English 4, College Prep Government, and College Prep Economics. Although the majority of instruction is accessed off campus, JTHS students participating in blended learning are required to meet on-site a minimum of two days per week.

1:1 Technology Student Help Desk

Joliet Township High School believes that the integration of technology is essential to motivating and engaging students in rigorous and relevant lessons and has implemented the 1:1 technology initiative to provide anytime, anywhere learning that opens the doors to the critical thinking and problem solving skills that students need to compete and contribute in our global society.

To support the implementation of the 1:1 initiative, JTHS has established Student Help Desks at each campus that assist students with the technical issues they may encounter while using their netbook computers. Students can visit the Help Desk Monday–Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during regularly scheduled school days and receive hands-on technical assistance. In addition, after hour technology phone support can be accessed by calling (815) 727-6860.

The Student Help Desk was designed with more than just service in mind. JTHS students can become Help Desk Technicians, which provides authentic, real-world experience related to the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy. The student technicians assist their peers with computer issues such as basic trouble shooting of performance and hardware problems. They also re-image computers and replace hard drives, memory, wireless cards or batteries.

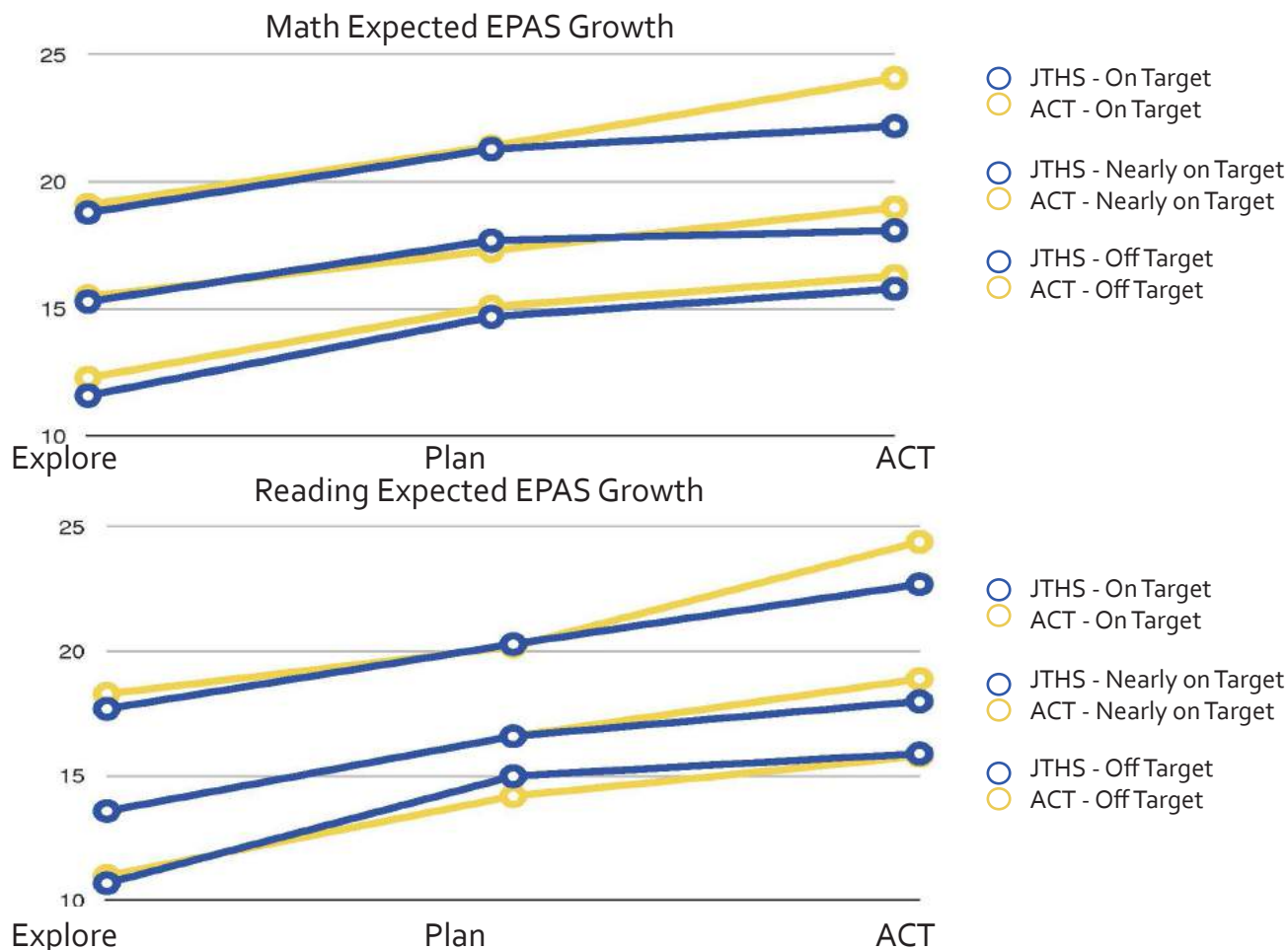
“The student technicians have become role models and school leaders in technology,” said JTHS Network & Media Manager Wendy Davis. “The experience provides them with the essential skills that are relevant to the technology industry and develops customer service and communication ability. The hands-on experience can be listed on college resumes or job applications and provides students with a competitive advantage.”



