

JTHS 2019-2020 Points of Pride

Joliet Township High School is proud to highlight student and staff achievements from the past academic school year. We acknowledge that some opportunities historically offered may be impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of our data from the 2019-2020 is also impacted by the closure

College/University Preparation & Achievement

Advanced Placement

JTHS offered 21 Advanced Placement and 30 Dual Credit courses that students can take as early as their first year in high school. These courses allowed students to earn college credit while enrolled in high school. Since 2010, JTHS has experienced exponential growth in the number of students taking AP courses, exams, and scores of 3 or higher. The College Board recognized this growth in 2017 when it honored JTHS as the Advanced Placement School District of the Year for being the nation's leader among small school districts in simultaneously expanding access to Advanced Placement courses and improving student performance.

Advanced Placement Gains 2010-2020

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total AP Students	196	202	238	355	693	884	928	1,041	1028	1124	1031
Number of Exams	297	299	402	632	1096	1318	1582	1,673	1759	1788	1659
Students with scores 3+	103	112	138	154	252	343	624	645	519	599	602

Outstanding AP Exam Performance

Thirty students earned the recognition of AP Scholar, 19 earned AP Scholar with Honors, and five earned AP Scholar with Distinction. One-hundred and forty-eight students received at least one AP Achievement recognition. These students scored a 4 or higher on the AP Exam that was taken in the spring of 2018. Successful AP Exam scores can provide students with college credit.

Advanced Placement Boot Camp

To prepare students for the rigors of AP and honors courses, JTHS offered AP Summer Camps to freshmen, sophomores and juniors in English, social science, mathematics and science.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Achievement & Industry Certification

Illinois Certified Nurse Assistants

Students in the Health & Medicine Academy had the opportunity to obtain Illinois Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) certification through a partnership with Joliet Junior College. Upon successful completion of the course, students received two high school credits, 6 JJC credits, and were eligible to take the Illinois state competency exam.

Comp TIA A + Computer Tech Certification

Students had the opportunity to become Comp TIA A + certified computer repair technicians through JTHS coursework.

Pro Start National Certification

Pro Start National Certification of Achievement for Culinary Arts was offered through the National Restaurant Educational Foundation.

Cosmetology Certification

A partnership with Salon Professionals Cosmetology School provided students with a jump start into the career of cosmetology.

Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 Certification

Students had the opportunity to gain Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 Certification and hands-on teaching experience through the Tiger Tots and Steel Tots community daycare programs on campus.

Project Lead the Way Engineering & Biomedical Science Programs

JTHS offered four Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses. PLTW is the nation's leading provider of STEM programs. Through PLTW's world-class curriculum, high-quality professional development, and outstanding partnerships, students develop the skills needed to succeed in the global economy.

Advanced Integrated Maintenance Program (AIM) Program

Seniors enrolled in the AIM program had the opportunity to take a series of 4 dual credit, college level courses held at Joliet Junior College. Successful program completion resulted in two high school credits and 13 college credits in the subject areas of HVAC; Industrial Maintenance; Basic Wiring, and Circuit Design; and Industrial Fluid Power.

Joliet Township High School students place in Regional Drafting Contest, proceed to State Competition

On Friday, March 6, 2020, Joliet Township High School students competed in the Regional Drafting Contest held at Joliet Junior College. Four Joliet Central High School students and two Joliet West High School students placed and earned medals. Two of these students advanced to the State Competition held Illinois State University on Saturday, April 18, 2020.

JTHS Academies & Programs

Freshman Academy

Ninth grade students entered the Freshman Academy, a small school-within-a-school, which provides a safe and nurturing environment. Freshmen began the day a period earlier than the upperclassmen, which allowed them to take an additional elective or receive support in math or reading.

Career Academies

Sophomore students entered one of the following five career-themed academies: Arts and Communication; Business Management and Information Systems; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; Health and Medicine; and Human Services. Career Academies were designed to increase student achievement through a small learning environment within a large school setting.

Programs of Study & Online Course Offerings

Students and families explored course offerings and Programs of Study using the online Course Offerings Guide. Programs of Study are recommended course sequences aligned to a student's career interest that provide a successful transition to post-secondary education or the workplace.

