



Joliet Township High School

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO COMPETE AND CONTRIBUTE

Annual Report
School Year 2018-2019



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This publication has been prepared to assist the community and parents in understanding District 204 programs and operations; challenges and growth; and finance. For more information about JTTHS, visit www.jtth.org.

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Welcome from Dr. Hanson

Dear Partner in Education,

Joliet Township High School is pleased to present the 2018-2019 Annual Report. Within the pages of this report you will find stories of student success and achievement from the previous academic year.

As I begin my first year as superintendent, I look forward to building on the success achieved through the guidance of our Strategic Plan. Highlighted in this report you will find exciting new programs that have been developed in partnership with our Strategy 6.2 Family and Community Group, such as our Bridge Builder Program and the Grandparents Raising Children Group. The work of the Strategy 6.2 Community Committee also produced the district's first ever diversity statement to ensure that we are a unified district that is inclusive and welcoming to people from all walks of life.

Along with new program development, highlighted in this report you will find a continued increase in the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses and earning college credit. In addition, the report includes information pertaining to numerous awards received by students and staff.

Many of the accomplishments achieved during the 2018-2019 school year carry over to the 2019-2020 school year as implementation begins or continues. We look forward to opening the doors of our new Pathways Campus and having the option to implement the E-Learning Emergency Day plan if a school closure is deemed necessary.

I am honored to work in partnership with parents, students, staff, community and the Board of Education in my role as Superintendent of Joliet Township High School.





Although I am new to the Joliet area, I already feel a strong sense of belonging and pride in our schools and community. It is evident to me that Joliet Township High School is the school of choice for our community, and it is easy to see why. Joliet Township High School has a history of working in partnership with the community to develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan that charts the district's future and all school improvement initiatives. As superintendent, I greatly respect this planning process and will continue to use the Strategic Plan as a road map to success.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to learn about Joliet Township High School. Together, we will work in partnership to ensure our students can compete and contribute in our local and global society. For more information about Joliet Township High School, please visit www.jths.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Hanson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Joliet Township High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education members are elected by residents within the school district's boundaries and serve four-year terms on a staggered basis. Among their many responsibilities, the Joliet Township High School Board of Education adopts policies and rules that govern the administration and operates in strict accordance with Illinois laws and Illinois State Board of Education regulations.



Joliet Township High School Board of Education Members

Tracy Spesia, President (Since 2011); Frank Edmon Jr., Vice President (Since 2017); Meg Cappel, Member (Since 2017); Jim Allison, Member (Since 2019) Angel Contreras, Member (Since 2017); Matthew Kennedy, Member (Since 2019); Michelle Stiff, Member (Since 2019)

Board of Education Meeting Dates

Board of Education Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the JTHS Administrative Center, located at 300 Caterpillar Drive in Joliet. The Board of Education may also hold Special Meetings to conduct Board business. For a complete listing of Board of Education meeting dates, please visit www.jths.org.

Board of Education Roles & Responsibilities

- Selection of the superintendent
- Establishment of general policies for the school system
- Employment of school personnel upon recommendation of the superintendent
- Adoption of the annual budget and approval of all expenditures
- Informing the public of the needs and progress of the educational system
- Exercising the legislative power conferred or implied by legislature in administering school functions

All decisions made by the Joliet Township High School Board of Education are driven by the district's Strategic Plan to achieve our mission.



Dr. Cheryl McCarthy

A LEGACY OF DEDICATION

After 33 years of service to Joliet Township High School, Dr. Cheryl McCarthy retired at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, community partnerships, and academic achievement.

Serving the last eight years as superintendent, Dr. McCarthy began her career in 1986 as a math teacher at Joliet West High School before moving into the roles of division chair, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent. She is the first female superintendent in Joliet Township High School history.

Under Dr. McCarthy's leadership as superintendent, the district received national recognition in 2017 when the College Board honored JTHS as "District of the Year" for the expansion of Advanced Placement courses and AP student performance. Dr. McCarthy led the way for innovative programs such as the 1:1 technology initiative, Mentor 2.0, and implementation of a bilingual communication strategy to engage the district's Spanish speaking population.

Throughout her tenure, community involvement was a key aspect of Dr. McCarthy's leadership philosophy, which opened the doors to numerous opportunities for students and families. Dr. McCarthy served as a member of the Three Rivers Educational Partnership for Manufacturing, the Three Rivers Education for Employment Council, the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, AMITA Health St. Joseph Medical Center Board, the Rotary Club of Joliet, and the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area.



"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Joliet Township High School," said Dr. McCarthy. "I am so thankful to have worked beside all those who make our district the wonderful place that it is, day in and day out. Together, we have successfully implemented our Strategic Plan and continually strive to empower every student to compete and contribute positively to our community."