Student Growth & The EPAS Assessment

JTHS continues to use the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) to measure student improvement and 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 2014 as compared to the ACT study, "How Much Growth Toward College Readiness is Reasonable to Expect in High School?" For more information on EPAS, please visit www.jths.org/about204/assessment-program/.



PARCC Assessment

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers

Illinois is one of several states that will administer the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers assessment (PARCC) to students during the 2014-2015 school year.

To prepare for the assessment, JTHS served as a field test location during the 2013-2014 school year.

Participation in the PARCC field test provided JTHS with valuable insight into the test process and content.

"The field testing experience gave students the opportunity to become familiar with PARCC prior to the actual testing during the 2014-2015 school year," said JTHS Curriculum Director Dr. Mary Balsie. "It also gave students and administrators the chance to participate in the test development process by providing essential feedback through surveys that were administered to field test participants after the testing was completed."

What is PARCC?

Aligned with the Common Core State Standards, PARCC is designed to measure problem solving and critical thinking skills, while determining whether students are on track for college and career.

The PARCC assessments represent a range of rigorous and engaging test items that require students to demonstrate their understanding. In reading and writing, students will show they can read and understand complex passages, write persuasively, and present findings based on research. In math, they will show their work and demonstrate conceptual understanding. Overall, the tests will require higher-level thinking and analysis from students.

PARCC Components - Two Assessments: PBA & EOY

The PARCC test consists of two components--the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End of Year Assessment (EOY). The PBA measures critical thinking and problem solving skills such as reasoning, real-world math problem solving and short essay writing in English Language Arts. The EOY assessments measure an understanding of key concepts and fluency in math and reading comprehension in English. Together, they generate a comprehensive picture of knowledge.

Who Participates in the PARCC Assessment?

Students in English 3, Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3 are required to take the PARCC assessment during the 2014-2015 school year. The 2014-2015 testing windows for PARCC are:

March 9 to April 3, 2015—Performance Based Assessment (PBA)

April 27 to May 22, 2015—End of Year Assessment (EOY)

Student Achievement

Empowering Students to Compete and Contribute

ACT Scores for the Class of 2014

The average ACT score for the top 10 percent of students who were tested in the class of 2014 was 27.9. The top 20 percent of students who were tested in the Class of 2014 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 2013-2014 Illinois State Scholar. The prestigious award is given annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). Illinois State Scholar winners rank in the top ten percent of the state's graduating seniors from high schools across the state. Selection is based on SAT, ACT and Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year.