Advisory Program

During advisory, a core group of students and their faculty advisor met once a day for 25 minutes. This allowed advisory teachers and students to form relationships that focus on goal setting, academic achievement, student involvement, college/career preparation and overall success.

Student Achievement

Illinois State Scholars

Ninety students from the Class of 2019 earned the distinction of 2020-2021 Illinois State Scholar for possessing strong academic potential based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester class rank. State scholars rank in the top ten percent of high school seniors in the state.

2020 Summa Cum Laude Graduates

One hundred and eighty seniors graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors. Senior students who obtained this status earned a cumulative 4.00 grade point average or higher after seven semesters.

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

Benjamin W. Baltz and Lily E. Bryson were recognized as National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students for the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, MA

Joliet West High School student Brittney Alcantar served as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Lowell, MA on June 24-26, 2020.

Fourteen JTHS students receive IL Seal of Biliteracy

Fourteen JTHS students received the 2019-2020 Illinois Seal of Biliteracy after taking a language proficiency exam or by receiving a 4 or 5 on the AP Spanish Language Exam.

21st Century Technology & Programs

1:1 Technology

All students received netbook computers, providing educational access beyond the walls of the classroom. Teachers use technology in the classroom to motivate and engage students in learning.

1Million Project Grant Provides Free Hotspots

Six hundred and sixty Joliet Township High School students received free hotspot devices thanks to Sprint's 1Million Project Grant.

Student Help Desk

Technology Help Desks supported students experiencing technical issues with their netbook computers. Students serve as Help Desk Technicians, which provides an authentic, real-world experience.

Blended Learning

JTHS offered 22 blended learning courses where students meet two days a week as a class and the remaining instruction is facilitated online by the teacher.

JT Learn

The online JT Learn platform allowed teachers to upload assignments, facilitate online discussions, post grades, and plan interactive lessons. Assignments were submitted electronically, and students receive instant feedback and support. This platform is similar to online learning environments in college.

Infinite Campus

JTHS began implementation of Infinite Campus during the 2019-2020 school year. Infinite Campus is a district-wide student information system designed to manage attendance, grades, schedules, assessments and other information about the students in Joliet Township High School. Infinite Campus replaces the Home Access Center (HAC). Parents and guardians will have access to the Campus Portal which is a confidential and secure website that allows them to log in and view their child's progress in school.

Implicit Bias Training

All JTHS employees receive Implicit Bias Training. Implicit bias, also known as implicit social cognition, refers to attitudes or stereotypes that affect people's understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner. The move is part of the district's initiative to deliver culturally responsive educational experience and expand the diversity of its staff.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach

JTHS leaders participated in community organizations such as the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, YMCA, Rotary, Kiwanis, Zonta Club of Joliet, Council for Working Women, and the United Way of Will County, just to name a few.

Family Engagement Liaisons

The Central and West Family Engagement Liaisons served as the bridge between the school and home through translation and interpretation, connecting parents and students with support and resources and more.

Joliet Region Interfaith Education Council

The Joliet Region Interfaith Education Council, a partnership between JTHS and faith-based organizations, promoted and encourage the use of community and school resources. Religious and community leaders met monthly with the superintendent, principals, and JTHS leaders.

JTHS Anti-Racism Statement

Both the JTHS Superintendent and JTHS Board of Education issued statements that highlight the District's commitment to anti-racism and that "Hate has no home at JTHS".

Coffee & Community Conversations

Coffee and Conversations were held throughout the year at various locations in the Joliet community. Community members and parents met Board of Education members, key JTHS leaders, and the Superintendent to engage in conversation surrounding the topic of education.

District Discipline Committee

The District Discipline Committee was comprised of staff, parents, board of education members, and students who review and recommend changes to district policies, including bullying, harassment, and disciplinary codes.

Bilingual Parent Advisory Council

The Bilingual Parent Advisory Council welcomed JTHS families and students who may benefit from additional Spanish-speaking direction. Student Ambassadors and Bridge Builders provided childcare at the meetings, which was a new addition to the program.

Veteran's Ceremony and Memorial Day Ceremony

Joliet Central High School honored those who have served in the US military through the annual Veteran's Ceremony in November.

African American Read-In

JTHS and the National Hook Up of Black Women hosted the African American Read-In in February. Participants celebrate African American history by reading short passages of work by African American authors.

