

# JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



2002-2010

DISTRICT 204 AT A GLANCE



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## 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](http://www.jths.org).

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# 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.

# Strategies

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 identify, model, reinforce, and measure the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.
4. We will complete the development of the Career Academy Program and ensure every student develops and implements a meaningful Individual Career Plan (ICP) in partnership with family, community, and staff.
5. In collaboration with all sender districts, we will develop and implement a cohesive, rigorous plan to ensure academic and behavioral success of all students.

# Beliefs

We Believe:

- Every human being possesses inherent worth.
- Individuals are responsible for their own actions.
- Diversity strengthens and enriches society.
- All people can learn.
- 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.
- High expectations positively influence performance.
- Motivation, determination, and hard work 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.
- 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.

# Letter from District 204

Dear Community Member,

Joliet Township High School is in constant pursuit of improvement and uses innovative programs to help achieve the goals contained within the District 204 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan, written collaboratively with the help of community, parents, board of education members, students and staff, has been a guiding force for the district and all school improvement initiatives fall directly within this plan.

This “District 204 at a Glance” booklet contains a snapshot of JTHS progress both currently, and throughout the past nine years. Through the lens of the Strategic Plan, it depicts District programs, finances, test scores, demographics, and more. While a portion of the booklet celebrates achievement and growth, it also points to areas where growth is needed. JTHS is committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure that we move forward, continually monitoring progress, while using data informed decision making.

JTHS is dedicated to providing a rigorous and relevant educational experience for each and every student. It is our hope that this booklet will explain our goals and objectives, values and priorities. Joliet Township High School is truly a district that is moving forward. It is an exciting place to be.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Swanson  
JTHS Superintendent



Jeff Pierson  
Board President

# Board of Education



Jeff Pierson  
President  
Served since 2001



Dr. Tom Streit  
Served since 2007



Arlene Albert  
Vice President  
Served since 1981



Don Dickinson  
Elected 2011



Earl Petersen  
Secretary  
Served since 2003



Paige Vanderhyden  
Elected 2011



Tracy Spesia  
Appointed 2011

# Community Partnerships

JTHS believes that education is a shared responsibility among students, family, staff, and the community. In addition to the partnerships listed below, JTHS is actively involved with numerous service clubs & organizations.

## **Leadership for Educational Alignment and Planning (LEAP)**

Superintendents from JTHS sender schools (Elwood, Joliet District 86, Laraway, Rockdale, Troy & Union) meet monthly with JTHS administration to align pre-k through 8th grade curriculum to ensure that all students are academically prepared to enter high school.

## **Joliet Region Interfaith Education Council (JRIEC)**

Faith-based organizations and JTHS work in partnership to encourage the use of community and school resources. JRIEC was instrumental in planning “Bring Your ‘A’ Game,” an event attended by over 400 community members that encouraged minority youth to succeed in school.

## **Programs of Study**

Teams comprised of business partners, representatives from post-secondary institutions, and JTHS staff review curriculum as it relates to academy career paths.

## **JT Credit Union**

In partnership with Abri Credit Union, Joliet Central and West Campuses have a student-run Credit Union branch located inside their schools.

## **Youth Experiencing Success in School (YESS)**

Community partners have space within the schools to provide social and emotional support to students.

## **Summer Bridge Program**

Funded by a grant from AT&T, this is a 6-week program for incoming freshmen that focuses on literacy and math skills.

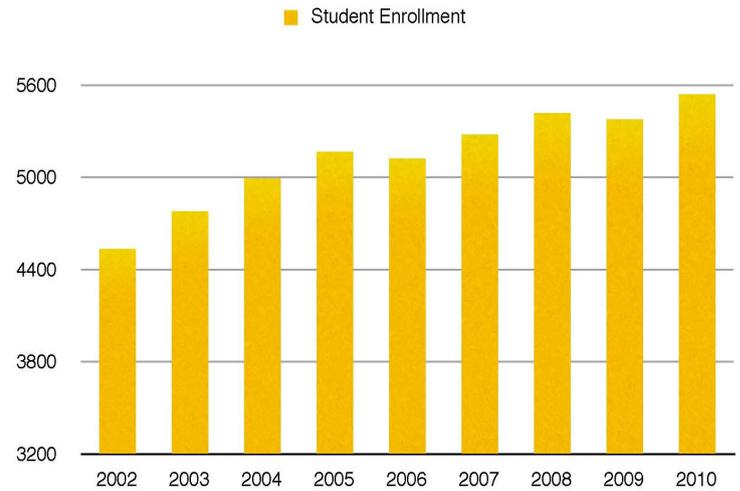
## **Community Service**

All students complete 40 hours of voluntary, unpaid community service.