Student Scholarships

JTHS Guidance Counselors and staff work diligently with students to secure grants and scholarships for post-secondary and college/university study. During the 2013-2014 school year, over eight million dollars in grant and scholarship funding was awarded to JTHS students.



Advanced Placement & Dual Credit

An extensive selection of Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit classes are available at JTTHS. These classes allow students to earn college credit while enrolled in high school. During the 2013-2014 school year, JTTHS students saved over \$550,000 in college tuition by taking rigorous, college level Dual Credit or AP courses. JTTHS currently offers 17 AP courses and 27 Dual Credit courses.

JTTHS has made remarkable gains over the past five years, increasing the number of students taking AP courses and exams by over 200 percent, while simultaneously increasing the amount of students scoring 3 or higher on the AP exam.

Advanced Placement Gains 2010-2014

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total AP Students	196	202	238	355	693
Number of Exams	297	299	402	632	1096
Students with scores 3+	103	112	138	154	252

College Board Advanced Placement Scholars

During the 2013-2014 school year, 40 students were named Advanced Placement Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Exams.

Six 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.

Seven 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.



Joliet Central High School Student Center Addition

Joliet Township High School is looking to the future as construction for the Central Campus Student Center addition is currently underway.

The addition includes construction of a new cafeteria, kitchen, student bookstore, technology help desk counter, security entrance, two presentation rooms and a galleria connection.

"The West Campus is currently meeting the needs of our students, and facility expansion recently took place with the addition of the Science Center," said JTHS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl McCarthy. "However, there still remains a need for expansion at the Central Campus, and this project is designed to add functional and flexible space for students and the community."

The project will take place in three phases, with completion slated for the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Phase 1 and 2 of the project were completed during the 2013-2014 school year and included the relocation of the district Infant Childcare Center and demolition of the Little Theatre.

The third phase of the project is scheduled to begin during the 2014-2015 school year with the construction of the Student Center and galleria connection.

Student Center Amenities

The Joliet Central High School Student Center kitchen and cafeteria will provide seating for 600 students and is designed with a flexible configuration that can be arranged to accommodate community and school events. The community venue has the potential to hold up to 400 people, and the space can be arranged in an “auditorium style,” where seating can be set up around a portable stage.

While pointing out the functionality of the community space, Joliet Central High School Principal John Randich stressed the necessity of a new cafeteria for students who are currently eating at non-traditional lunch times. “This space will greatly benefit our students,” said Principal Randich. “Due to an enrollment of nearly 3,100 students, and with a fourth floor cafeteria that only seats 350 students, lunch periods currently begin as early as 10:20 a.m. and end as late as 2:15 p.m.”

The proposed plans for the Student Center include several student collaboration spaces that will provide more service to students in a 21st Century learning environment. Construction also includes masonry restoration, utilities relocation and parking lot improvements.



Galleria Connection

To connect the Student Center to the main campus, a galleria will be attached to the east side of the school, closing Herkimer Street to southbound traffic. The galleria is designed to function similar to the atrium that currently joins the Field House to the gym on the north side of the school. Along with natural lighting elements, the galleria incorporates a service area for students and visitors as well as collaboration space equipped with power outlets that can be used to charge electronic devices.



"The face of education is changing as technology integration progresses," said Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Ilandus Hampton. "The spaces in the addition have been designed to accommodate our 1:1 initiative, which provides all students with a computing device."

Historical Preservation

While the entire project is built to meet the needs of a 21st Century education, the historical integrity of the 112 year old building will be preserved. Members of the Joliet Central High School Archive Committee have provided feedback to the construction planning team to ensure that the plan mirrors the school's historical nature.

Throughout the project, architectural elements of the existing building will be maintained, along with the school's historical designation. Architectural elements include the incorporation of parapets and a limestone facade that will retain the collegiate Gothic appearance of the main building. A portion of the existing limestone facade has been restored because it will serve as an interior wall of the galleria.

"Joliet Central High School is a school steeped in tradition that prides itself in being a beacon of light and opportunity for the students, families and community we serve," said Principal Randich. "This is an exciting time for Joliet Central High School."