Superintendent Listening Tour

LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD

Working in partnership with the Board of Education and Strategy 6.2 Family and Community Committee, JTHS Superintendent Dr. Mike Hanson is identifying locations and community organizations to hold listening events to engage in meaningful conversation with stakeholders while hearing their ideas, values, and input related to the school district.

"It is only through listening that I can learn what is important to our parents, students, staff and community, thus becoming an informed leader with the best interests of all stakeholders at heart," said Dr. Hanson.

If you have an organization or a key stakeholder group that you believe Dr. Hanson should contact to arrange a visit, please notify Community & Alumni Relations Director Kristine Schlismann at kschlismann@jths.org or (815) 727-6967.

"My leadership philosophy is centered around servant leadership and dedication toward equity and excellence in program delivery for all students," said Dr. Hanson. "I believe in leading by example and serving our families and community through relationship building and strong community outreach. The bedrock of my leadership can be found within the words, "Listen, Learn, Lead.""

Dr. Hanson looks forward to participating in dialogue that encourages transparent communication and relationship building.



Joliet Township High School

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Joliet Township High School Strategic Plan is a comprehensive document that identifies the district's mission, objectives, strategies, parameters, and beliefs. The plan charts the future of JTHS and is a living document that is used to improve our schools. Every decision the district makes directly relates to the Strategic Plan, and all district and school improvement goals are aligned to the plan.

Joliet Township High School Mission

The mission of Joliet Township High School, a historically rich, unified and innovative learning community, is to empower every student to compete and contribute positively to our community and global society by providing a rigorous and personalized education through an academy environment.

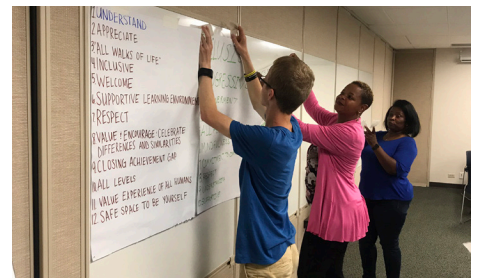
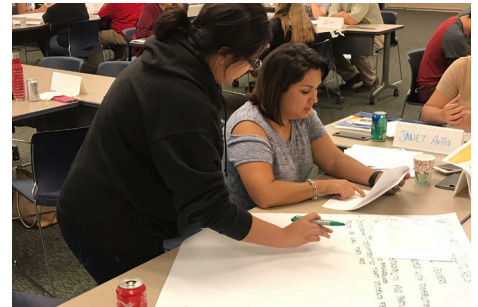
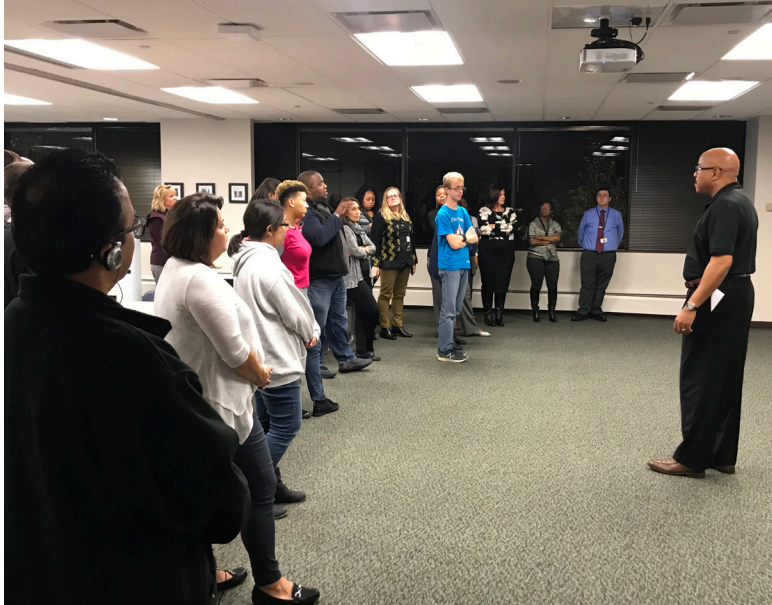
Strategies – The Blueprint for Achieving the Mission

Joliet Township High School has six strategies that serve as detailed blueprints to achieve the JTHS mission. Each strategy has a comprehensive set of action plans that have been developed in partnership with parents, students, community, staff, alumni, and Board of Education members.

1. We will use data to personalize instruction and support in order to motivate and engage students to achieve identified growth targets, complete their Individual Career Plan (ICP) and graduate.
2. We will ensure all JTHS personnel use effective internal and external communication to create a welcoming environment that develops positive relationships and engages all stakeholders in improving student achievement.
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 ensure our curriculum and assessments strengthen the implementation of the academy structure so that all students are college and career ready.
5. We will secure and leverage our physical, technological and human resources to effectively support our students' education.
6. We will, in partnership with families and community, develop and implement plans to deliver a culturally responsive educational experience and expand the diversity of our faculty and administration to close the achievement gap.

