SPRING ALUMNI NEWS 2026



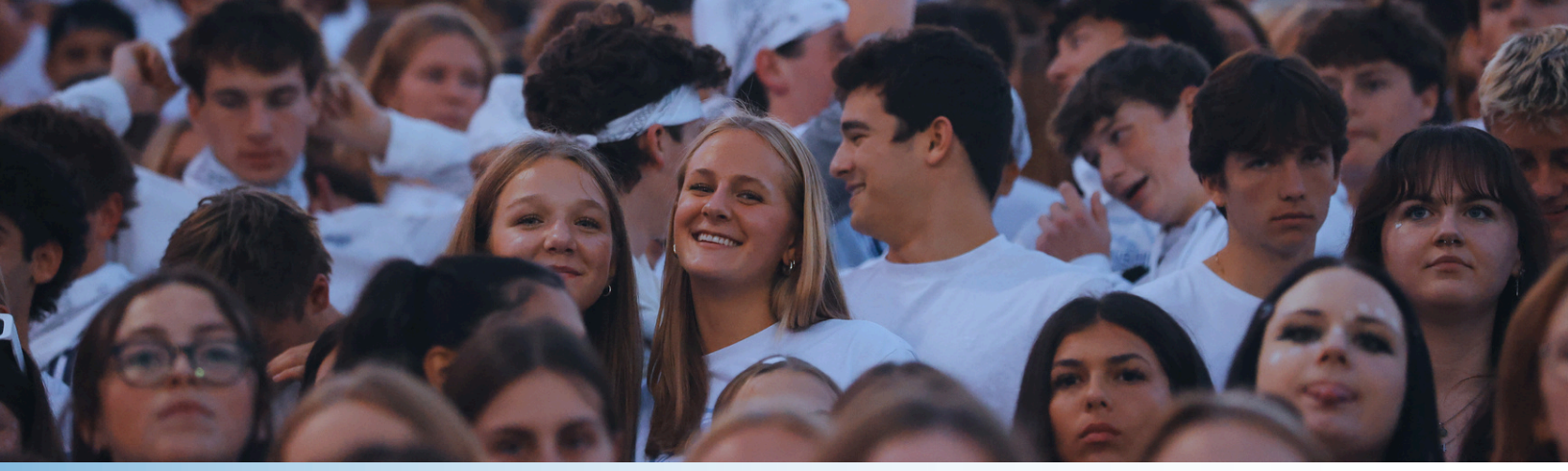
- Stay Connected
- Class Reunion Support
- Alumni News and Events
- Build Scholarships
- Mentor Opportunities



ONCE A LION, ALWAYS A LION

WWW.LTHS.NET/ALUMNI

Join the Alumni Association!



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To my fellow Lions,

The LT Alumni Association is all about "Capturing the Span of Time." We are all about LT history and alums from LT's first day in 1888 to today with an eye to the future. We are planning our 100th Official Homecoming. To date, LT classes are planning their 60th, 50th and 10th Homecoming celebrations. The history of our high school started 138 years ago in 1888 with just 6 students per class (it would take 25 to exceed 25 students per class). The high school facilities themselves are full of history and stories that shine brightly every homecoming day via campus tours. Of course, the stories of the students, faculty, staff and over 75,000 alumni are what really bring the LT story to life. How can the Alumni Association tie all our history and stories together in one place?

Coincidentally, there is a specific communications tool that the Alumni Association and over twenty of our graduating classes are using to effectively close the time gap between our high school days and today. I am talking about FACEBOOK, of course. FACEBOOK started at Harvard in 2003 as a social communications tool that reached 1,000,000 users in 1 year. It was and still is an infectious app and has become "THE constantly evolving newspaper of people's and organization's lives and activities." There are now three billion FACEBOOK users worldwide including 250 million in the USA. While most are aware of the "negatives" of FACEBOOK usage, the "positives" are still making it an essential tool to use as a benefit to our alum. To help avoid the negatives, alum administrators moderate the LT related FACEBOOK groups to help avoid issues unrelated to LT Alum and our high school. I encourage all to check out and join the two groups that the LT Alumni Assn is actively using for the benefit of the entire LT Alumni group. Before you join, I recommend you update the high school education section of your FACEBOOK profile and add Lyons Township High School along with your graduation "Class of #." This will help the administrator identify you as an LT graduate and will help your reunion committees locate you in the future.