Joliet Township High School Infant Childcare Center

Plans for the Joliet Central High School Student Center addition included the relocation of the JTHS Infant Childcare Center that was previously housed in the lower level of the Little Theatre.

In December of 2013, the Infant Childcare Center moved across Collins Street to the vacant space that was made available due to the relocation of district's transportation center during the 2011-2012 school year.

"Moving the Childcare Center out of the Little Theatre opened an array of opportunities for the children in the program," said JTHS Curriculum Director Deanna Woodard.

The mission of the JTHS Infant Childcare Center is to engage, support and maintain the attendance of young parents to ensure high school completion, while strengthening their parenting skills and knowledge of resources. "The center supports the healthy development and exploration of young children in a safe environment and provides a passionate model of best practices in the early childhood community," said JTHS Infant Childcare Director Debrah Clark. "We are so proud to offer our children quality care in this state-of-the-art facility."

Infant Childcare Specifications

- 9,914 square feet of renovated space
- Three classrooms
- Multipurpose lounge & kitchen
- Natural lighting elements
- Outdoor Playground



JTHS Financial Excellence Continues During Uncertain Times



Certificate of Excellence Financial Reporting Award

Joliet Township High School was awarded the Association of School Business Officials International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for fiscal year 2013. The Certificate of Excellence is given to school districts that demonstrate high quality financial reporting through exceptional Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs).

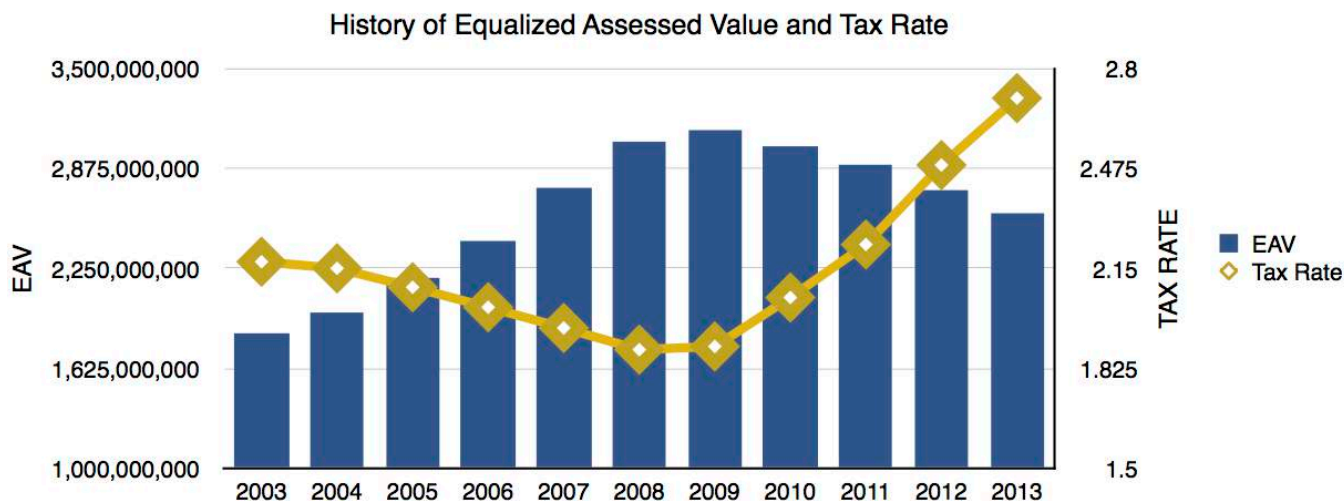
School districts who achieve the honor of excellence in financial reporting have verified that credibility, confidence, and transparency are essential to demonstrate sound fiscal management and professional growth. JTHS currently stands within the “Financial Recognition” status, the highest category of financial strength.

“This award signifies the district’s commitment to sound financial management and planning,” said JTHS Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Ilandus Hampton. “Our entire business office staff has worked diligently to achieve this honor, and I thank them for their hard work and dedication.”

