

Annual Report School Year 2016-2017

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This publication has been prepared for the purpose of assisting the community and parents in understanding District 204 programs and operations; challenges and growth; and finance. For more information about JTHS, visit www.jths.org.

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Dr. McCarthy's Welcome



Dear Partner in Education,

Joliet Township High School proudly presents the 2016-2017 Annual Report to share information about the educational successes and programs achieved during the previous academic year. At JTHS, we continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to provide a world-class educational experience for our students.

The pages of this report will tell the story of our achievements, as well as our challenges. We continue to follow our Strategic Plan as a road map for all District initiatives and improvements. During the 2016-2017 school year, a Strategic Planning Team comprised of parents, students, community members, faculty, support staff, administrators and Board of Education members participated in a Strategic Plan Periodic Update to examine and revise the District's existing Strategic Plan. The 2015-2021 plan was reaffirmed and a strategy was added to provide a culturally responsive educational program and increase the diversity of our faculty and administration.

With the guidance of the Strategic Plan, our students are achieving at levels that are gaining national attention. Within this report, we are proud to highlight that JTHS is the CollegeBoard Advanced Placement® District of the Year. This makes us the one small sized School District nationwide in 2017 to win this award for simultaneously expanding access to Advanced Placement Program courses and improving student performance on AP Exams. In the educational world, receiving this award is like winning the academic Super Bowl, and I am extremely proud of our students and staff.

Of course, we could not achieve our success working in isolation. On May 2, 2017, over 350 JTHS volunteers and community partners attended our annual Salute to Service Partnership Recognition Event held at the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate. There was a record number of attendees and is truly reflective of the community support and partnerships developed throughout the years. We are so very thankful for this support.

Thanks to our Board of Education, dedicated staff, parent engagement, and community partnerships, JTHS remains the school of choice for our community. Thank you for supporting Joliet Township High School.



Sincerely,

Cheryl McCarthy

Cheryl McCarthy, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Joliet Township High School Board of Education

Every day, students and our community benefit from the JTHS Board of Education's dedication and commitment. 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

Jeff Pierson, President (Since 2001); David Skorupa, Vice President (Since 2015); Tracy Spesia, Secretary (Since 2011); Arlene Albert, Member (Since 1981); Meg Cappel, Member (Since 2017); Angel Contreras, Member (Since 2017); Frank Edmon Jr., Member (Since 2017)

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. For a complete listing of Board of Education meeting dates, please visit www.jths.org.

Board of Education Duties & Responsibilities

- Selection of the Superintendent of Schools
- 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.



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.

Strategic Plan Periodic Update

Achieving the Mission

To achieve the Joliet Township High School mission and continue on the path of targeted goal setting, JTHS held a Strategic Plan Periodic Update on August 26, August 27 and December 2. During the all-day planning sessions, a diverse group of parents, teachers, students, community members, JTHS staff and Board of Education members met to revise the entire Strategic Plan.

Revisions to the Strategic Plan included examining community concerns regarding hiring procedures, promotional practices, and diversity practices, which resulted in a new strategy. The new Strategy 6 states: "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 in order to close the achievement gap."



Strategy 6 Action Planning

Collaborating with all Stakeholders

The Strategic Planning process allows the Board of Education and the District to involve key stakeholders throughout all stages of planning to positively impact the future of JTHS. This includes Action Planning, where community volunteers, parents, teachers, and administrators work side-by-side to develop comprehensive sets of Action Plans to achieve the strategy's intent.

During the months of September, October, and November, the Strategy 6 Action Planning Team, led by retired JJC President J.D. Ross and Joliet West High School Assistant Principal Jo Wooten, met once a week to develop Action Plans. The group of over 40 volunteers made Strategic Planning history as the largest planning group since JTHS first began Strategic Planning in 2001.

The planning team did not disappoint and successfully developed Action Plans with Specific Results designed to diversify the JTHS workforce while closing the achievement gap. Specific Results included:

6.1 JTHS will implement a comprehensive, systematic process to support all underperforming students, with particular attention paid to African American males.

6.2 JTHS will create and implement 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.

6.3 JTHS will implement comprehensive recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion policies and procedures to increase diversity of faculty and administration.