STRATEGY 6.2 DIVERSITY STATEMENT

During the 2018-2019 school year, Joliet Township High School was proud to announce its district-wide diversity statement that was developed by a variety of stakeholders in the JTHS Strategy 6.2 Family & Community Committee. Led by the JTHS Superintendent, the 6.2 Family and Community Committee is comprised of parents, students, staff, community members, and Board of Education representation. Throughout the 2018-2019 year, these dedicated committee members worked collaboratively to aggressively build relationships between District 204 families and staff in order to enhance the educational experience of all students.



The district's Strategy 6.2 Family and Community Committee met several times during the 2018 fall semester to craft the robust diversity statement under the facilitation of Troy Cicero from MulticultuReal Communications. The statement was developed to send a welcoming message to families of all backgrounds while creating an accountability standard for all faculty, staff, and administration.

The Joliet Township High School Diversity Statement reads, "Joliet Township High School District 204 is committed to cultivating an inclusive community that values and embraces diversity and respects the humanity of all people."

Committee Members Samuel Munson, Jamila Cage and Wanda Turner presented the statement to the Board of Education at the December 18 meeting where the statement was unanimously approved.

"The statement is more than just words on paper. It is a living document that symbolizes our appreciation of individual differences and the establishment of a school climate that hears, sees, values and respects all students," said JTHS Superintendent Dr. Mike Hanson.

Community Connections

JTHS BRIDGE BUILDERS

In addition to creating a diversity statement, the Strategy 6.2 Committee also established the JTHS Bridge Builders Ambassador Program, which is comprised of dedicated parent and community volunteers.

JTHS Bridge Builder Ambassadors use their own experiences in navigating the school system to engage parents in the district's community building efforts, assist parents in advocating for their students, and to share information with the school and district.

JTHS Bridge Builder volunteer roles and responsibilities include representing JTHS at community and school events, making personal contact with new parents, and using personal connections to establish a bridge between the community, the home, and school.

"The Bridge Builder Program is an amazing way for parents and students to have another positive resource entering high school," said Tara Cicero, JTHS Bridge Builder participant. "This program is instrumental in navigating through the four years of high school with a source of comfort and support. The one thing I like about the program is that if we don't know an answer to a question that was asked by a parent or community member, we make sure to get the accurate information in a timely fashion by reaching out to our direct connections at the school. Being an involved parent has made the difference for us, as well as our children."



GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN



Joliet Township High School Bridge Builder Mary White recognized the need for resources and information for grandparents such as herself who are raising young family members. The Bridge Builder Program served as the perfect launchpad for her to create the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program in collaboration with Joliet Township High School and the community.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program invites all grandparents raising children to meetings that focus on topics relevant to the unique needs of grandparents. During the spring of 2019, the group hosted informational meetings with guest speakers from the Will County Health Department, Senior Services, and the Center for Law and Social Work. In addition to receiving valuable information and resources, the participants benefited from meeting and forming relationships with other grandparents undergoing similar joys and challenges.

Mary White said, "My experience with the Bridge Builder Program has been wonderful. I have learned more about JTHS, the resources and opportunities they offer, and I enjoy going out and representing JTHS during community events. I also have the honor of leading the Grandparents Raising Children Program at JTHS, which provides fellowship, support and resources for grandparents raising children who face unique needs. As the result of this group, grandparents know they are not alone. It is joyful knowing you are helping someone else as you are being helped."

Remind

3-WAY COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION

Strategy 2.3 of the JTHS Strategic Plan calls for the establishment of a collaborative 3-way communication and engagement process between the student, family, and teacher. To achieve this goal, JTHS has added a new tool to its communication toolkit.

At the February 19 Board of Education meeting, the Joliet Township High School Board of Education approved a contract with Remind, making this the official text messaging platform for the campuses. Throughout the year, JTHS staff use a variety of methods to communicate with our families and Remind is an additional tool that may be used to engage students and families. With Remind, personal information is private, and phone numbers are not visible when using this text messaging tool.

"Whether you're in the classroom, at home, or anywhere in between, Remind makes it easy to stay connected to your school community in a safe manner that protects the contact information of the user," said JTHS Superintendent Dr. Mike Hanson.

"Because students and parents are automatically enrolled in Remind, there is no need to exchange cell phone numbers or email addresses. JTHS is excited to engage families using this new tool. Student success can only occur when we all work together."

Features of Remind

- Communication via text, email, phone call, or through the Remind App
- Send and receive real-time messages to any phone
- Message a class, a person, or a small group
- Personal information is private



1 Million 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, which was awarded to the district during the 2018-2019 school year. The hotspot device provides 10GB of free high-speed data each month for up to four years while the student is enrolled at Joliet Township High School.

The grant-funded program provides the hotspots at no cost to the district or its students. JTHS actively sought participation in the program to support its 1:1 Technology Initiative, which provides netbook computers to all students.