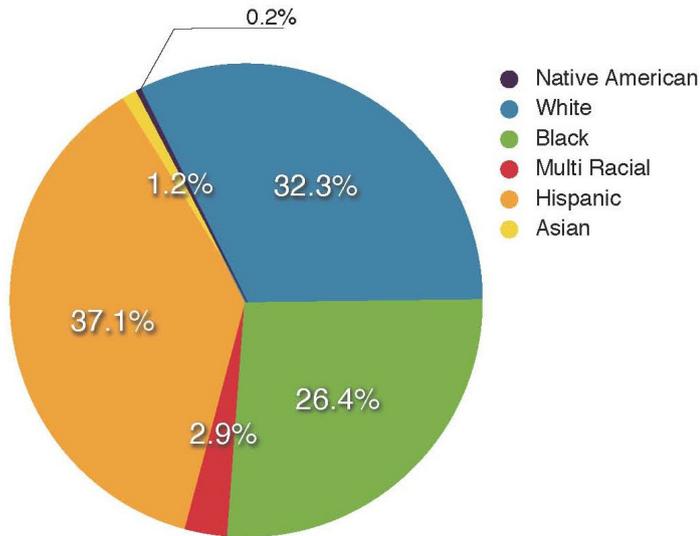
# Student & Teacher Demographics

2010 Student Demographics	
Low Income	62.6%
Attendance	91.8%
Average Class Size	19.9

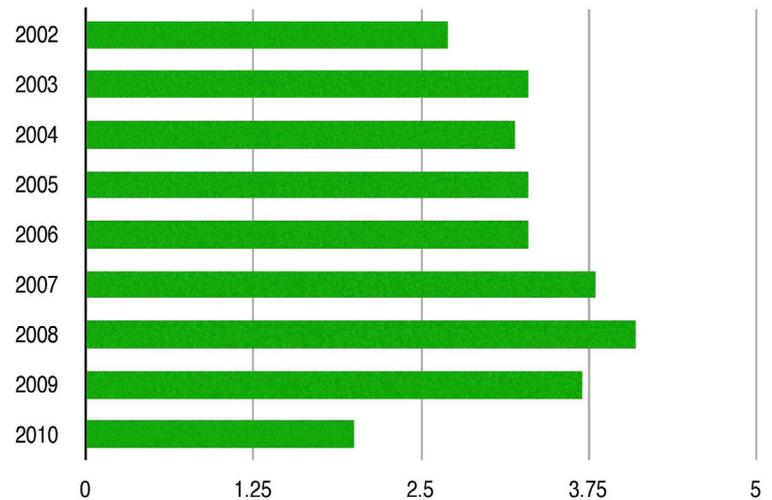
2010 Teacher Demographics	
Total Teachers	340
Average Teaching Experience	11.5 years
Average Teacher Salary	68,553
Teachers with Bachelor's Degree	33.8%
Teachers with Master's Degree	64.7%



2010 Student Ethnicity



High School Dropout Rate (%)



# Student Academics & Progress

## Meeting & Exceeding State Standards as Measured by the PSAE

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires all states to measure each public school's & district's achievement and establish annual targets for the state. The over arching goal is for all students to meet or exceed standards in reading & mathematics by 2014. The Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) is used to measure student achievement for high school students in grade 11 relative to the Illinois Learning Standards and is used to measure the number of students meeting or exceeding standards. Since 2003, the performance of District 204 students has gradually improved.

