



NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

Vol. 67 – January 31, 2025

Culinary Arts

From its beginning, Joliet Township High School has offered a comprehensive education to its students. Not only are academics emphasized but departments such as technology, business education and home economics are important aspects of the curriculum. The Home Economics Department had kitchen, sewing and child development classrooms. As of January of 2025, this area at Joliet Central has been modernized to become a state-of-the-art culinary lab, consisting of two new large classrooms and a demonstration kitchen. The classrooms can accommodate 32 students, and, using some of what was previously the hallway, include a kitchen supply and storage room. The classrooms have all new appliances and utensils as well as ceiling-mounted televisions for demonstration purposes.

Similar facilities are being constructed at Joliet West and will be ready for use in the fall of 2025. Students and teachers are very excited about these new facilities and see them as preparing the students for the Joliet Junior College programs and careers in foods.

Dean Sayles Retires

In August of 2002, Alice Henderson decided that she would develop a newsletter to keep retirees aware of what was going on at JTHS and what was happening with current and retired staff. She went to Archives and got names of past teachers from the yearbooks there. Two newsletters were produced and mailed. When Dean Sayles saw the two newsletters, he decided he needed to join the production and he made the third volume more attractive and better written. He was also able to include pictures. He and Alice produced 66 volumes of the newsletter.

Unfortunately, Dean has decided to retire from newsletter production. Alice will attempt to continue for the time being. This 67th volume is her first attempt to do it alone.

Please excuse the empty spaces and the lines that don't continue anywhere. I'm trying to learn the format.

2025 Staff Reunion

May 25, 2025 – Al's Steakhouse

1990 West Jefferson St. Joliet, IL 60435

5:00 Social Hour 6:00 – Dinner \$25 - \$35 Cash bar

Reservations must be made by May 1, 2025 by sending a letter or email

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JTHS Web Page Update

For those readers of the Retired Teacher's and Staff Newsletter on line here's the new location on the JTHS web page:

www.JTHS.org

About

Alumni

Alumni Organizations

JTHS Retired Faculty

In Memoriam

Jyme Johnson, nee Washburn, was born in Joliet and graduated from Joliet Central. She attended Joliet Junior College, University of St. Francis and Northern Illinois University. She had a long and dedicated career of teaching math. She passed away January 7, 2025, at age 80.

Maryann Ballak was born in Joliet and graduated from Joliet Central. She attended the University of St. Francis and Northern Illinois University. After working at Argonne National Laboratory, she taught 20 years at St. Francis Academy before joining the JT Central staff in 1986 and teaching there until 2000. She passed away December 29, 2024 at age 84.

Feature Retiree

Nancy Newman, born in Wisconsin, came to teach at Joliet Township High School in 1956 in the Home Economics Department. She came with a number of other Wisconsinites when Hugh Bonar was principal of JTHS. At that time, JTHS used a 16-period day of 25 minutes per period. Academic classes were allotted 2 of those periods, but vocational classes such as those Nancy taught were allotted three periods.

Nancy stayed at Joliet Central until Joliet West was opened in 1964. She moved to Joliet West as Chair of the Home Economics Department. She married a Joliet West math teacher, Jim Mitchell in 1968.

Nancy served her department well, maintaining a high level of student interest. When her students expressed the desire to cook chitlins, not only did they do so but she invited the current principal, Clarence Stallman, to join them in eating them. She retired in 1989. She read with delight the recent article on the new culinary arts facilities. How great for the students.

News

JTHS Foundation News of Interest to Retired Teachers and Staff

On March 9, 2025, the JTHS Foundation will hold its 19th Annual Trivia Afternoon. This year's subject will be "A Trip to the Movies." Tables are \$200 with a maximum of ten people per table. Doors open at 2:00, event starts at 3:00.

The trivia event will be held at 176 West Banquet Hall where light snacks are allowed but no drinks. As part of the event, raffle baskets will be available as well as a 50/50 drawing. Reserve at jthsfoundation.org.

The 24th annual golf outing has yet to be organized. News of the golf outing will be in the next newsletter.

Some new board members have been added. Currently, Mark Turk is president, Amy Sanchez, vice-president, Nancy Bartel, secretary and George Gulas, treasurer. Other board members include Jeff Barnes, Kyla Fris, A.J. Galli III, Mary Gaydos, Sam Gersman, Dr. Karla Guseman, Shad Hallihan, Alice Henderson, Katie Hunt, Mark Kroll, Dr. John Long, Diane McDonald, Dr. Michael Merritt, Tecara Parker, Aleta Pavnica, John Randich, Michael Trizna and Bruce Wright.

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the end of April 2025. It will only be available in a PDF version on the JT Web page or mailed to those without internet access who have requested hard copies.

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