"We are excited to partner with the 1Million Project to provide connectivity for students who do not have reliable internet at home," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Dr. Ilandus Hampton. "At JTHS we do not want the inability to access the internet at home to be an educational barrier for our students. Participating in this program reduces the digital divide and provides students with the tools they need for success."

For more information about this program or the application, contact the JTHS Technology Help Desk at (815) 774-7800 or helpdesk@jths.org.



Partnerships

MENTOR 2.0

Mentor 2.0 is a partnership between Big Brothers Big Sisters and iMentor that brings college success mentoring to Joliet Township High School students. The program facilitates mentoring relationships that ensure more students from low-income communities enroll in college and graduate with a degree by matching every student in a cohort with a mentor.

In the past five years, Mentor 2.0 has served approximately 400 JTHS students with the help of approximately 425 mentors. Mentor 2.0 maintains the quality one-to-one mentoring Big Brothers Big Sisters is known for and expands this by using technology for much of the interaction between the mentee and mentor. This reduces the mentor's in-person time commitment to once every month and utilizes a customized curriculum guide throughout the match interaction.

Mentor Michele Stipe said, "Being a mentor is enjoyable. Ashley (my mentee) and I connected after the first meeting, and it is so great to be a part of watching someone mature and prepare for the future. Ashley is going to be a first-generation college graduate. It's not 'maybe' she will be a college graduate – it's that she's 'going to be' a college graduate. It is so rewarding seeing somebody, besides your own child, grow in front of your eyes and seeing them mature and blossom."





Michele's mentee, Ashley Huerta, added, "I feel like I benefitted from this program by learning about different topics related to college and by having an adult helping me out and just being there for me. My mentor has my back and is there for me to talk to. Mentor 2.0 opens up so many doors. It is like a family and you bond together. I feel supported by all the people in the program and in my advisory."

During the 2019-2020 school year, JTHS and Big Brothers Big Sisters will recruit a new cohort of 125 mentors. This cohort will begin their mentorship of 100 Joliet Township High School students at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Those interested in volunteering can sign up by visiting bbbswillgrundy.org/mentor2-0/.

Mentor Brandon Womack says, "I highly recommend volunteering to mentor a student through Mentor 2.0. Mentors can use their experience to provide an insight into what it's like for the student going through the college selection and application process. Any wisdom you can share will be a huge benefit. Personally, it's very rewarding to help the next generation make the world better for everyone."

His mentee Alexis Tinoco, who plans to become an engineer, also highly recommends the program for students, saying, "Students might think that you can just research the topics covered in the program by yourself, but you should experience and benefit from Mentor 2.0. It's worth listening to the experiences of someone whose shoes you've never been in. You gain wisdom and feel enlightened. I've benefited in multiple ways, from education and wisdom, to friendship and socializing with someone that's gone through the experiences that I'm interested in pursuing."



USF Partnership

EXPLORING THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Thanks to a partnership with the University of St. Francis, Joliet Township High School students have an opportunity to take the course, Exploring the Teaching Profession. Upon successful completion of this course, students earn college and high school credit simultaneously. This innovative, hands-on dual credit course aims to combat the teacher shortage seen nationwide by inspiring the next generation of teachers while growing our own educators in the Joliet-area community.



JTHS Board of Education President Dr. Tracy Spesia is the Field Experience Coordinator and Partnership Liaison for the University of St. Francis' College of Education. Working in partnership with JTHS, Dr. Spesia began planning the course three years ago, with program implementation at Joliet West High School during the 2017 fall semester, followed by Joliet Central High School in the Spring Semester of 2018.

"Statistics show that 60 percent of teachers live within 20 miles of where they went to high school," said Dr. Spesia. Our community's future teachers, who will reflect the diversity of our district, are today's JTHS students. This dynamic course engages students already considering a career in education as well as those who never thought about becoming a teacher but might find it would be a great career to match their interests and talents."

Exploring the Teaching Profession is taught onsite at the high school campus by a certified dual credit instructor. During the mornings of School Improvement Days, students attend observational experiences at local Joliet Public Schools District 86 elementary schools, which provides real-world experience. Students who successfully complete the Exploring the Teaching Profession course receive three college credit hours and one high school elective credit.

Joliet West High School senior Ana Abdelalhaleem commented on the hands-on experience she received from participating in the course. "The class is definitely very eye-opening because I feel like when you are learning from a teacher, they can tell you everything about teaching, but you're not going to fully understand it unless you're in the environment where you're physically in a classroom with children and you're helping. By taking this class, I really learned what it is like to be a teacher and I feel that I am more prepared for the education classes that I will take in college. I am grateful for this experience."

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PARTNERSHIP

Working in Partnership, Empowering Students

Joliet Township High School understands that learning is not confined to the classroom. In fact, JTHS students can continue their learning outside the classroom by participating in paid internships during the school year and summer.