MLK Day Celebrations

JTHS was proud to host the MLK Day of Service. Residents of all ages and backgrounds volunteered in making it a "day on, not a day off" by completing service projects throughout the community. The life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was also celebrated at the Annual MLK Unity Brunch.

Strategy 6.2 Committee

The purpose of this committee was to accomplish the Strategy 6.2 Action Plan, which calls for the creation and implementation of a family and community group that aggressively builds relationships between District 204 families and staff in order to enhance the educational experience of all students.

JTHS Bridge Builders Community Ambassador Program

The JTHS Bridge Builders Ambassador Program supported meaningful communication between JTHS schools and the community.

Grandparents Raising Children

Joliet Township High School Bridge Builder and grandparent, Mary White, hosted a special group for grandparents raising children for fellowship, support, and assistance navigating the educational system.

JTHS Foundation Awards

The Joliet Township High School Foundation awarded 51 grants to students and staff this year, totaling \$31,243.81. Foundation grants provide educational materials and enhancements that are not funded in the regular school budget.

JTHS Volunteer INSRPA Awards

JTHS volunteers Dick & Millie Schuster and Mary White received the INSPRA Award in 2020. The statewide Distinguished Service Awards program honors those whose efforts have enhanced education.

PPE Donations

As the initial COVID pandemic started and the shortage of PPE became apparent, JTHS teachers were inspired to use 3-D printers to print PPE.

Joliet Area Great Teachers Award

JTHS partners with the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry to celebrate students and educators. JTHS teachers Gandhi Schlote, Catherine Cerri, and Eric Wellman received the 2020 Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Joliet Area Great Teachers Award.

BAG Lady Outreach Toiletry Locker Program

The Joliet Township High School Board of Education unanimously approved a Toiletry Locker Pilot Program for implementation at Joliet Central and West High Schools at the Dec. 17 Board of Education meeting. The program, a partnership with the 501c3 organization, BAG Lady Outreach, is the first of its kind for the organization and will provide lockers filled with toiletry supplies that students at both campuses can access if needed.

Social & Emotional Support

Lurie Children's Hospital Partnership

To support student behavioral health, JTHS established a partnership with Lurie Children's Hospital to form Behavioral Health Teams at the campuses that are well versed in identifying students in need of social and emotional support.

Youth Experiencing Success in School (YESS)

Students had access to on-site mental health and support services through the Youth Experiencing Success in School (YESS) program. Community agencies were provided with space on campus to provide students with direct access to services, eliminating the need for referrals.

YESS Student Support Groups

Joliet Central High School

Teen Power *Sexual Abuse*; Anger Management; Healthy Relationships; Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP) *Abuse Prevention*; Hospice *Loss Support*; Sharing the Dream *Undocumented Student Support*; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBITS) *Trauma Support*; YMCA Teen Achievers *Leadership, Self-esteem & College Tours*; JJC (TRIO) Talent Search *Academic, Career Planning Support*; Roscrance *Substance Abuse Assessment and Prevention*

Joliet West High School

Children of Addiction (COA); Healthy Relationships; Sharing the Dream *Undocumented Student Support*; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBITS) *Trauma Support*; Grief and Loss -- *Loss & Terminal Illness*; Gender Group *Transgender Support*; Stress and Coping -- *Coping Strategies*; Empower Me *Self-esteem Building*; Young Parent *Teen Mother Support*; YMCA Teen Achievers *Leadership, self-esteem & College Tours*; Aunt Martha's (SPARCS) *Students with Chronic Stress*; Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP) *Abuse Prevention*; Aunt Martha's *A Call to Men*; Guardian Angel *Victims of Sexual Abuse or Violence*; Think First *Anger Management*; Roscrance *Substance Abuse Assessment and Prevention*

Summer Programs

Summer Bridge Program

The Summer Bridge Program was available virtually to incoming freshmen who needed academic support in the areas of literacy and math. The program allows student to experience the high school setting prior to the first day of school, while receiving academic enrichment.

Advanced Placement Summer Program

The AP/Honors Summer Program was available to freshman students virtually due to the COVID-19 closure. The summer program is designed to prepare students for the academic challenges of honors-level and AP curriculum.