Here are the two LT Alumni FACEBOOK groups you should join:

Lyons Township High School, Past and Present: Join 8000+ members. Administered by 2 LT Alumni Association board members (Phill Caruso and Jay Cozza), this FACEBOOK group is independent of the high school itself. You will need to answer three easy LT related questions to gain entry. For one, you must know who the LT mascot is! This site is a wonderful interactive place to give and get info on you and fellow LT graduates, homecoming reunions, LT memories, current LT happenings, our Hall of Fame, and future newsletters. This is a valuable, easy to use social site for all LT graduates. You will be better informed and entertained.

Lyons Township High School Alumni Association: 3300 followers. This is the official Alumni Association page administered by LT high school staff. You will find postings by the high school including our newsletter, website, LT released pamphlets and letters, history items, and homecoming information. This is primarily an information site.

Help us to help you by joining these two groups. I will be compiling a list of the other LT Alumni related FACEBOOK groups and post that list soon. You will certainly want to join your graduating class FACEBOOK group if it is in the system. If your class does not have a FACEBOOK group yet, it is time to start one! Give me a call or email and we will help you with the set up including tips on your group name and admin tools.

Jay Cozza, President
Lyons Township Alumni Association
jayfcozza@gmail.com | 847-525-1651 cell

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER WENT DIGITAL

The newsletter will be found on our website. If you'd prefer to continue to receive in your mailbox, please scan

Meet our Alumni Board



JAY COZZA
CLASS OF 1975
BOARD PRESIDENT



CHARLES MUDD
CLASS OF 1986
VICE PRESIDENT



LYNN BUSH
CLASS OF 1963
SECRETARY



AMANDA CELENTANO
CLASS OF 2000
TREASURER



REGINA MCDOUGAL
CLASS OF 1991
AMBASSADOR



MARY YENA
CLASS OF 1972
AMBASSADOR



PHILL CARUSO
CLASS OF 1988



JENNIFER TSAROS HAYES
CLASS OF 1978



LINDA JOHNSON
CLASS OF 1978



LAURIE KOSHGARIAN
CLASS OF 1978



JEAN CALLAGHAN-MCQUILLAN
CLASS OF 1977



MARY PACEJKA
CLASS OF 1990



DAVE ROOT
CLASS OF 2003



ANNE STRICKLAND
CLASS OF 1983



WILLIAM WILSON
CLASS OF 1972



About LTHS

District 204

D204 is an award winning school District with a long tradition of excellence.
Our school community is dedicated to equity and innovation.
Our graduates are prepared to succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace and sought out by colleges, universities and employers.

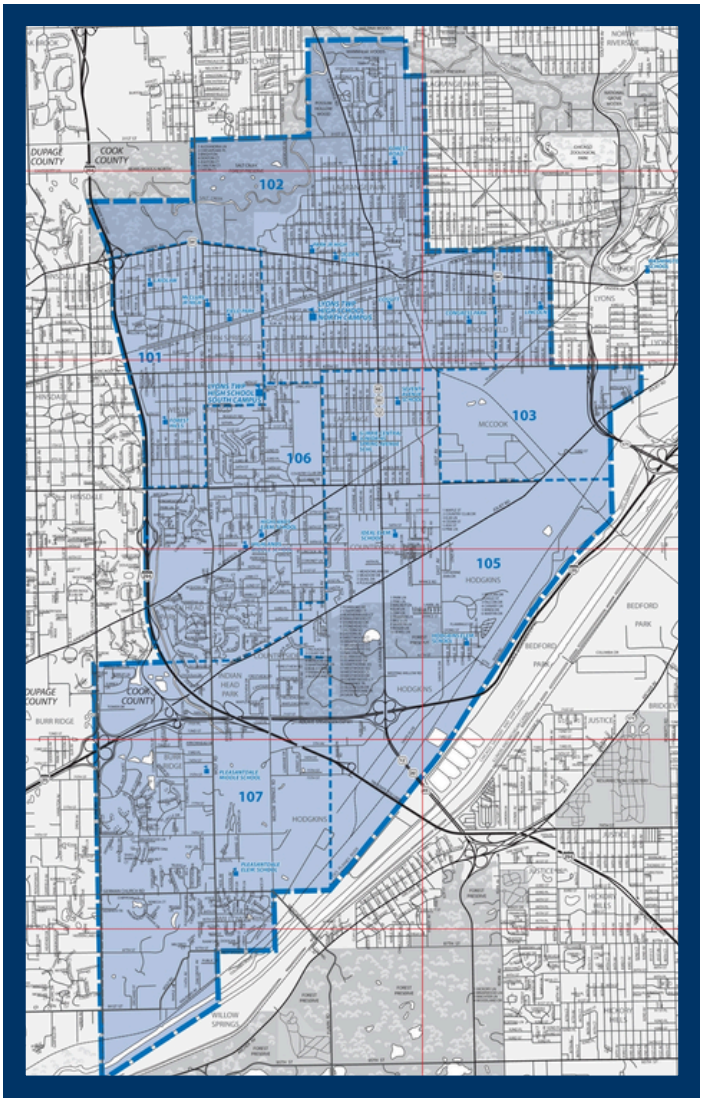
Students from the communities of La Grange, Western Springs, Burr Ridge, La Grange Park, La Grange Highlands, Countryside, Indian Head Park, Hodgkins, and parts of Brookfield, Willow Springs, and McCook attend LT. The LT District covers 28.6 square miles.