Student internships are not possible without the support of local businesses. To recruit additional internship partners, JTHS hosted two events in October 2018 for community stakeholders interested in providing internship opportunities to JTHS students. At the event, first-hand stories of success were shared by JTHS internship providers Jen Howard, TCBY Owner; and Nancy Baldwin, Vice President for Human Resources & Information Technology at Nanophase Technology.

"Our business partners make it possible for us to provide a continuum of work-based learning experiences to our students," said JTHS Director of Strategic Partnerships Brett Marcum. "We hear so many stories of success from our students that would not be possible without our dedicated community partners."

JTHS actively seeks to expand the internship program so that more opportunities can be provided to students. If you are interested in becoming an internship provider, contact Brett Marcum at bmarcum@jths.org.



JTHS Academies

CAREER ACADEMY CONNECTIONS

During sophomore year, JTHS students enter one of the five JTHS Career Academies. In the JTHS Career Academies, students receive an individualized education that engages them in lessons, activities, and experiences relevant to their career interests and each of the Academy's Programs of Study. A hallmark of the JTHS Academy is the project-based learning that students experience regularly.

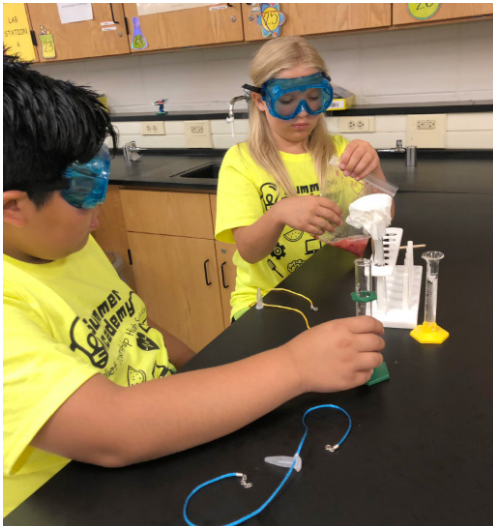
The five JTHS Academies include Arts & Communication; Business Management & Information Systems (BMIS); Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Health & Medicine; and Human Services.



JTHS SUMMER ACADEMY

During the summer of 2018, Joliet Township High School offered its first Summer Academy enrichment programs for incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The program is a direct result of Action Plan 1.5 which calls for the provision of summer school offerings that include additional opportunities for both enrichment and special education.

The one-week summer programs engage young students in fun projects centered around early exposure to the five JTHS Career Academies and career exploration. The Summer Academies are made possible through funding from a Healthy Community Grant.



Academy programs were held at Joliet Central and Joliet West with topics ranging from cooking, photography, STEM, medical exploration, chess, and more. All academy participants received a t-shirt, water bottle, and bag. Fine arts music programs were also offered for the musically inclined.

"The camps were super fun and I learned a lot about different things that I didn't know I would enjoy," said Washington Junior High Academy student Eliana Paramo. "It was a great way to meet new people who have similar interests as me. I was also able to figure out what classes I might want to take in high school."

During the summer of 2018, the program served 302 students in 16 courses. The Summer Academies received such positive feedback from students, families, and staff, that they were offered again during the summer of 2019 with over thirty courses available.

"The JTHS Summer Academy models the JTHS career academy structure and honors our Strategic Plan," said Dianne McDonald, JTHS Curriculum Director for Science, Applied Life and Assessment. "Each camp provides students in our community the opportunity to get into our buildings, collaborate with JT staff, and engage in career-based activities. For example, our culinary teacher used a 3-D printer this year in her foods camp. The energy and excitement of the students participating in this summer program is a wonderful example of our community's commitment to learning."

Emergency E-Learning Days

The Joliet Township High School Board of Education approved a plan to implement Emergency E-Learning Days at the Board of Education meeting on May 21, 2019. The plan, developed by a committee of parents, teachers and administrators, will be implemented during the 2019-2020 school year if necessary.

E-Learning Days eliminate the loss of instructional time during unscheduled school closures by allowing students to complete their assignments at home. If an Emergency E-Learning Day is necessary, it would be considered a regular school attendance day and would not be made up at the end of the school year

"The purpose of an Emergency E-Learning Day is to provide a continuum of learning for students in the event that school needs to close," said JTHS Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Dr. Karla Guseman. "Teachers will leverage the district's 1:1 technology resources to provide students with relevant, meaningful and manageable assignments that students can be engaged in when school has been cancelled. The goal is to minimize disruption to the academic progress caused by emergency school closures and to make emergency days as educationally productive and engaging as possible."