JTHS Finance by the Numbers

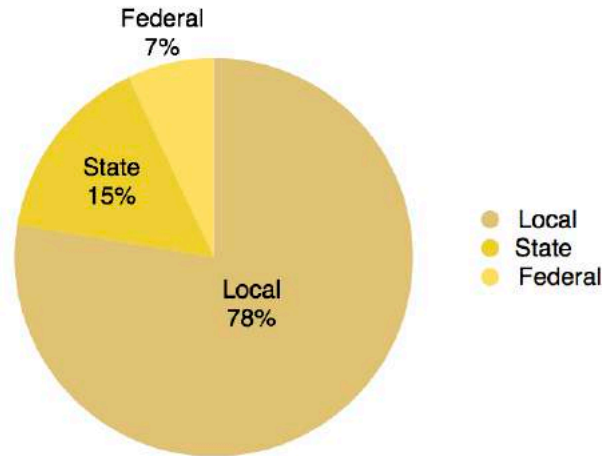
Reduced Equalized Assessed Property Values

Equalized assessed property values continued to decline an average of five percent during the 2013-2014 school year. This has a direct impact upon the district’s ability to generate tax dollars, consequently providing less funding for the provision of essential services and programs. JTHS continues to monitor operations, making reductions where possible without impacting the classroom.



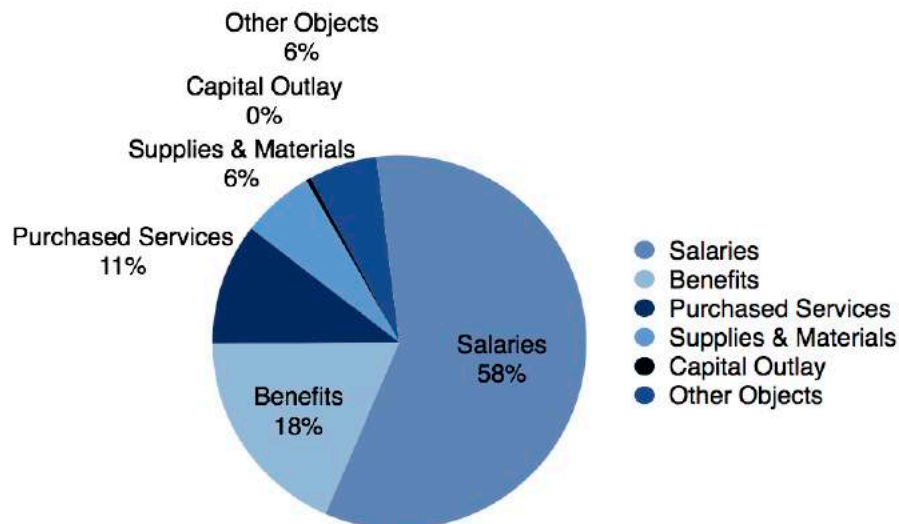
Proactive Financial Planning & Spending Reduction

For the third consecutive year, JTHS has instituted a reduction in purchased services, supplies, and capital outlay expenditures to ensure fiscal financial stability. Continuing through the 2014-2015 school year, this reduction 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 education opportunities and services in other areas, such as the 1:1 computing initiative and blended learning.