Associate District Schools

- Park Junior High
- Pleasantdale Middle School
- George Washington Middle School
- La Grange Area Department of Special Education
- Highlands Middle School
- Gurrie Middle School
- McClure Junior High

LTHS was founded in 1888

District Map



2026-27 School Calendar

Key dates for the 2026–2027 school year include:

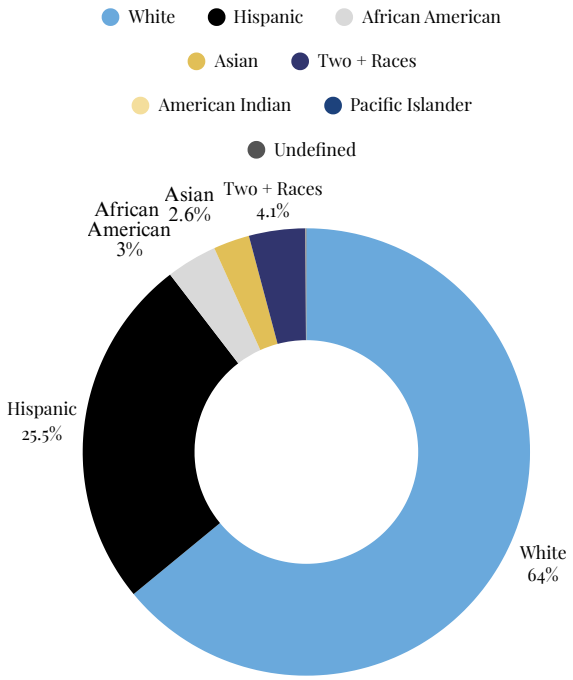


August 17, 2026: First Day of Student Attendance
December 18, 2026: Last Day of Semester 1
January 5, 2027: First Day of Semester 2
March 29–April 2, 2027: Spring Break
May 26, 2027: Class of 2027 Commencement Ceremony
May 28, 2027: Last Day of Semester 2

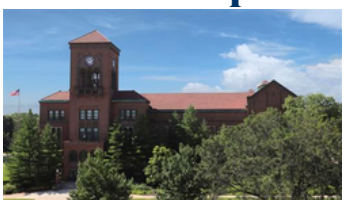
Scan for full calendar.

Student Demographics

3,675 students enrolled



North Campus



100 S. Brainard Ave.
La Grange, IL 60525
Main Office: 708-579-6300

North Campus serves juniors and seniors.

South Campus



4900 S. Willow Springs Rd.
Western Springs, IL 60558
Main Office: 708-579-6500

South Campus serves freshmen and sophomores.

Fun Facts

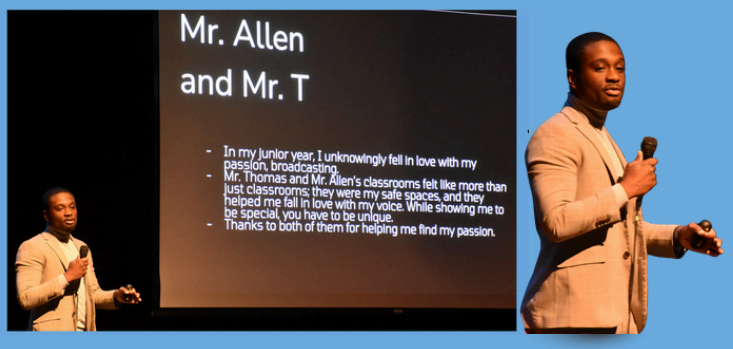
- North Campus 508,510 total square footage
- South Campus 400,000 total square footage
- North & South Campus total acreage 152.07

Welcome Back LT Alumni

Do you have a unique passion or talent to share with current students?