Summer School

Due to COVID 19, the Summer School program was held virtually and offered a variety of high school courses for students looking to get ahead or recover credit.

Summer Sports Camps

Summer Sports camps were held on a small scale later in the summer due to COVID-19.

District Awards & Facilities

Certificate of Excellence Award in Financial Reporting

JTHS received the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for high standards of financial reporting and accountability through analysis of the

District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending in 2019. This is the 33rd year JTHS has participated in the COE program, a reflection of the District's commitment to fiscal integrity.

Character Education

Students receive an award-winning character education program unique to JTHS. The attributes of confidence, compassion, respect, responsibility, tolerance, integrity, and perseverance are taught to students with a creative and visual approach.

JTHS Child Care Center

The Infant Child Care Center received the Gold Circle of Quality designation from ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality rating and improvement system for early learning providers.

Pathways Campus

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, Joliet Township High School's Alternate School became the JTHS Pathways Campus, an in-district program for students who struggle academically or behaviorally in the traditional learning environment. The transformation of the Alternate School included curricular changes and building renovations to create a warm and welcoming environment. The JTHS Board of Education approved the recommendation for the creation of the JTHS Pathways Campus on February 19, 2019.

Building Purchase Provides Permanent Home for JTHS Transition Center Program

After the Joliet Township High School Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to purchase 128 Collins Street in November, Joliet Township High School closed on the property Jan. 31. The 7,540 square foot building will serve as the new location of the JTHS Transition Center, a program that provides education to students with disabilities from age 18 to the day before their 22nd birthday. The additional space provides an environment where students can receive intense transitional supports that develop vocational, community and independent living skills.

Joliet Central and West Media Centers

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Joliet Township High School Board of Education approved conceptual designs and estimated budgets for Joliet Central and West High School Media Center renovations. Construction on the project began at the start of summer 2020 and has an anticipated completion date of October 2020. The conceptual themes consist of reconfiguring the centers to include a variety of learning spaces and a variety of technology-driven, flexible furnishings that will provide options for casual seating and individual and group learning preferences.

BluePoint Alert System

The BluePoint Alert System has been activated district wide. The BluePoint Alert System provides first responders with the information they need to make faster, more informed decisions in the event of a life-threatening emergency. If a school has an active shooter, intruder, or a life-threatening situation, anyone can pull the alarm to immediately notify law enforcement. JTHS worked with our police and fire departments over the summer to ensure they are aware of the system and its capabilities.

Teacher's Space Website featured in Book

Joliet Central High School science teacher Lisa DeWispelaere and her space-themed website were featured in the book John F. Kennedy: From Florida to the Moon by Raymond P. Sinibaldi, published on July 1, 2019.

Healthy Workplace Award

Joliet Central High School received the 2019 Honorable Mention Award from the WeWill WorkHealthy Initiative of the MAPP Collaborative for being committed to improving employee health and well-being

through six main areas of worksite wellness: health promotion/education, physical activity, mental health, environmental health, nutrition, and safety.

Kiwanis Club Award

Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent Dr. Karla Guseman received the Distinguished President Award on for her leadership of the Kiwanis Club of Joliet.

Illinois National School Public Relations Award

Director of Community & Alumni Relations Director Kristine Schlismann and Multimedia Communication Specialist Jordan Smuksta received a Communication Award on September 13 from the Illinois National School Public Relations Association for their creation of the Activity Sponsor and Coach Resource Guide.

Joliet Central High School Wrestling Room Dedication

On November 22, 2019, the Joliet Central High School Wrestling Room was dedicated to Eural (Mac) McLaughlin and Pat O'Connell. Combined, Coach Mac McLaughlin and Coach O'Connell dedicated over 75 years to the Steelmen Wrestling Program.

Student Opportunities & Authentic Learning Opportunities

Mentor 2.0

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties provided students with one-on-one mentoring aimed at ensuring more students enroll in college and graduate with a degree.

JROTC

Students had the option to enroll in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) in lieu of Physical Education or an elective course. Students who satisfactorily completed all four years of JROTC obtained a Military Training Certificate. In 2019, both Central and West Rifle Teams competed in the National Service Competition.