The Emergency E-Learning Plan outlines specific responsibilities for teachers, staff, and students. This includes making the announcement of an E-Learning Emergency Day no later than 5 a.m. the morning of the school closure. Teachers will post attendance procedures and relevant class assignments for students to access by 9 a.m. the morning of the Emergency E-Learning Day. Assignments will be aligned to curricular objectives and will require no more than 50 minutes to complete per class.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.jths.org/family-resources/e-learning-emergency-day>



**JTHS is awaiting verification of its Emergency E-Learning Plan from the Regional Office of Education before we can move forward with this initiative.*

STUDENTS TAKE HOME TOP RANKS AT JJC WELDING COMPETITION

Joliet Township High School welders took home top ranks, including first place overall, at the High School Welding Competition held at Joliet Junior College on May 3, 2019. At the competition Joliet West student Nick Strasinich finished in first place, and Joliet West students Max Duarte and Jacob Casey finished in second place. Joliet Central student participants won prizes such as welding gloves and jackets.

The students competed against five other schools, with a total of eighty students competing. The competition allowed students to showcase their skills through written and performance tests that assessed Shielded Metal Arc and Oxy-Acetylene welding skills. Student testing included time-tested welds at 20 minutes.

In the JTHS Welding Technology course, students use professional industry equipment in a state-of-the-art labs to learn knowledge and skills in industrial trades, including hands-on welding practice, oxyacetylene cutting, brazing, plasma cutting and more.

The JTHS welding instructors are Nicholas Arnold and Joe Contreras.



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. The concept for the JTHS Pathways Campus was created collaboratively with the guidance of the Strategic Plan by a committee of JTHS stakeholders, including district employees, families, and community members. The JTHS Pathways Campus will empower general education and special education students to experience success through various academic, social emotional, and vocational supports and pathways.

Previously, the Alternate School only served special education students; however, the JTHS Pathways Campus will provide structured supportive services for up to 40 general education students and up to 55 special education students in a small-school setting. In order to enroll in the JTHS Pathways Campus, a student must receive a recommendation from district Special Education IEP teams, Behavioral Health Teams, or through JTHS administrators. Parents or guardians must attend a conference and students must participate in an entrance interview prior to receiving acceptance into the program.





Once enrolled in the JTHS Pathways Campus, students receive guided instruction through the APEX online learning system that is aligned to the JTHS district curriculum and geared towards providing students college and career readiness skills, along with vocational skills and experiences. In addition to the online learning platform, social and emotional supports are integrated into the curriculum and a full-time guidance counselor is on-site to support students.

JTHS Director of Special Services Iman Ellis-Bowen said, "I am excited to see all of the committee's planning and recommendations materialize. As a district, we strive toward ensuring that we have phenomenal services and supports for all students. The programs offered within the JTHS Pathways Campus allow us to tap into students' potential while assisting them with accessing the academic environment and the Joliet community. The academy creates additional pathways towards empowering students to compete and contribute positively to community and global society by providing structured supportive services."

Student Achievement

STRATEGY 4—COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

JTHS offers 21 Advanced Placement and 30 Dual Credit courses that students can take as early as their freshman year in high school. These courses allow students to earn college credit while enrolled in high school.

Since 2010, JTHS has experienced exponential growth in the number of students, exams, and scores of 3 or higher. This growth was recognized by the College Board 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 2010-2019

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total AP Students	196	202	238	355	693	884	928	1,041	1,028	1,124
Number of Exams	297	299	402	632	1,096	1,318	1,582	1,673	1,759	1,788
Students with scores 3+	103	112	138	154	252	343	624	645	519	599



Outstanding AP Exam Performance

Thirty students earned the recognition of AP Scholar, nineteen 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. Successful AP Exam scores can provide students with college credit.

SAT Scores for the Class of 2019

The average SAT score for the top 10 percent of students in the Class of 2019 who took the SAT was 1263. The top 20 percent of students from the class of 2019 taking the SAT test had an average score of 1195. The SAT score range is 400 to 1600. The state of Illinois benchmark score for college readiness is 1080. JTHS had 1,590 students who took the SAT test from the Class of 2019.

Illinois State Scholars

Eighty-seven Joliet Township High School students from the graduating Class of 2019 earned the prestigious distinction of Illinois State Scholars 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 across the state.

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

Jonathan Gabl, Julian Perez, and Teresa Spesia were recognized as National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students for the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Additionally, Joliet West student Mary Pelzer was named one of 15,000 finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Financial Excellence & Planning

STRATEGY 5—SECURING AND LEVERAGING RESOURCES

JTHS Fiscal Responsibility

Sound financial planning remains increasingly important given the continued financial uncertainty at the state and federal levels. JTHS has a proven track record of being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Every year the district undergoes an independent audit conducted by an outside agency. The audit provides an objective view of district finance that is used to evaluate accounting, expenditures, and budgeting.

Bond Ratings & Fund Balance

Along with a balanced budget, two indicators of JTHS' financial stability can be found in the district's bond rating and fund balance.

Standard & Poor's and Moody's rank the credit worthiness of borrowers using a standardized rating scale that measures expected investor loss in the event of default. This rating indicates a rating of high quality, low credit risk, and an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations. JTHS is proud to hold the second highest score of AA (Standard & Poor's) and Aa (Moody's) rankings.