Send us a note; we love welcoming home alumni to classes and events!

Kendall Hyde Presentation at Black History Month Event
Kendall Hyde presented Always Believe in Yourself with some of the lessons he learned during his years as a student at LT and how working at WLTL Radio helped to prepare him for a career as a Sports Reporter.





Building Inclusive Community Conference Featuring Ms. Wheelchair Illinois
Dr. Carrie Mulderink, Ms. Wheelchair Illinois, led a panel discussion on accessibility at our Building Inclusive Community Conference.

Nuestra Historia Special Alum Guest
Ximena N. Beltran Quan Kiu, Storyteller. Writer. Communication Consultant. Speaker. Her family and lived experience inspires her work. Ximena is a Mexican-Chinese immigrant who is bicultural and fluent in Spanish.





Tyler Banasiak & Sean McCabe
We were thrilled to welcome Tyler Banasiak (Class of '23) and Sean McCabe (Class of '25) back to visit our Aviation Class!

They talked about college applications, their experience in a collegiate aviation program, what LT courses helped them gain college credits and more.

Thank you, Tyler and Sean, for sharing your journey and fueling more students' passion for aviation!



Author Isabel Beltran Sabel
Charlie Conquers the Car Wash / Carlitos el Coche Valiente is a fun bilingual story by Isabel Beltran Sabel about finding courage in unexpected places. Told in English and Spanish, it helps young readers turn scary moments into something brave and fun. We were thrilled to welcome Isabel back to LT, where she shared her new book with students!



LT Aviation Class Welcomes LT Alumnus Mike Brewer

We were excited to welcome alum Michael Brewer back to to speak with our aviation students. He shared advice on turning passion into a profession and breaking into the aviation industry, discussed g-force, passed around his gear and shared real-world videos of flying with the USAF Thunderbirds. Thank you for the inspirational visit!









Jim Maley Speaks About Mental Health



Thanks to 2002 LT graduate Jim Maley (#TheMaleyWay) for returning to speak with our students about mental health and the importance of taking care of yourself and one another. His honest message led with empathy, resilience, and strength to support students.





Past & Present













A look at

Completion of the new South Campus Commons











The cafeteria at South Campus sure looks different, right?!

We're excited about Groundwork for a Brighter Future, which serves as a multi-year journey to modernize our two campuses and enhance the learning environment for all of our future Lions.

Follow along on our website: LTHS.net/groundwork



Stacy Ann Baker Field Dedication

The STACY ANN BAKER CHARITABLE FUND graciously donated $3,000,000 to facilitate and enhance the educational and athletic opportunities of the students of Lyons Township High School. The funds were used to pay the costs of designing and constructing improvements to the Girls' Varsity Softball Field. The field was named "Stacy Ann Baker Field" in a formal dedication ceremony that was held on Tuesday April 7th 2026. Thank you, Michael Baker and family!













We were joined by many Alumni to honor the Baker Family and their generous donation.

Homecoming 2026 Reunions

Class of 1966

September 26th, 2026
Wilshire Green Clubhouse
115 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525
5-10 pm BYOB
Food provided
Contact with questions or RSVP:
Ellen Houck Busch
708/354-5847

Class of 1976

50-Year Reunion
September 26, 2026
To be held at the Stadium Club at the Max in McCook, IL
4740 Vernon Ave, McCook
Details to be provided on our FB page and at LTHS76reunion.com website.
Contact us via the website or email Dan Cozza at cozzamjc@gmail.com

Class of 1986

The class of 1986 will be having their 40th year reunion.
TBD
Contact is
Jill Carlson Gulledge
jillg42989@gmail.com

Class of 1996

30th Reunion
It has been 30 years! Join us at Irish Times Pub at 7 pm on Saturday, September 26th, 2026.
Tickets are $25 (includes soft drinks, tea, coffee, appetizers, and rental of the East Room, Cosgrave, and Beer Garden at Irish Times). Cash bar open throughout the night. And although our room rental ends at 10 pm, people can stay at the bar
(and outside beer garden) until 2 am!
Please spread the word! Tickets are on sale
FACEBOOK LINK
Contact Matt Moran at MattMoran77@hotmail.com