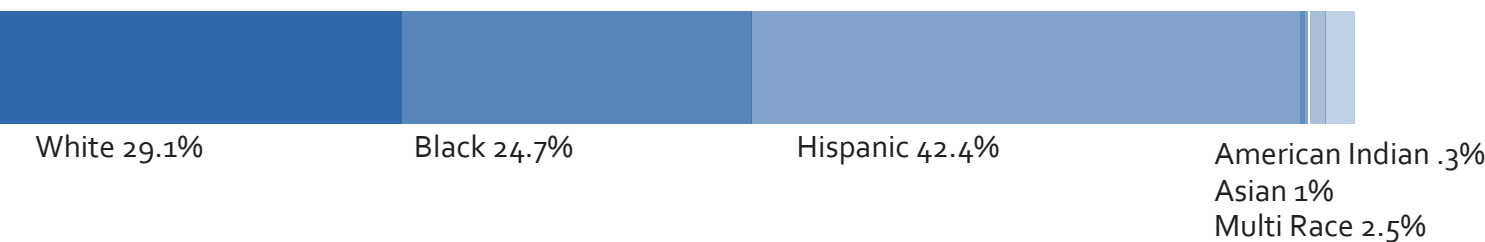
State Support and Proposed Legislation

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

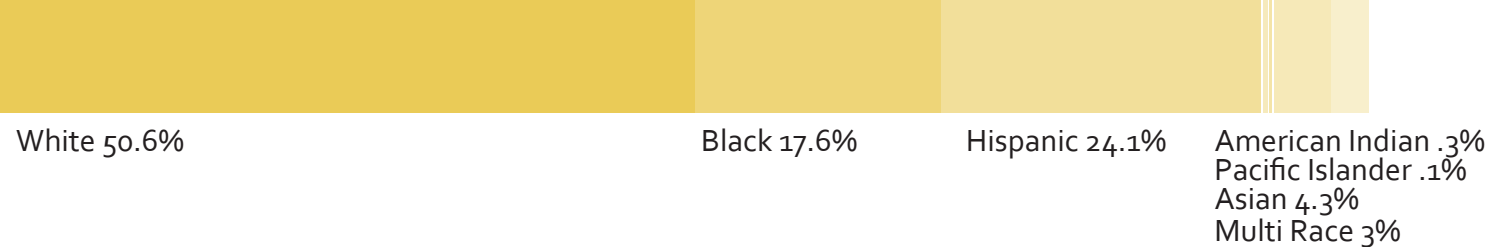


JTHS Demographics

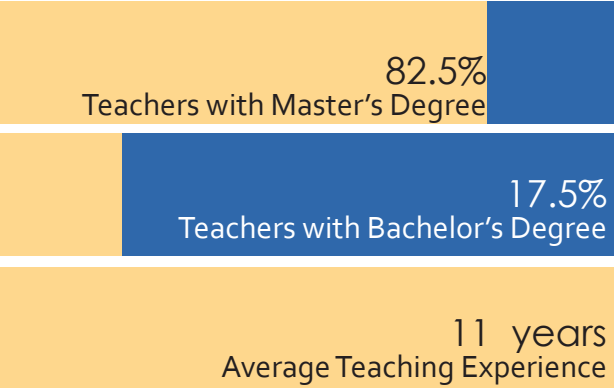
District 204 2013 Student Ethnicity



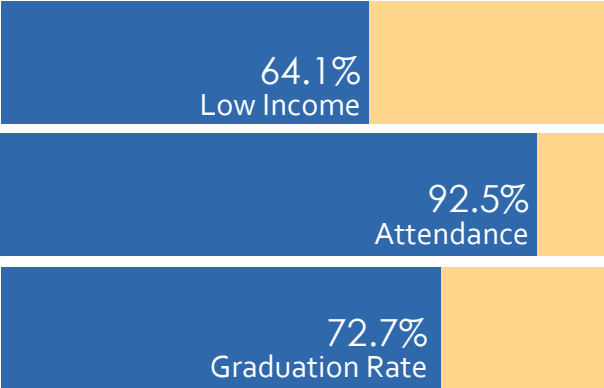
Illinois State 2013 Student Ethnicity



Teacher Demographics



Student Demographics





Dedicated Service and a New Era for the JTHS Athletic Booster Club

The JTHS Booster Club looks forward to a new era of service and expresses gratitude for the commitment that Booster Club officers have demonstrated over the past 10 years.

After many years of experienced fundraising and event planning, Treasurer Ted Brodeur and Secretary Carol Sowa stepped down at the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year. Both officers leave behind 16 years of combined service.