Another indicator of a district's financial health is the fund balance that is maintained. The state of Illinois recommends that districts maintain a 3 to 6-month fund balance to sustain school district operations in cases where funding is delayed so that payroll and operation obligations are still met. JTHS is proud to consistently maintain a 6-month fund balance, indicating fiscal responsibility and excellent stewardship of taxpayer dollars.



Certificate of Excellence Award in Financial Reporting

The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International awarded Joliet Township High School District 204 its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for having met or exceeded the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability through analysis of the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2018.

JTHS has participated in the COE program for 32 years, which is a true reflection of the district's commitment to fiscal integrity.

"Joliet Township High School continually demonstrates its ongoing commitment to fiscal integrity and transparency through participation in the Certificate of Excellence Program," said Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dr. Ilandus Hampton. "The district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is reviewed thoroughly by a team of professional auditors. This award presents objective proof of sound fiscal management."



Protecting Financial Resources & Funding

JTHS receives 60 percent of the amount that has been determined by the state of Illinois as necessary to adequately fund the education of JTHS students. With this inadequate funding, fiscal responsibility is at the forefront of all JTHS strategic planning to ensure that all students receive a world class education.

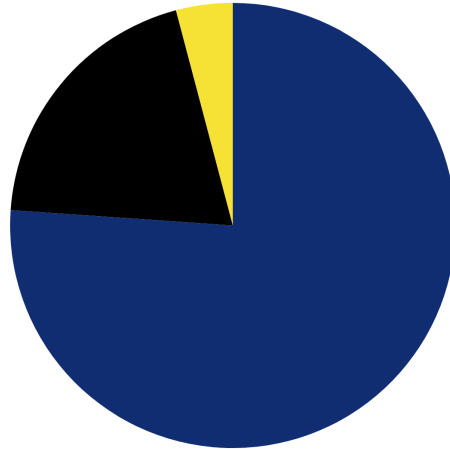
To protect our fiscal resources, JTHS actively monitors legislation in Springfield. Legislators continue to talk of freezing property tax levies, which would offset, and even decrease, the amount of funding received by the district. Placing a cap on property taxes puts the district in a financially unstable position due to the unpredictable nature of state and federal funding. Simply stated, JTHS can only count on receiving the money generated from property taxes. State and federal funding, on the other hand, is continually delayed, inadequate, and decreased. In addition, property taxes remain the major revenue source at 76.1 percent, while state and federal dollars generate only 19.8 and 4.1 percent of the district's revenue stream. JTHS will continue to monitor any legislation pertaining to a property tax freeze to protect the education of our youth.

Revenue & Expenditures - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

At JTHS, revenue sources and expenditures remain balanced due to conservative spending and leveraging of physical, technological, and human resources. In addition, for the past several years, JTHS has instituted a reduction in purchased services, supplies, and capital outlay expenditures to ensure a balanced budget.

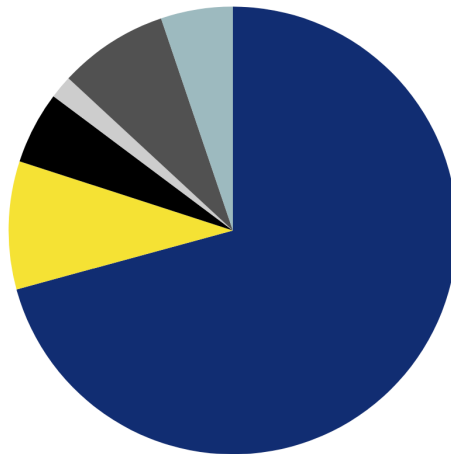
Revenue Sources

- Local Property Taxes 76.10%
- State 19.79%
- Federal 4.11%



Expenditure Sources

- Salaries & Benefits 70.76%
- Purchased Services 9.24%
- Supplies & Materials 5.24%
- Capital Outlay 1.66%
- Bonds 7.91%
- Tuition 5.19%



Facilities

Strategy 5.2 of the district's strategic plan was developed to ensure that JTHS maintains its state-of-the-art facilities.

"This master plan calls for the enhancement and expansion of facilities while focusing on equity, security, and building infrastructure," said JTHS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ilandus Hampton.

During the 2018-2019 school year, a variety of projects were completed to support curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities.

West Cafeteria Corridor Enhancement

With 1:1 technology, flexible learning space is used on a frequent basis by students as they complete their work online. To accommodate this growing need, the West Cafeteria Corridor has been transformed with comfortable seating options of various configurations.

"The corridor previously served as an empty hallway that students passed through on their way to class," said Joliet West High School Principal Dr. Teresa Gibson. "Now, we see students using this space all the time to study, complete homework, or to socialize with friends. It is a bright, welcoming area and a great upgrade to our beautiful campus."