JT Credit Union

Central and West had student-run Abri Credit Union branches located inside their schools. Students gained real-world experience as Abri Credit Union employees.

Central Talent Search Program

Joliet Central High School collaborated with Joliet Junior College to establish the Educational Talent Search program that assists 500 Joliet Central students from disadvantaged backgrounds to increase high school graduation and college enrollment.

Activities & Athletics

Activity & Athletic Offerings

JTHS offered over 40 IHSA/SWSC athletics and activities at each campus and over 30 building-based special interest clubs.

State-of-the-Art Athletic Facilities

State-of-the art field houses are fully equipped with a six-lane, 160-meter Mondo track with pole vaulting areas and jump pits; 12 full-size badminton courts; 3 volleyball courts; 2 baseball batting cages; and 3 full-size basketball courts.

Intramural Offerings

Students participated in a variety of intramural activities throughout the school year. Intramural offerings vary yearly by campus and have included dodgeball, soccer, Powder Puff football, and more.

Heroic Service Awards

The Joliet Central High School Key Club and Joliet West High School Students of Service were awarded Heroic Service Awards by Will County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) at the "Real Heroes Don't Wear Capes" Event on October 9.

Technology Day Competition

Joliet West High School students Mason Schlegel and Jake Thorstad placed 3rd in the Invention/Innovation Event at the Technology Day competition held on October 9 at Illinois State University. Schlegel and Thorstad were two of over 400 students from across Illinois to compete at Technology Day, an event sponsored by the Illinois-Technology Student Association (IL-TSA).

Joliet West HOSA

Eight Joliet West High School students in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) organization completed an eight-week Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program this fall.

NPR Podcast Interview

Joliet Central High School Band student Noah Riley and director Don Stinson were selected to record an interview for the StoryCorps Podcast hosted by National Public Radio.

Jermaine Stegall Class of 1995 Composition

The Joliet Central High School Symphonic Band debuted Jermaine Stegall's new composition Legacy on Nov. 17. Stegall is a 1995 Central alumnus and composer, conductor, and producer of film and television music who has worked closely with many of Hollywood's biggest composers.

Chicago Bears High School All-Star

The Chicago Bears named Trent Howland, a junior and running back at Joliet West High School, the Chicago Bears "High School All-Star" for week 9. On October 25, 2019, Howland helped West win its first SPC Conference championship in fifty years with five touchdowns in Joliet's 43-7 win at Plainfield Central.

Manufacturing Day (MFG) Essay Contest

Joliet Central Junior Jose Jimenez was awarded a \$100 gift card as the winner of the Manufacturing Day (MFG) essay contest. After attending MFG Day on October 8th at Joliet Junior College, Jose submitted an essay about his experience at the event. ExxonMobil and Citgo sponsored the essay contest in collaboration with the Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association (TRMA).

ILMEA District I Ensembles

Sixteen Joliet West musicians and 4 Joliet Central musicians were selected to perform with the Illinois Music Education Association District I Band, Choir and Orchestra on November 23 at Elmhurst College. The students auditioned in October for these honor ensembles along with over 2000 other students from high schools in Chicago through the south suburbs.

Joliet West Symphonic Band Selected for Illinois Superstate Band Festival

The Joliet West Symphonic Band was chosen to participate in the prestigious Superstate Band Festival at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in May 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival did not occur, however, selection for the festival represents a significant honor for bands in the state of Illinois.

JTHS Student Posters Featured in 2020 TREP Safety Competition

Seven JTHS student entries were selected as winners of the 2020 Three Rivers Education Partnership (TREP) Safety Competition.

Girls All-State Volleyball (Third Team) Player

Joliet West High School senior Natalie Stefanski was announced as an *Illprepvb.com* 2019 Girls All-State Volleyball (Third Team) player.

Joliet West Journalism

Despite being the first time Joliet West has ever competed at the national level, four students were recognized for their accomplishments at the IHSA Journalism Competition.

Joliet Central High School Speech Team

The Joliet Central Speech Team took 3rd Place overall in their first invitational on Dec. 7, 2019 at Morris Community High School. Diana Martinez was tournament champion in Poetry and 4th Place in Prose. Triston Smith was 3rd in Informative speaking, Coral Cortes was 4th in Original Oratory, Johnna Grimm and Jose Marquez were 3rd in Dramatic Duet Acting. Jose Marquez was also 6th in Dramatic Interpretation, and Tammy Thompson was 4th in Humorous Interpretation. Lexi Widlak and Mia Hromek were the top Novices in Dramatic Duet Acting.

