

JTHS Archives Group Preserves Rich History



The Archives Committee is a group of dedicated volunteers who are preserving the history and traditions of Joliet Township High School. The committee started in 1978 as a group of teachers and alumni to inventory significant memorabilia. All members recalled items that have disappeared from view and wanted to prevent that from happening in the future. In the next few years, the committee gathered momentum and members worked to put JTHS on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1982, Dorothy Crombie, a founding member of the committee, made the presentation to the Illinois State Advisory meeting in Rockford, IL. There was overwhelming approval for this designation. On August 12, 1982, the Joliet Township High School Central Campus was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Housed on the third floor of the Central campus are the archives of JTHS and JT Central. Shelves are filled with piles of photographs (both framed and unframed), graduation mementos and announcements, school newspapers and spirit items (mugs, pennants, pins, etc.) along with yearbooks, trophies, articles on school events, class rings, original doorknobs, and so much more. You are welcome to come visit the current display at the Archives section, which is in front of the auditorium's balcony doors.

Donations of memorabilia are always welcome. Do you have any JTHS related objects in your attic, basement or garage? You can help preserve the past! Anyone who would like to donate memorabilia to the high schools' archives may contact Kristine Schlismann at 815-727-6967 or kschlismann@jths.org. The Archives Committee is very happy to receive yearbooks from all campuses and all years as well as graduation programs, athletic programs, etc.

Yearbooks for JT Central, JT East and JT West are always in great demand. Extra copies are sold to very appreciative graduates and the funds from the sales are used to support archives committee projects.

The Archives Committee also offers ideal gifts for students, staff and alumni such as a variety of jewelry to doorknob paperweights and Steelman statuettes. Contact Kristine Schlismann at 815-727-6967 or kschlismann@jths.org for a price list of merchandise available.

Currently serving on the Archives Committee are alumni, family members of alumni, teachers, former teachers and others interested in preserving the collective memories and traditions of Joliet Township High School. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Kristine Schlismann at 815-727-6967 or kschlismann@jths.org.