6.4 JTHS will implement professional development that will result in staff demonstrating ownership of practices that enhance the academic and social emotional advancement for students of color.

6.5 JTHS will implement a comprehensive program for students of color which promotes teaching as a vital and noble profession that provides experiences, supports, and benefits to encourage students to become educators in District 204.



The Joliet Township High School Board of Education unanimously approved the new strategy and all associated Action Plans at the 2016 December Board Meeting. "I am extremely grateful for the dedication of the Action Planning Team," said Board of Education President Jeff Pierson. "The vision and blueprint set forth by these Action Plans will positively impact student achievement and shape the future of our District."

Improved Communications

Strategy 2 - Effective Internal & External Communication

During the 2016-2017 school year, Joliet Township High School introduced the following methods of communication to keep parents, guardians, and alumni informed:

EschoolPlus Family App

Parents and guardians are encouraged to join JTHS in reaching our goal to increase student attendance by setting up alerts using the eSchoolPlus Family App. This application allows families to receive instant notification when a student is absent or tardy. Classwork, schedules, and grades can also be viewed, all through a smart phone or tablet. For more information and assistance with the

App, including an instructional video, visit: www.jths.org.

**START RECEIVING JTHS
TEXT MESSAGES**

**OPT-IN AT ANY TIME BY SIMPLY
SENDING "Y" (OR "YES"),
VIA TEXT MESSAGE TO 67587.**

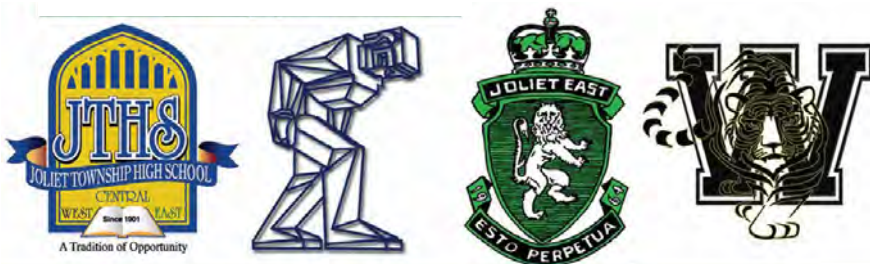
DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
JORDAN SMUKSTA AT JSMUKSTA@JTHS.ORG OR AT 815-727-6821

Text Messages

JTHS parents and guardians can sign up to receive text messages from our SchoolMessenger text number. If you would like to receive our text messages you must opt-in by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 67587.

Alumni Nations

Designed to connect alumni, support Reunion Coordinators, and publicize upcoming alumni events, JTHS Alumni Nations provides each high school with an online presence that has been developed to cultivate the pride and connections among JTHS, Central, West, and East alumni. All JTHS alumni are invited to join at <https://jthsalumni.nationbuilder.com/>.



COFFEE AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Strategy 2 - Developing Positive Relationships & Engaging Stakeholders

The Joliet Township High School Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Cheryl McCarthy hosted a series of conversations at various locations within the community during the 2016-2017 school year, including the Spanish Community Center, Unity CDC, Troy School District and the JTHS Administrative Center.

The Coffee & Community Conversations opened the door to a wealth of feedback from parents and community members as they engaged in candid conversation regarding JTHS and issues impacting education. There was no structured agenda, and guests could arrive and leave at any time during the 7 to 8 p.m. period. Building on the success of this new program, the JTHS Board of Education and Dr. McCarthy will continue to host these conversations during the 2017-2018 school year.

"This was a great way to connect face-to-face with our community in a relaxed setting," said McCarthy. "We are looking forward to continuing these conversations next year."

2017-2018 Dates & Locations—All Conversations take place from 7 to 8 p.m.

August 28, 2017 | Joliet Central High School Student Center, 201 E. Jefferson St. Joliet

October 23, 2017 | Joliet West High School Cafeteria, 401 N. Larkin Ave. Joliet

January 22, 2018 | Spanish Community Center, 309 N Eastern Ave. Joliet

March 19, 2018 | Unity CDC, 1 Doris Ave. Joliet

JTHS Academies

Strategy 4 - Empowering Students to Compete and Contribute

A hallmark of the JTHS Academy Structure is the relevant curriculum and project-based learning that our students experience on a daily basis.