In addition, after 10 years as Booster Club President, Glen Marcum has taken the position of Booster Club Co-president to assist during the transition to new leadership.

"All three of these Booster Club officers made the JTHS athletic and activity programs what they are today," said JTHS Director of Activities and Athletics Chris Olson. "They built the Booster Club from the ground up,

implementing a solid foundation and formula for success and structure within our programs. They leave behind a legacy that I am confident will be continued thanks to the groundwork they have established.”

Among the club’s many contributions to JTHS athletic and activity programs, during the 2013-2014 school year, the Boosters raised over \$21,000 and provided new football scoreboards to the Central and West campuses. Each year, the Boosters organize and sponsor a golf outing, a Night of Champions banquet, concession sales and a bowling event. The JTHS Boosters also manage the online spirit store, which promotes school pride, while raising funds to benefit students.

The objectives of the JTHS Booster Club are to promote athletic and activity programs in relation to the school curriculum, while enhancing friendly relations between the campuses, home and school. Booster Club members work diligently throughout the year to support our students.

If you are interested in serving as a JTHS Booster Club member, please contact Chris Olson at colson@jths.org.



Steelmen and Tiger Athletic Programs Four Years of Opportunity

In 2007, the Joliet Township High School community passed a \$24 million referendum to construct state-of-the-art field houses at both campuses. The referendum allowed the district to reinstate two separate athletic programs for the Steelmen and Tigers, which were combined in 1993 due to budget constraints.

The 2013-2014 school year marked the first full implementation cycle of student athletes at Joliet Central and Joliet West who participated in the separate athletic programs. As freshmen, the class of 2014 had the opportunity to compete as Joliet Central Steelmen and Joliet West Tigers for all four years of their high school career.

“With the support of our community, Board of Education, administration, parents and students, JTHS has state-of-the-art athletic facilities and quality programs,” said JTHS Director of Activities and Athletics Chris Olson. “It gives me great pride to see how the two sports teams have grown, doubling the amount of athletic opportunities available to our students.”

Student Athlete Spotlight

Youjia Wang

Success extends beyond the classroom walls for Joliet West senior Youjia Wang. From athletics to activities, Wang takes full advantage of the programs and opportunities that JTHS provides to students.

During his junior year with the JWHS swim team, Wang competed in the IHSA State Final Swim Meet after qualifying with a time of 1:00.22 in the 100-yard breaststroke. Wang was also a member of the winning relay team in the 200-yard freestyle at the SWSC Blue Conference Meet.

In addition to swimming, music is another talent for Wang, who plays flute in the first chair of the school band. He was honored as an All-State musician by the Illinois Music Educators Association and selected to perform at the 2014 Illinois Music Education Association All-State Honors Concert, the highest level a high school musician can achieve. Students must participate in an audition process to be considered for the honor.



While practicing his swimming skills and perfecting his musical talent, Wang also finds time to study hard and excel in the classroom. En route to a swim meet, Wang learned that he received a 36 on his ACT test, the highest score a student can earn. According to a letter Wang received from Jon Whitmore, chief executive officer at the ACT national office, less than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers will earn a composite score of 36. Wang also earned a spot on the 2013-2014 honor roll with High Honors for both semesters.

"At Joliet West, I have been provided with the opportunity to focus on much more than my education," said Wang. "Participating in a variety of activities and programs has allowed me to have an enriching and diverse high school experience."

IHSA Academic Achievement Awards

Eleven athletic teams were awarded the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Award for the 2013-2014 season. The award recognizes teams that maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher throughout their respective season. The program is designed to reward teamwork, not only in competition, but in the classroom as well.