### Reading (%) Meeting/Exceeding Standards

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
White	56.5	66.1	68.5	61.4	68.6	62.4	63.5	69.8
Black	23.1	24.9	28.2	27.0	34.1	34.4	27.7	32.9
Hispanic	31.8	27.1	44.9	42.0	50.5	32.6	32.1	39.5
SD	6.2	17.1	11.8	16.4	17.7	16.7	12.8	14.3
ED	24.6	25.1	33.4	25.8	40.2	32.7	29.9	37.2
Average	N/A	43.8	50.5	47.1	55.3	47.0	42.6	52.0

### Mathematics (%) Meeting/Exceeding Standards

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
White	46.2	50.9	53.4	48.9	59.4	58.1	53.3	66.2
Black	14.0	13.4	15.3	15.1	18.7	26.8	16.5	22.9
Hispanic	19.5	17.3	18.0	28.0	37.5	36.5	23.9	44.4
SD	5.0	14.0	6.7	10.9	13.3	11.1	6.7	10.1
ED	15.2	14.1	18.3	16.3	28.2	31.6	22.7	36.9
Average	N/A	31.3	33.1	34.7	43.6	44.3	32.8	49.3

SD = Students with Disabilities  
ED = Economically Disadvantaged

# Academy Structure & Programs

With the guidance of the District 204 Strategic Plan, Joliet Township High School has implemented a unique academy structure & programs to meet the diverse needs of our students.

## **Freshman Academy**

All ninth graders enter the Freshman Academy, a small school-within-a-school that assists with the transition to high school. Freshmen begin the day a period earlier, which allows them to take an additional elective or receive help in math or reading.

## **JTHS Career Academies**

All students choose one of five career-based small learning communities which provides an individualized education relevant to students' career interests. Teams of teachers work together to prepare interdisciplinary lessons that relate to the academy's focus.

## **Advisory Program**

Guides students through their high school plan and transition to post-secondary experience by establishing a relationship with a teacher mentor beginning in the student's freshman year.

## **College Prep & Honors Curriculum**

All JTHS students receive a rigorous and relevant education through a College Prep or Honors curriculum aligned to the Illinois State Learning Standards.

## **Job Shadowing Program**

All JTHS students complete a job shadowing experience their sophomore year that requires a minimum of four hours of career-related observation. The observation hours give students an insight into what their career path entails as students observe employees working in their chosen field of work.

## **School Improvement Planning**

Teachers are provided 140 minutes of School Improvement Planning (SIP) time every other Thursday to increase content knowledge, formulate student interventions and develop academy-themed interdisciplinary lessons.

# Facilities - Central Campus

From 2002 to 2010, several additions and facility upgrades were made to Joliet Central High School. Joliet Township High School is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning environment for students.



## Indoor Air Quality Project

- Added air conditioning
- Brought HVAC, electrical and other systems up to date
- Added improved, energy-efficient lighting

## Addition of Science Labs

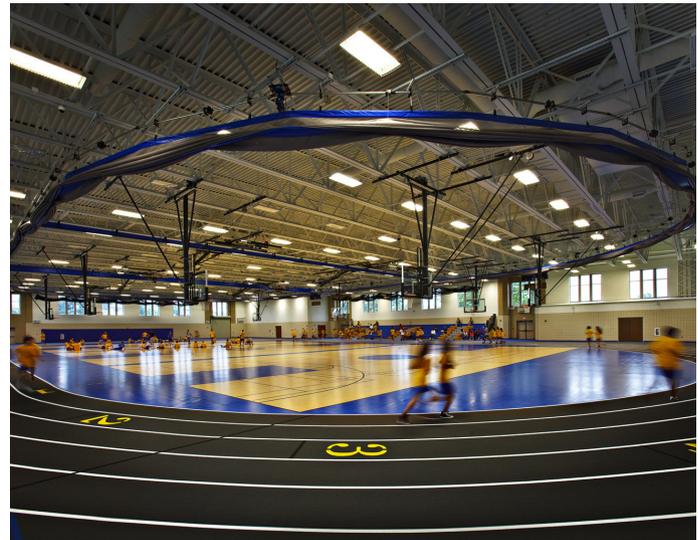
- 20 labs renovated
- Multi-purpose labs are used for Biology, Physics, or Chemistry
- Electricity, water and gas available at individual lab stations