Class of 2006

20 year reunion
September 26, 2026
7:30p-1am
Johnny Cab's / 212 Burr Ridge Parkway
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
Contact is
Jax Perrins (JacquelynCousineau)
jax1029@gmail.com

Class of 2016/ 10th Reunion

Kelsey Johnson
2016LTHS@gmail.com
708-860-7387 (Kelsey's cell)
Location: TBA
Facebook Group: LTHS Graduating Class of 2016
Send your info/Prelim RSVP:
https://forms.gle/U8SzqVu4wwMmFRqGA
Notes: 8th grade reunions on Friday night

2026 Homecoming Agenda *

September 25th

Pep Rally - Bennett Field
Girls Flag Football -TBD
Boys Varsity Soccer Game -TBD

** tentative agenda at time of print*

September 26th

North Campus Open House - 9:00am
Homecoming Parade - 10:00am
South Campus Open House - 11:00am
Alumni Reception / Hall of Fame Induction
11:30-12:30 pm - New South Campus Commons
Varsity Football Game - 1:00pm - Bennett Field

What's Happening at LT and Beyond



John Polacek was honored for his almost 30 years as an elected official on the Lyons Township High School Board of Trustees, over 25 years on the LT Alumni Association Board, helping to organize MANY Class of 1960 reunions and also his support of the LT Hall of Fame since its inception in the mid-1990s. John is an extraordinary supporter of all things LT!



LT hosted its 25th Annual All School Assembly where both campuses came together to celebrate all that makes LT such a special place.



WLTL LIVE on LTTV Presents Post Sex Nachos with LTHS Alumni Hunter Pendleton.



Thanks to Governor JB Pritzker for hosting Dr. Brian Waterman and Dr. Jen Tyrrell at the inaugural Illinois Governor's Blue Ribbon Schools Award Reception in Springfield. LT was honored among 27 other schools recognized for their students' academic success.



Our Lions Den Student Section was named the IHSA Student Section State Champions! Lions Den has been a finalist for the award previously, but has been named the champion for the first time in school history!



Dave Root our very own Teacher, Alumni, and Alumni Association Board Member received LT's Career Technology Education Instructor of they year.



Special Olympic Basketball Team 4 brought home the gold at the State Tournament, becoming the first State Champions since 2005 and only the third in program history (1995 • 2005 • 2026).

Hard work, dedication, teamwork and heart. This is what makes these athletes so special.

Alumni Notes



'60 John Hattendorf was presented with the Swedish Society's Gold Medal of Merit at Karlskrona, Sweden, in November, 2025. Rear-Admiral O. Werin, RSwN (ret.), Chairman of the Royal Swedish Society of Naval Sciences (Kunglia Őrlogsmannasällskapet), presents Professor John Hattendorf (LTHS 1960) with the Swedish Society's Gold Medal of Merit.Also, the Naval War College Press just released Hattendorf's newly expanded and illustrated history of the U. S. Naval War College.



'74 Donna Fields Kosner Co-founded Paws Giving Independence in 2008 with her daughter and 2005 LT alum Brandi Arnold Weyers. The Peoria-based nonprofit trains service and facility dogs including through a partnership at Logan Correctional Center and places them at no cost to recipients.The all-volunteer organization is supported by students from Bradley University and Illinois State University. Inspired by their roots at LT and in La Grange, they continue to serve the community through this life-changing work.

'74 Gary Rickert retired from Peterson Electro-Musical in 2019 after 47 years in pipe organ design and support. He now assists with special projects, helps local organ technicians, and does handyman work for friends and his church. Gary and his wife Marilyn have been married 52 years, enjoy monthly Class of '66 lunches, and are planning their 60th reunion this fall. He hopes to see restoration of the Parthenon Frieze Gallery outside Reber.

2006 graduate **Josh Misiewicz** helped lead Team USA to a gold medal in sled hockey at the 2026 Winter Paralympics in Milan.



Misiewicz, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, lost both legs after being injured by an IED while serving in Afghanistan in 2011. He later found his way back to the sport he loved through sled hockey and has since become a key member of Team USA's Paralympic program.
In March, the U.S. team defeated Canada to capture its 5th consecutive Paralympic gold medal in sled hockey. Congratulations, Josh!





Congrats to our LT alumni that headed to the NCAA Tournament! **2023 Nick Polonowski** (UPenn) and **2024 Tavari Johnson** (Akron) hit the court in the NCAA.

Extra shoutout to Tavari, who was also named MVP of the 2026 MAC Tournament what an incredible accomplishment!