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

In the JTHS Academies, students receive an individualized education related to their career interests, and teams of teachers collaborate to prepare interdisciplinary learning opportunities that relate to each academy's theme.

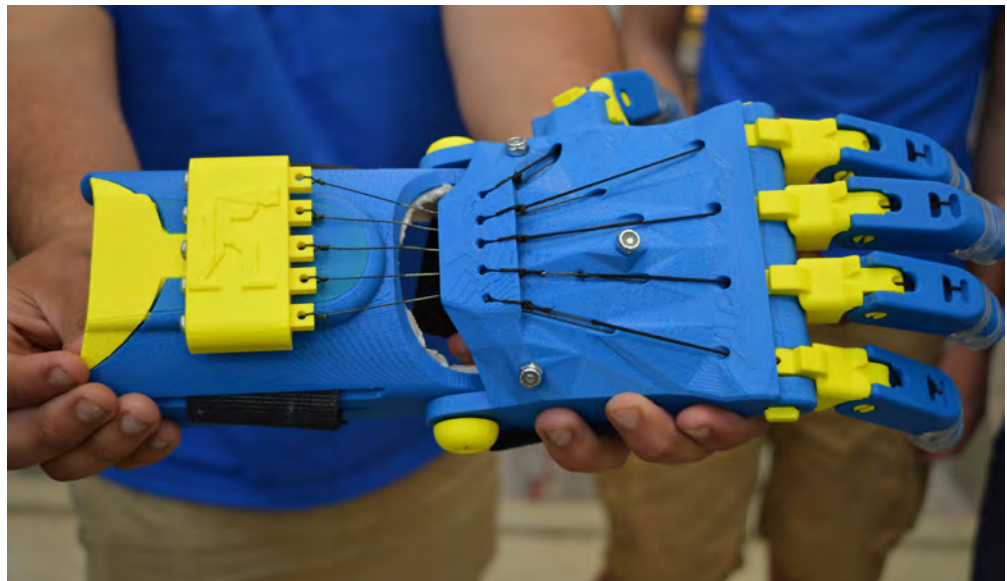
JC Engineers Build Prosthetic Hand for Boy in Need

Strategies 3 & 4 - Academies & Character

Project-based learning and real-world application were key learning outcomes for students participating in the STEM Academy's JC Engineers.

Through a partnership with e-NABLE, the JC Engineers became an approved provider of 3D printed prosthetics, putting their knowledge to the test as they designed and 3D printed a prosthetic hand for 11-year-old Ashton, a boy who lost his fingers in a firework accident.

The hand was specifically designed for Ashton in his favorite colors.



JC Engineers constructed and tested a prosthetic prototype (pictured above) before 3D printing the final product.

"Our students wanted to make sure the hand was truly customized for Ashton," said STEM Teacher Dale West. "When they found out his favorite game, they set to work on the design of a 3D printed logo that would be on the hand. They thought of every detail beyond just the basic design of a fully functioning prosthetic."

With his new hand, Ashton is looking forward to throwing a ball and playing with his brother.

Dale West is extremely proud of his students. "Each one of them contributed in some way that really made this project come full circle. The students just really blew my mind away."

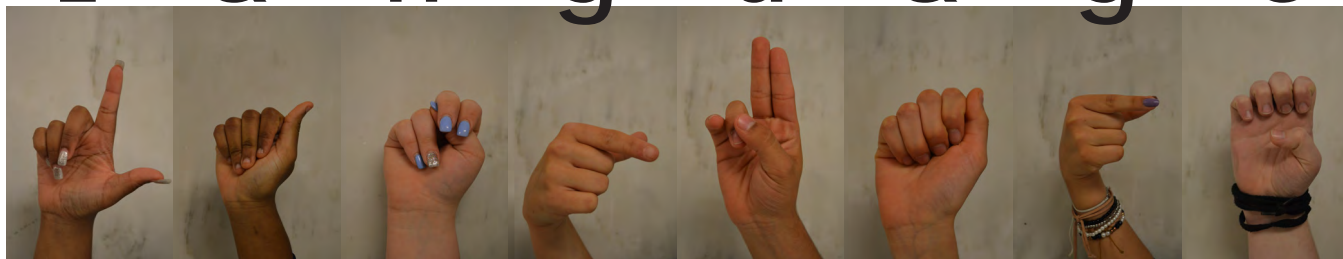


S i g n



American Sign Language
Mission in Action
Empowering Students to
Contribute Positively

L a n g u a g e



When her freshman year began, JTHS student Kendall Fris was disappointed to learn that the District did not offer an American Sign Language (ASL) course.