## Addition of Vera Smith Building

- Added 16 classrooms & computer labs
- Added state-of-the-art auto & welding shops
- Constructed bridge to connect Vera Smith building to the main campus

## Addition of Field House

- Re-established the two athletic teams
- Expanded Physical Education offerings
- Opened for community use



# Facilities - West Campus

From 2002 to 2010, several additions and facility upgrades were made to Joliet West High School. Joliet Township High School is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning environment for students.

## Classroom Addition Phase 1

- Added 35 state-of-the-art classrooms, a workroom & an office
- Funded with the assistance of a 14 million dollar construction grant awarded by the State Capital Development Board

## Classroom Addition Phase 2

- Added 16 classrooms, a modern cafeteria and a new entrance off Glenwood Avenue
- Converted previous cafeteria to classroom space, science, and computer labs



## Addition of Science Labs

- 4 labs renovated and 8 currently under construction
- Multi-purpose labs are used for Biology, Physics, or Chemistry
- Electricity, water and gas available at individual lab stations

## Addition of Field House

- Re-established the two athletic teams
- Expanded Physical Education offerings
- Opened for community use

# Facilities - District

In 2008, Joliet Township High School purchased the Herald News building, located at 300 Caterpillar Drive in Joliet. Acquisition of this property allowed the District Offices to move to one central location, which created additional space at the Central Campus and space for professional development.

## Board of Education Meeting Space

- State-of-the-art sound and video system
- 150 person seating capacity

## Professional Development Space

- Ten rooms available for Dist. 204 & community usage
- Equipped with state-of-the art SMART technology

## Central Storage and Distribution Space

- Created additional space at Central Campus
- Centralized location for District files

## Child Care Center

- Community & staff childcare provided by Mary Sears Children's Academy
- Before & after school care and summer day camps available
- State-of-the-art facility with large outdoor playground



## Science Lab Additions

- Space gained by the move to the Administrative Center allowed for the creation of 6 science labs at the Central Campus
- Multi-purpose labs are used for Biology, Physics, or Chemistry
- Electricity, water and gas available at individual lab stations

# Activities & Athletics

Joliet Township High School believes that motivation, determination, and hard work strengthen the ability of an individual to reach potential. This belief is the foundation of all JTHS activities and athletics.

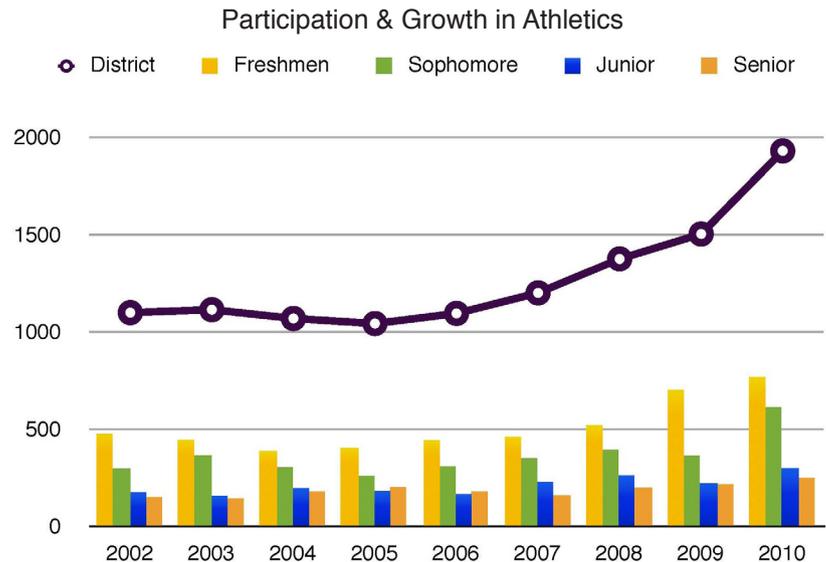
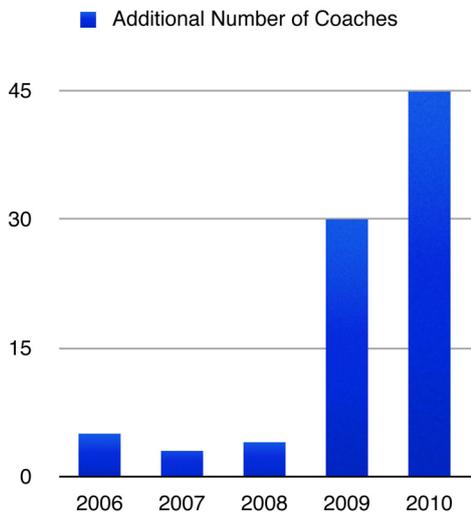
In 2010 the Joliet Central Steelmen and Joliet West Tigers were fully re-established, which restored athletic opportunities for students. To accommodate the growth of athletics & activities, the Athletic & Activity Department was restructured to include a District activity & athletic director and two assistant directors, one at each campus.