Joliet West Boys Bowling Regional Title

The Joliet West Boys Bowling Team won the IHSA Regional on January 18, 2020 at Town & Country Lanes in Joliet and qualified for Sectionals. This is the second time in school history that Joliet West High School has won the regional title.

JTHS wrestlers advance to IWCOA State Championship

Ten JTHS students are advancing to the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) State Championship.

2020 SPC Literary Festival

Seven Joliet Central and West High School students earned top awards at the Southwest Prairie Conference (SPC) Literary Festival on April 10, 2019.

Pink Heals Fundraiser

More than \$9,000 was raised in total donations for Pink Heals. JTHS Volleyball (Central and West) raised more than \$7,500. The JTHS girls swim team raised an additional \$500 on October 17, 2019. JROTC collected donations that totaled to \$1,500.

“Takedown Cancer” Fundraiser

The Joliet Central High School Wrestling Team invited the public to “Takedown Cancer” during the SPC Dual against Plainfield Central High School. By hosting a “Takedown Cancer” wrestling match, the team raised and donated funds directly to the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund.

JWHS Girls Basketball wins IHSA Regional Championship

The Joliet West Girls Basketball won the IHSA Regional Championship on February 20, 2020 for the first time in thirty years.

2020 Joliet West Boys Basketball Wins 2020 SPC East Division Championship

The Joliet West Boys Basketball won the SPC East Division Championship on Monday, February 24, 2020 at Joliet West High School.

Girls Wrestling Sees Surge in Membership, Female Leadership

When ATI Athletic Trainer Elizabeth “Liz” Short began coaching wrestling at Joliet Central High School in 2018, the team only had six girls. During the 2019-2020 season, the team saw a huge surge in female participation, beginning the season with 22 girls and ending with 15. In addition, the National Wrestling

Hall of Fame announced Joliet West High School senior Louisa Schwab as the Illinois winner of the Tricia Saunders High School Excellence Award (TSHSEA).

IHSA Academic Achievement Awards

At Joliet Township High School, our athletes continually strive and demonstrate academic excellence. During the 2019-2020 school year, eight Central, seven West and five District athletic teams earned the IHSA Academic Achievement Award for maintaining a team Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher throughout the athletic seasons. Teams who received this award include:

Joliet Central High School Teams

Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Competitive Dance, Girls Bowling, and Girls Volleyball

Joliet West High School Teams

Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Competitive Dance, Girls Bowling, Boys Bowling, Girls Volleyball, and Girls Basketball

Joliet Township High School Co-op Teams

Girls Golf, Girls Swimming, & Girls Tennis

Class of 2020 Collegiate Signings

A record number of student athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the college or university level. Seventy-one Joliet Township High School students were honored at campus signing ceremonies during the 2019-2020 school year with most receiving significant scholarships.

Team IHSA State Qualifiers

JCHS Cheerleading

JWHS Football

JWHS Boys Bowling

JWHS Dance

JWHS Cheerleading

JWHS Girls Bowling

JWHS Journalism

Individual IHSA State Qualifiers

JCHS Boys Cross Country: Jay Dworak

JCHS Wrestling: Jayden Perez

JCHS Girls Bowling: Heidi Johnson

JTHS Girls Golf: Maddy Palmer and Morgan Anderson

JTHS Boys Swimming: Ryan Bates

JWHS Girls Cross Country: Joslyn Prosek

JWHS Wrestling: Jeremy Pullen

JTHS Girls Tennis: Annie Starasinich

SPC Conference Champions

JTHS Girls Golf

JWHS Speech

JWHS Football East Division

JWHS Boys Basketball East Division

JWHS Girls Basketball East Division

SPC Award Winners

JCHS Art: Jennifer Diaz, 2nd Place, Watercolor Painting; Alisia Medina, 2nd Place, Oil/ Acrylic Painting; Kyla Pierce, 2nd Place, Darkroom Photography; Isabel Reynoso, 3rd Place, Handbuilt Ceramics