Instead of just accepting this fact, Fris decided to take action, approaching members of administration with a solution-oriented approach. Working with Alberto Filipponi, District Director of Curriculum for Social Science and World Languages, Fris learned first-hand knowledge of the curriculum proposal process and created a formal proposal that included the research of curriculum textbooks, instructor requirements, costs, and certification for students who completed the course.

After extensive research, Fris delivered her proposal to the JTHS Curriculum Coordinating Council, which resulted in Board approval of ASL 1 and ASL 2 as new courses for the 2016-2017 school year. JTHS



students now have the opportunity to learn American Sign Language while learning about the deaf culture.

"The students have overwhelmingly responded positively to the course," said ASL Teacher Wendy Weith.

While learning new sign language vocabulary, the students work on their expressive and receptive communication skills in ASL.

"This class has prepared and pushed me to go outside of my comfort zone and to overcome fears of presenting and communicating in front of others," said student Janie Ibarra. "It gives students marketability for future careers because they have been given the opportunity to become bilingual or, in some cases, trilingual."



Curriculum & Instruction

SAT Exam

Continuing the Measurement of Student Growth

JTHS has used ACT's Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) over the last decade to assess academic progress in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The ACT exam was part of the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) mandated by the State of Illinois from 2001 to 2014.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) changed the state-mandated test from the ACT to the SAT and funded the SAT during the 2016-2017 school year. The District continued to use the EPAS assessment system during the 2016-2017 school year, and junior students took both the ACT and SAT.

JTHS will transition to the SAT assessment during the 2017-2018 school year, allowing the district to continue to chart progress and growth through a nationally recognized assessment.