## IHSA and SWSC Activities

- Scholastic Bowl
- Mathletes
- Science
- Drama/Group Interpretation
- Contest Play
- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Music Organization
- Speech
- ROTC
- Visual Arts
- Music Solo & Ensemble
- Band
- Choir
- Journalism  
(Lit Mag, Yearbook, Newspaper)

## IHSA and SWSC Athletics

- Badminton
  - Basketball\*
  - Boys Baseball
  - Bowling\*
  - Cheerleading
  - Cross Country\*
  - Golf \*
  - Football
  - Poms
  - Soccer\*
  - Girls Softball
  - Swimming\*
  - Track\*
  - Tennis\*
  - Volleyball\*
  - Wrestling
- \* Boys & Girls Teams



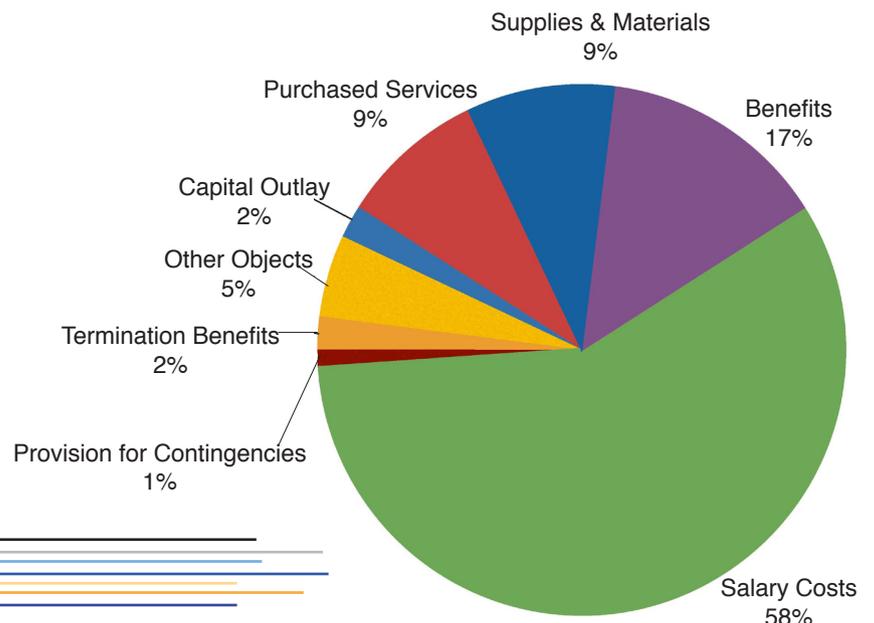
# Finance

JTHS has benefitted from strong financial planning throughout the years. District 204 makes effective use of all our funding, which includes taxpayer dollars.