Central Locker Room Addition

In the spring of 2019, construction began on a 3,318 square foot outdoor locker room at Joliet Central High School.

With construction completed in October, the new facility is ready to be used by over 300 student athletes during the 2019-2020 school year. The new facility also includes an athletic training room where athletes receive care during their athletic season.

There are additional advantages to the new facility. "The outdoor locker room drastically decreases the amount of time that athletes lose during pre-practice preparation. The facility includes storage, so coaches and students no longer have to haul equipment from the inside to the outside," said Joliet Central High School Athletic Director Jennifer Doede. "Another extremely important factor comes into play during a crisis. Athletes and coaches are now able to seek shelter in cases of natural disasters or in situations of a lockdown. The locker rooms really complete our outdoor complex."



IHSA

Academic Achievement Awards

At Joliet Township High School, our athletes continually strive and demonstrate academic excellence. During the 2018-2019 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, Badminton, Competitive Dance, Girls Bowling, Girls Volleyball, Baseball, and Girls Track

Joliet West High School Teams

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

Joliet Township High School Co-op Teams

Boys Golf, Boys Swimming, Girls Golf, Girls Swimming, & Girls Tennis

Class of 2019 Collegiate Signings

A record number of student athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the college or university level. Fifty-five Joliet Township High School students were honored at campus signing ceremonies during the 2018-2019 school year with most receiving significant scholarships.

Individual IHSA State Qualifiers

JCHS Boys Track & Field: Ben Baltz, Jason Dworak, Johnathan Garcia, Jamie Goin, and Brayan Ruiz

JCHS Girls Badminton: Daisy Catalan and Lauryn Luangsomkham

JCHS Speech: Hanna Hagerty and Johnna Grim

JCHS Wrestling: Damaris Stanley

JTHS Girls Golf: Maddy Palmer

JWHS Boys Track & Field: Davaul Bailey, Jabari Harris, Felix Jahn, Nasir Lacey, and Andre Miles

JWHS Girls Cross Country: Joslyn Prosek

JWHS Journalism: Valerie Villaflor, Ian Duda, Trevor Gould, Kailey Staniszewski, Daniela Jimenez, Louie Mendoza, Geraldine Jimenez, Kelly Rappaport, Kiersten Jordan, Aileen Carranza, Alita Stukel, and Lawson Sizemore

JWHS Speech: Tony Nardi and Morgan Beene

JWHS Math: Mary Pelzer, Summit Kummar, Robert Fry, and Sean Zarobsky

Team IHSA State Qualifiers

JCHS Girls Bowling
JCHS Cheerleading
JWHS Boys Bowling
JWHS Cheerleading
JWHS Girls Bowling
JWHS Journalism
JWHS Softball

SPC Conference Champions

JTHS Girls Golf
JWHS Softball
JWHS Speech

IHSA Regional Champions

JCHS Girls Basketball: Team
JCHS Speech: Hanna Hagerty and Johnna Grimm, Dramatic Duet Acting
JWHS Boys Bowling: Lucas Pirc, Individual Regional Champion
JWHS Boys Bowling: Team
JWHS Softball: Team
JWHS Speech: Tony Nardi, Dramatic Interpretation Regional Champion; Kendall Schlegel, Informative Speaking Regional Champion; Madi Schott, Radio Speaking Regional Champion; and Morgan Beene, Special Occasion Speaking Regional Champion

IHSA Sectional Champions

JCHS Badminton: Lauryn Luangsomkham, Individual Sectional Champion
JWHS Girls Bowling: Brooklinn Chavez, Individual Sectional Champion
JWHS Girls Bowling: Team
JWHS Softball: Team
JWHS Journalism: Team

Super-Sectional Champions

JWHS Softball

IHSA State Placers

JCHS Cheerleading: Team, 7th Place, Co-Ed Team
JWHS Boys Bowling: Team, Third Place
JWHS Cheerleading: Team, 5th Place – Large Team
JWHS Girls Bowling: Team, 4th Place
JWHS Journalism – Team, 5th Place
JWHS Journalism – Geraldine Jimenez, 1st Place in Infographics; Ian Duda, Trevor Gould, and Kailey Staniszewski, 1st Place in Video News; Alita Stukel, 4th Place Review Writing; and Val Villaflor, 5th Place in Broadcast News
JWHS Softball: Team, 4th Place

IHSA Individual All-State Teams

JWHS Boys Bowling: Michael Grether

JWHS Girls Bowling: Alexis Robbins

JWHS Girls Volleyball: Emma Baxter

JWHS Softball: Savannah Fierke, Madison Fraser, Morgan Gersch, Lauren Russell

Special Olympic Illinois State Champions

JTHS Special Olympics Basketball Gold Team - Division 6

National Service Competition Qualifiers

JCHS Varsity Air Rifle Team

JWHS Varsity Air Rifle Team