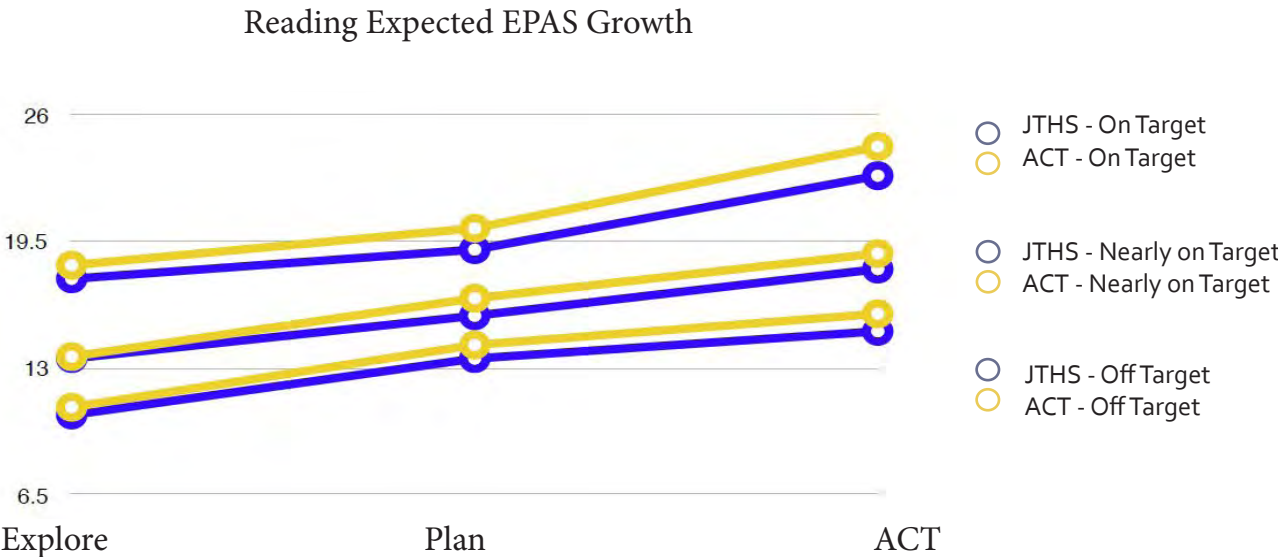
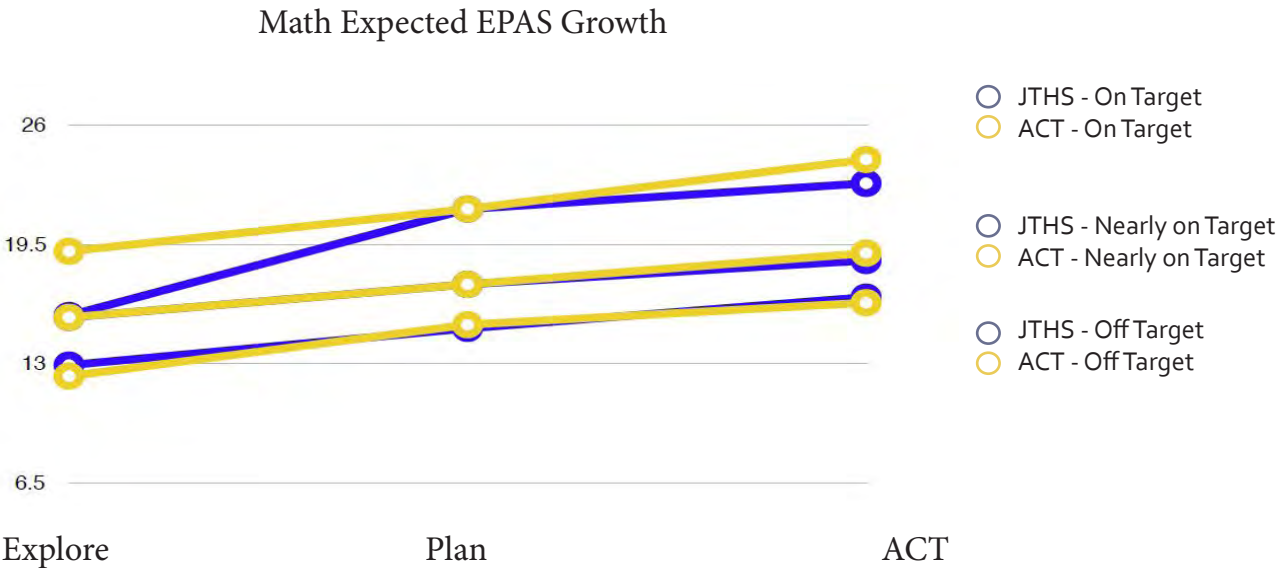
EPAS Assessment System

Strategy 1—Achieving Student Growth Targets

Student improvement is a key indicator of our school district's success. To measure student improvement from one grade level to the next, Joliet Township High School continued to use the EPAS Assessment System.

EPAS includes three assessments: EXPLORE, which is taken in the eighth and ninth grade; PLAN, which is taken during the tenth grade; and ACT, which is taken during the junior and or senior year. To gain a baseline measurement score, students are grouped into three categories established by ACT: "On Target," "Nearly On Target," and "Off Target".

The graphs below illustrate District assessment growth from the class of 2016 as compared to ACT's growth targets.



Advanced Placement & Dual Credit *Strategy 4 - College & Career Readiness*

At JTHS, students can earn college credit through a variety of Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses. Joliet Township High School currently offers 18 Advanced Placement and 28 Dual Credit courses.

Advanced Placement® School District of the Year Award



On February 8, 2017, Joliet Township High School District 204 was named the College Board's Advanced Placement® District of the Year for being the nation's leader among small school districts in simultaneously expanding access to Advanced Placement Program® (AP) courses and improving students' performance on AP Exams.

Advanced Placement courses allow students to earn college credit while enrolled in high school. Participating in AP coursework leads to college savings for families because the typical student who scores a 3 or higher on two AP Exams has the potential to save, on average, \$1,779 at a public four-year college and over \$6,000 at a private institution.