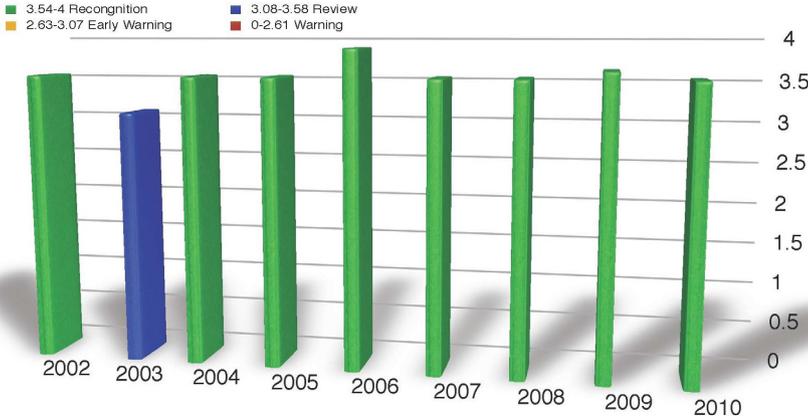
- In September 2009 JTHS adopted a \$98,405,869 budget for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Over the past several years the District has increased its bond rating 2 increments from an A+ to AA. The improvement in the Standard and Poor (S&P) bond rating allows JTHS to secure lower interest rates on debt service bonds.
- The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget illustrates the revenue stream for the District. We receive 80% of our revenue from local sources, 13% from state sources and 7% from federal sources.
- The District continues to struggle with the reduction of support from state and federal sources. Expenses for mandated programs continue to grow without additional funding. The District's FY10 Budget reflects a \$1,975,369 shortfall. This shortage will have to be made up through short term borrowing.

## Operating Funds

The Fiscal year 2010 Budget illustrates the operating funds expenditures for the District. Seventy-two percent of the expenditures are for salary and benefits. The remainder of the expenditures provides services, materials and equipment for educational purposes.



# Finance



## Financial Profile

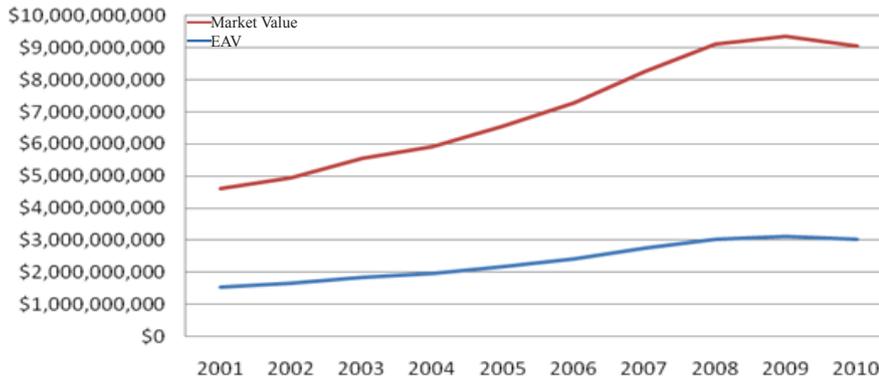
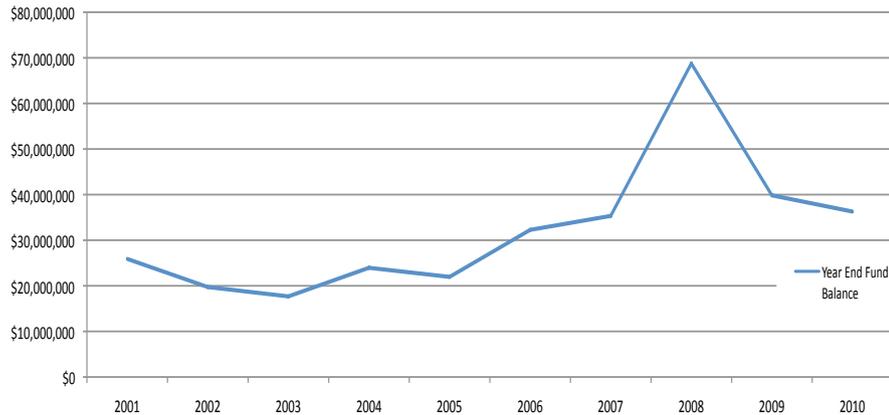
The Illinois State Board of Education system for assessing a school district's financial health is called the Financial Profile. For five consecutive years JTHS has received an overall financial score that places the District in the highest category for financial strength labeled, "Financial Recognition."