JCHS Speech: Zoey Denson, 2nd Place; Johnna Grimm, 9th Place; Jose Marquez, 6th Place; Diana Martinez, 6th Place; Triston Smith, 3rd Place; Anthony Stockton, 9th Place; Tammy Thompson 4th Place
JCHS Band: Emily Cryer, Rachael Gudeman, John Linehan, Alexis Maldonado, Sebastian Martinez, Jose Ortiz, Yanni Ovalle, Dustin Peloquin, Noah Riley
JCHS Scholastic Bowl: John Linehan

IHSA Regional Champions

JWHS Boys Bowling Team
JWHS Girls Basketball Team
JWHS Boys Basketball Team
JWHS Boys Soccer Team

IHSA Sectional Champions

JCHS Wrestling: Jayden Perez, Individual Sectional Champion
JTHS Boys Swimming: Ryan Bates, Individual Sectional Champion
JWHS Girls Bowling Team
JTHS Girls Tennis: Annie Starasinich

IHSA State Placers

JCHS Wrestling: Jayden Perez, 8th Place, 182 pounds
JWHS Boys Bowling: Team, 9th Place
JWHS Cheerleading: Team, 9th Place – Large Team
JWHS Girls Bowling: Team, 15th Place
JWHS Dance: Team, 19th Place

Individual All-State Teams

JWHS Boys Basketball: Jamere Hill
JWHS Girls Basketball: Jazz Evans
JWHS Girls Volleyball: Natalie Stefanski

COVID-19 School Closure

On March 17, 2020 schools throughout Illinois due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although there was no time to prepare for this, JTHS experienced the following success.

Attendance

On average, close to 5,000 students checked in each day to record attendance.

Meal Distribution

During the COVID-19 school closure, JTHS distributed 70,372 meals to families.

Communication

JTHS sent communication to families every day that school was in session.

Shine Bright for the Class of 2020

The school closure cancelled end-of-the-year time-honored traditions and events for seniors. Knowing the emotional toll this would have, Joliet Township High School (JTHS) launched its Shine Bright 2020 senior communication campaign the same day the extended closure was announced. In a time of darkness, the District wanted to be a light, which is where the idea for Shine Bright emerged. The campaign included Senior Drive Thru Events, Virtual graduations, student-produced videos, Facebook Profile picture frames and more.

Senior Drive Thru Events

To allow students to pick up caps and gowns, diploma covers, alumni yard Signs, awards, yearbooks and to return items, Joliet Central and West held Drive-Thru events. The events took place over six days and were important because this was the last time staff and administrators would see seniors in person. Each day had a designated Spirit Theme and students and families were encouraged to decorate cars. The events were a social distanced celebration of the Class of 2020 with 505 families attending from Central and 750 from West.

Virtual Graduation

On May 29 at 7 p.m. JTHS held Virtual Graduations for the Class of 2020, which was comprised of 1,480 seniors. The graduations, sponsored by the JTHS Foundation and Athletic Boosters, were professionally produced by Joliet companies, Unidos Marketing and Moonstep Productions. The videos debuted on the District's Facebook and YouTube Channels with Spanish subtitles and all the pomp and circumstance of the traditional in-person graduation. Words of inspiration were delivered by the principals, Board of Education representatives, and graduation speakers. Music was produced by the choir and band, and alumni announced the names of graduates as individual slides with photos and awards were displayed. It was important that the graduation was as personal as possible, so parents and students were given the opportunity to submit their photo of choice for the graduation slide. If photos were not submitted, yearbook photos were used; however, many seniors did not take a yearbook photo. In these cases, staff contacted parents to ensure a picture would appear on the slide. To generate enthusiasm, a Social Media Countdown took place the week of graduation, which included inspirational video messages from alumni name readers Bob Navarro, Joliet West Class of 1987; Lorraine Guerrero-Neumayer, Central Class of 1998; Mike Clark, Joliet West Class of 1999; and Erick Deshaun Dorris, Joliet Central Class of 1999. Both the production companies and the District shared Video Production Photos to provide a sneak peak of the graduations. All 1,480 slides were produced in-house under the direction and supervision of the Community and Alumni Relations Office. With a tight timeframe of two weeks, production of the graduate slides was a challenging endeavor.