"This award shows that Joliet Township High School District 204 is challenging many students to achieve at the highest levels," said Trevor Packer, head of the College Board's AP Program. "The teachers and administrators in this district are clearly committed to ensuring that a more diverse population of students attains the benefits of AP—that they gain confidence, learn how to craft and

defend arguments, earn college credit, and are ready to succeed in college. Congratulations to all the educators, parents, and students whose dedication and hard work are behind this well-deserved recognition.”

From 2014 to 2016, Joliet Township High School District 204:

- Simultaneously and continuously increased the number of students taking AP classes while improving successful outcomes (a score of 3 or higher) on AP Exams, with 39 percent of all AP students scoring a 3 or higher in 2016.
- Increased student participation in AP by 16 percent annually and the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 4 percent annually.
- Increased the percentage of traditionally underrepresented minority AP students earning a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 7 percent annually — an increase of 83 students since 2014.

Increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher is the ideal scenario for a district’s AP program, indicating that the district is successfully preparing a larger array of its students for the rigor of AP and college studies.

“I am proud of our students and staff who have worked so hard to earn this national award,” said Dr. Cheryl McCarthy, Joliet Township High School Superintendent. “This is a perfect example of how our Strategic Plan has continually pushed us to limits we did not even think were possible.”

To view the video highlighting the success of the JTHS Advanced Placement program, visit: <https://binged.it/2y6rRrd>.

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

Student Achievement

Strategy 4—College & Career Readiness

ACT Scores for the Class of 2017

The average ACT score for the top 10 percent of students who took the ACT was 27.6 percent. The top 20 percent of students taking the test had an average score of 25.7 percent. JTHS had 1,126 students who took the ACT test from the Class of 2017.

Illinois State Scholars

Seventy students from the graduating class of 2017 earned the distinction of 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 across the state.

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

Ben Hallihan, Jessy Marasco and Grace Meagher were named Commended Students for the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



Facilities

Strategy 2—Creating a Welcoming Environment

Joliet West High School Main Entrance

Joliet West High School broke ground on a new 3,523 square foot addition during the 2016-2017 school year. The one story addition creates a new main entrance for the campus to achieve the goal of ensuring a welcoming environment while increasing safety and security. The new main entrance has an estimated completion date of December 2017. The addition includes a vestibule, waiting area, metal detector and bag check area, two conference rooms, and a Police Liaison Office. Parents, community, staff and all visitors will experience a multi-functional space with natural lighting immediately upon entry to the school.



JOLIET WEST
HIGH SCHOOL

VISITOR ENTRANCE
EXTERIOR VIEW

March 24, 2017



Community Connections

Strategy 2—Engaging Stakeholders

Joliet Region Interfaith Education Council

Established in 2009, the Joliet Region Interfaith Education Council (JRIEC) is a group of faith-based and community leaders who work in partnership with the superintendent and key JTHS leaders to promote and encourage the use of school resources and to provide the support necessary to ensure that our community is unified. JRIEC actively plans events and activities that strengthen the partnership between faith-based organizations, our community, and Joliet Township High School. The group has been instrumental in implementing the restorative justice Problem Solving Circle process, which has dramatically decreased the expulsion rate. To further connect with JTHS students, during the 2016-2017 school year, JRIEC held an On the Table conversation with over 30 students and community members. Enriching conversation took place over dinner and issues impacting our schools and community were discussed.



Greater Joliet Area YMCA's Teen Achievers

One of the many JTHS community partnerships includes the Greater Joliet Area YMCA's Teen Achievers, a national academic and career development program for high school youth.

Through Teen Achievers, JTHS students receive inspiration and guidance in setting goals to graduate from high school, gaining entry into college, and ultimately achieving successful entry into a career of their choosing. Under the direction of Maurice Fears, the Greater Joliet Area YMCA's Teen Achievers program helps teens to believe in themselves and improve self-esteem. It focuses on character development, helping teens strengthen positive traits such as honesty, respect and responsibility.

The Y's Teen Achievers program provides students with a number of opportunities as they work toward graduating from high school, including: tutoring, mentorship, college tours, leadership development, career workshops, SAT/ACT preparation and so much more.