2013-2014 State Qualifiers & Team Achievements

JWHS Cheerleading: Team
JWHS Girls Bowling: Team
JWHS Girls Cross Country: Individual
JWHS Wrestling: Individual
JWHS Badminton: Individual
JWHS Boys Tennis: Individual
JWHS Boys Track: Individual
JWHS Girls Track: Individual
JWHS Chess: Team
JWHS Speech: Individual
JWHS Mathletes: Individual
JWHS Group Interpretation: Team
JCHS Boys Cross Country: Individual
JCHS Boys Track: Individual
JCHS Boys Cross Country: Individual
JCHS Chess: Team
JTHS Boys Golf: Individual
JTHS Boys Swimming: Individual
JTHS Boys Tennis: Individual

2013-2014 Regional Champions

JWHS Girls Softball
JWHS Boys Baseball

IHSA Team Academic Achievement Awards

JCHS Girls Volleyball
JCHS Girls Cross Country
JCHS Boys Cross Country
JWHS Girls Volleyball
JWHS Girls Cross Country
JWHS Boys Cross Country
JWHS Girls Bowling
JWHS Girls Softball
JTHS Girls Golf
JTHS Girls Swimming and Diving
JTHS Girls Tennis

SWSC Blue Division Team Champions

JWHS Girls Bowling
JWHS Girls Softball

Individual All-State Teams

JWHS Girls Softball: Second team and third team
JWHS Girls Volleyball: Honorable mention
JWHS Boys Baseball: Third team



JTHS Santa Run

The JTHS Alumni Association painted downtown Joliet red when 400 runners and walkers dressed in Santa suits took to the streets for the inaugural Santa Run 5K and one-mile Santa stroll on November 30, 2013.

The event kicked off at Joliet Central High School as all registered participants wore five-piece Santa suits, which included hats, beards, jackets, pants and belts. Hundreds of people made their way through downtown Joliet for the scenic run and walk.

"It was an amazing sight to see entire families walking together, running and pushing strollers through the streets on their way to the finish line," said JTHS Alumni Director Lynne Lichtenauer. "Even children in strollers wore Santa hats so they could be part of the fun."

Celebrating in cheerful holiday fashion, the runners and walkers joined for refreshments at the Jacob Henry Mansion after completion of the run or walk. Each participant received a Santa workshop-themed treat box filled with goodies and coupons to local restaurants and businesses.

The Santa Run generated a gross income of more than \$11,000, with proceeds benefiting the JTHS Alumni Association and District 204 students and programs. "The event was a great success thanks to the many sponsors and Joliet Township High School student groups. The National Honor Society, U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Key Club and Students of Service volunteered their services to assist the runners and walkers along the route, and I am extremely thankful for their assistance," said Lichtenauer.

Santa Run 2014

The Santa Run is an annual event held in November. For more information, contact Lynne Lichtenauer at llichtenauer@jths.org or call (815) 727-6763.

2013 Santa Run Sponsors

Legat Architects, title sponsor; Anew Chiropractic; City of Joliet; Jacob Henry Mansion Estate; Joliet Area Historical Museum; Joliet Junior College Alumni Association; Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts; Joliet Park District; Joliet Slammers Baseball; Just Toni's; Michaelynn Rogers; Milano Bakery; Persona Grata Salon; Presence Inwood Athletic Club; Rialto Square Theatre; TCBY; The Great American Bagel; Will County Executive Larry Walsh; and WJOL 1340-AM Nextmedia.



About the Joliet Township High School Alumni Association

The Joliet Township High School Alumni Association fosters mutually beneficial relationships between the school district and its alumni through cooperative efforts that are coordinated by the JTHS Alumni Relations Office. Numerous special events and activities promote alumni loyalty and establish lifelong connections, while providing support for the general benefit of District 204 and its students.

In addition to the Santa Run, during the 2013-2014 school year, the JTHS Alumni Association assisted with planning high school reunions, "Welcome Back Alumni" parties, and a Motion Picture Broadway Spectacular. The Alumni Association Board of Directors also supported graduating Joliet Township High School seniors through the establishment of the Legacy Scholarship which will be awarded annually to one student at each campus.

To join the Joliet Township High School Alumni Association or for more information, please contact Lynne Lichtenauer at llichtenauer@jths.org or call (815) 727-6763.