## Fund Balance

One of the determining factors in the Illinois State Board of Education's financial health profile is the "Fund Balance." Over the past several years JTHS has improved its fund balances. These balances have equaled approximately one-third of the revenues in each year.

## Equalized Assessed & Market Value

The strength of a school district is supported by the growth in the community it serves. Our District has experienced growth through new construction, the market value and assessed valuation of the property within its boundaries.



# College and Career Readiness

JTHS provides a rigorous & relevant education to all students. Extensive Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, & courses providing industry certification are offered to students.

## Dual Credit Courses

Students who successfully complete a dual credit course receive credit from JTHS and Joliet Junior College (JJC). Most JJC credit is transferable to a variety of colleges and universities.

### Applied Life

HPR

### Business Ed

Keyboarding, Document Formatting, Computer Applications 1, Computer Applications 2, Computer Prog 1 & 2, Desktop Publishing, and Multimedia/ Web Page Design

### English

Rhetoric 101/102

### FACS

Hospitality & Rest Management

### Health Occupations

Certified Nursing Asst.

### Industrial Technology

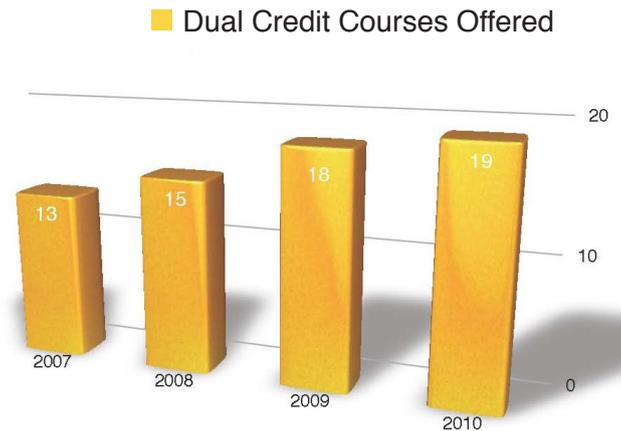
A+ Certification, Vocational Auto 1, Arch. Drafting & Tech Drafting, and Welding

### Math

Statistics AP, Calculus and Pre-Calculus & Trig

### Science

Biology, Chemistry and Medical Terminology



## Advanced Placement Courses

JTHS offers seven advanced placement (AP) courses that a student can take in high school. Each AP course has a corresponding exam that participating schools worldwide administer in May.

JTHS was one of fewer than 400 school districts in the nation recently honored by the College Board and named to the AP Achievement List. From 2008 to 2010, JTHS has increased the number of students participating in AP courses, while increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

## Industry Certification

JTHS students can earn the following certifications while in high school: ProStart Certification for Hospitality & Culinary Arts; Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) Certification; Level 1 Early Childhood Education Certification; and A+ Certification for Computer Repair. In addition, the JTHS automotive program has obtained NATEF certification and accreditation.

# Student Support

JTHS believes that people learn at different rates, in different ways, and in a variety of settings. Systems of support have been developed to meet the diverse needs of students.

## **Saturday School**

Extra help provided on Saturdays in the subject areas of Biology, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, English 1, English 2 and World Affairs.

## **Winter & Spring Break Credit Recovery**

This program is offered to students close to passing English, Biology, and math during winter and spring break.

## **Academic Response Rooms**

Students are provided with tutoring in a variety of subject areas during their advisory period.

## **District-wide Behavior Management System**

Positive behavior interventions & consistent discipline are provided by JTHS staff.

## **Home Access Center**

Parents and students are provided with real-time access to students' grades, attendance and assignments.

## **Infant Childcare Program**

Teen parents are provided with childcare while they attend classes. They take a daily childcare class to make sure they are an active participant in their child's learning and development.

## **YESS Program**

Students are provided with social & emotional support on-campus by outside service agencies.

## **School Completion Program**

A dropout prevention program is provided to students who are frequently absent. A School Completion Mentor makes home visits and establishes meaningful relationships with students and families.