'83 Grant Dixon recently celebrated 25 years of Dixon Law Office with a gathering of colleagues, clients, judges, friends, and family. A third-generation Lyons Township High School graduate, Grant credits his LT education and community roots for shaping his personal and professional life.



After law school in Chicago, he founded Dixon Law Office in 2000, focusing on personal injury cases for individuals and families, both locally and nationwide. Often the first call after catastrophic accidents, Grant credits his upbringing for his success. "I am proud that we have been able to represent famous athletes, community members, workers, politicians and many LT Grads," he said."



'75 William Just and some fellow classmates gathered for a Oak School 50th Reunion.This was the last class of Oak School in LaGrange Park before Park Jr High opened.

In Memoriam

1948 Harold A. Folz
1949 Margie Nelson Platou
1951 Jean Dolgner
1952 Stephen Duncan
1952 Marge Pantke
1953 Anita Marie McDermott (Hodsdon)
1953 Lynda Young Humphrey
1955 James G. Bigham
1956 Fred Boland
1957 Dr. Richard F. Wallin
1958 Mary Jo England
1958 George Moline
1960 Ronald Slatin
1960 James Victor Swanson
1960 Pamela Kegaly (Pilarski)
1964 Bradford Hunt Hedrick
1964 Daniel Pierce
1964 Donald Aichele
1965 John David Baker
1966 Carol C. Mietzel
1966 Greg Backlin
1967 Allan Botkin
1968 Margaret "Peggi" Cummings
1969 Judith Drake
1969 George "Mike" Knue
1969 Fred Liebich
1969 Patricia McMahon Mahon
1969 Steven Panik
1971 James R. Selig
1971 Harry Rakerd
1971 Donald Musillami
1972 Anthony Ballotti
1972 Betsy Jeanne Ganzar Murphy\
1973 Deacon Michael A. Crowell
1973 Michael Alan Crowell
1973 John Bartos
1973 Michael A Crowell
1974 Evelyn Gibbs-McCain
1974 Dan Earl
1974 John Hinni
1974 Randy Minton
1974 William Stoppenbach
1976 Thomas Halpin
1976 Elizabeth (Liz) Hartrick
1976 Robert Charles Martinek
1976 Paul Michael Ferrari
1977 Timothy Robert Rozner
1978 Jim Hofman
1979 Rose Sansone Bradshaw
1982 Karyn Rae Weathered
1983 Ray Burtner
1984 Will Knops
1985 Francis "Frank" Kazda
1989 Greg Molinari
1994 Amanda Davey
2012 Meghan Rafferty
2016 Will Hermann McLawhorn
2027 Emily Romo

Lyons Township High School Faculty

Ray Burtner A dedicated teacher in the special education and science departments

Joan Curtin English and ESL at Lyons Township Adult Education Program

Sandra Wilsey Taught physical education and coached many sports programs first at Lyons Township High School

Send Alumni Notes to Jennifer Pasko ⬢ *jpasko@lths.net* ⬢ *(708) 579-6460*















LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

$_____ Annual membership $10 each
$_____ LIFETIME Membership $150
_____ Yes, as a Lifetime Member I'd like a free 14" X 18" print of The Clock Tower by Charles Vickery, Class of 1931
$_____ Additional donation to LTHS Alumni Association

First Name (Maiden name) Last Name Class year

LTHS Spouse: First Name (Maiden name) Last Name Class year

Street Address City State ZIP

Cell Phone E-mail address

_____ Yes, release my email to LT's Find a Classmate webpage
Check enclosed (Make payable to the LTHS Alumni Association)
NOTE: You may also pay online at www.lths.net/alumni. Click on Online Registration and LT Web store, then LTHS Alumni Association Membership, this will take you to the payment page, and follow the prompts from there.

Your donation helps fund college scholarships for students!

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 100 S. BRAINARD AVENUE LA GRANGE, IL 60525













Stay Connected!

Follow Us facebook.com/LTHSAlumniAssn



Thank you!

Thank you for your support of our Alumni Association and Community Relations.
We're proud to be a part of such an amazing community!

708.579.6300

alumni@lths.net

www.LTHS.net/alumni

100 S. Brainard Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

2026 REUNIONS

Class of 1966: September 26	Class of 1996 September 26
Class of 1976: September 26	Class of 2006 September 26
Class of 1986: September 26	Class of 2016 September 26

** At time of printing, please visit our site for up-to-date information.*