Since 2005, ninety-two percent of the graduating seniors in the Teen Achievers Program have advanced to institutions of higher learning. Senior Jada Brand is just one example of the success Teen Achievers helps JTHS students achieve. "I am attending my dream college in the fall, Howard University," said Brand. Without this program I probably would not have even been to a college."



Executive Director Maurice Fears added, "We actually had two of our past Teen Achievers, now colleges graduates, give us the college tour at University of Memphis when we visited this year. That was so inspirational and a moment of truth. Having this wonderful partnership with JTHS has been amazing."

Financial Excellence and Planning

Strategy 5—Securing & Leveraging Resources

JTHS Fiscal Responsibility

With financial uncertainty at the state and federal levels, the importance of sound financial planning is increasingly important. School districts in Illinois continue to see a decrease in state funding; however, this external financial factor has not reduced JTHS' educational programs. JTHS' proven track record for sound financial planning is the key to remaining financially stable. Every year, the District undergoes an independent audit conducted by an outside agency. The audit gives an objective view of District finance that is used to evaluate accounting, expenditures, and budgeting.

JTHS Receives ASBO Certificate of Excellence Award in Financial Reporting

The Association of School Business Officials International awarded Joliet Township High School District 204 the 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 in 2016.

This is the 31st year JTHS has participated in the COE program, which is a true reflection of the District's commitment to fiscal integrity.

"The state of school funding in Illinois is presenting challenges that we take very seriously in our District, and sound fiscal management is more important than ever in these times of financial uncertainty," said Dr. Ilandus Hampton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. "The award is a true reflection of our ongoing commitment to fiscal integrity and transparency."

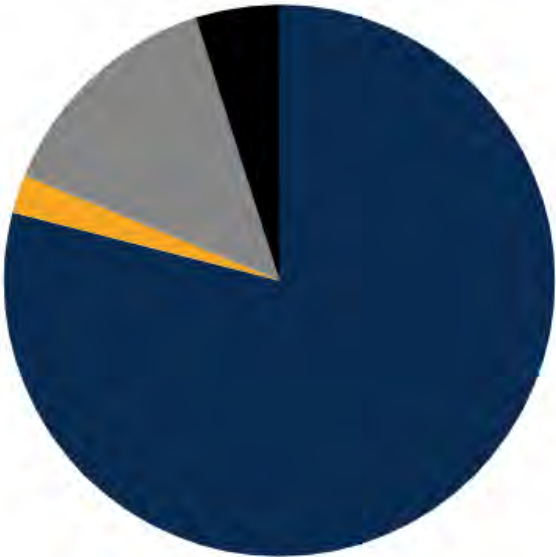


Revenue and Expenditures

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.

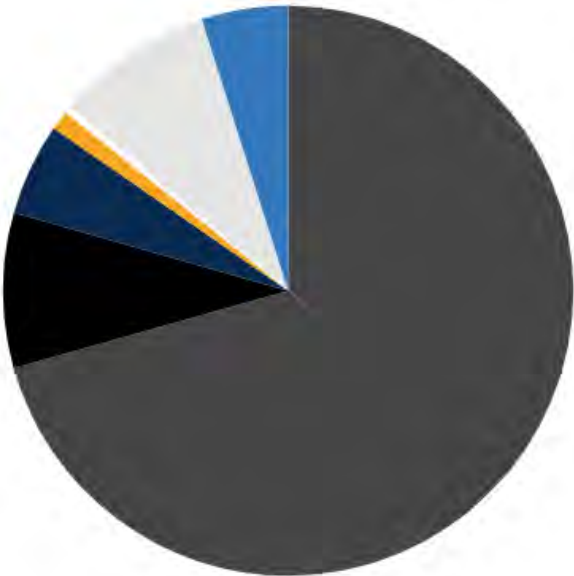
Revenue Sources

- Local Property Taxes 78.97%
- State 13.88%
- Federal 4.91%
- Other Local 2.24%



Expenditure Sources

- Salaries & Benefits 70.63%
- Purchased Services 8.79%
- Supplies and Materials 5.23%
- Capital Outlay 1.11%
- Other Objects 0.41%
- Bonds 8.92%
- Tuition 4.91%



1:1 Technology

Strategy 5 - Education Infrastructure Upgrade Project

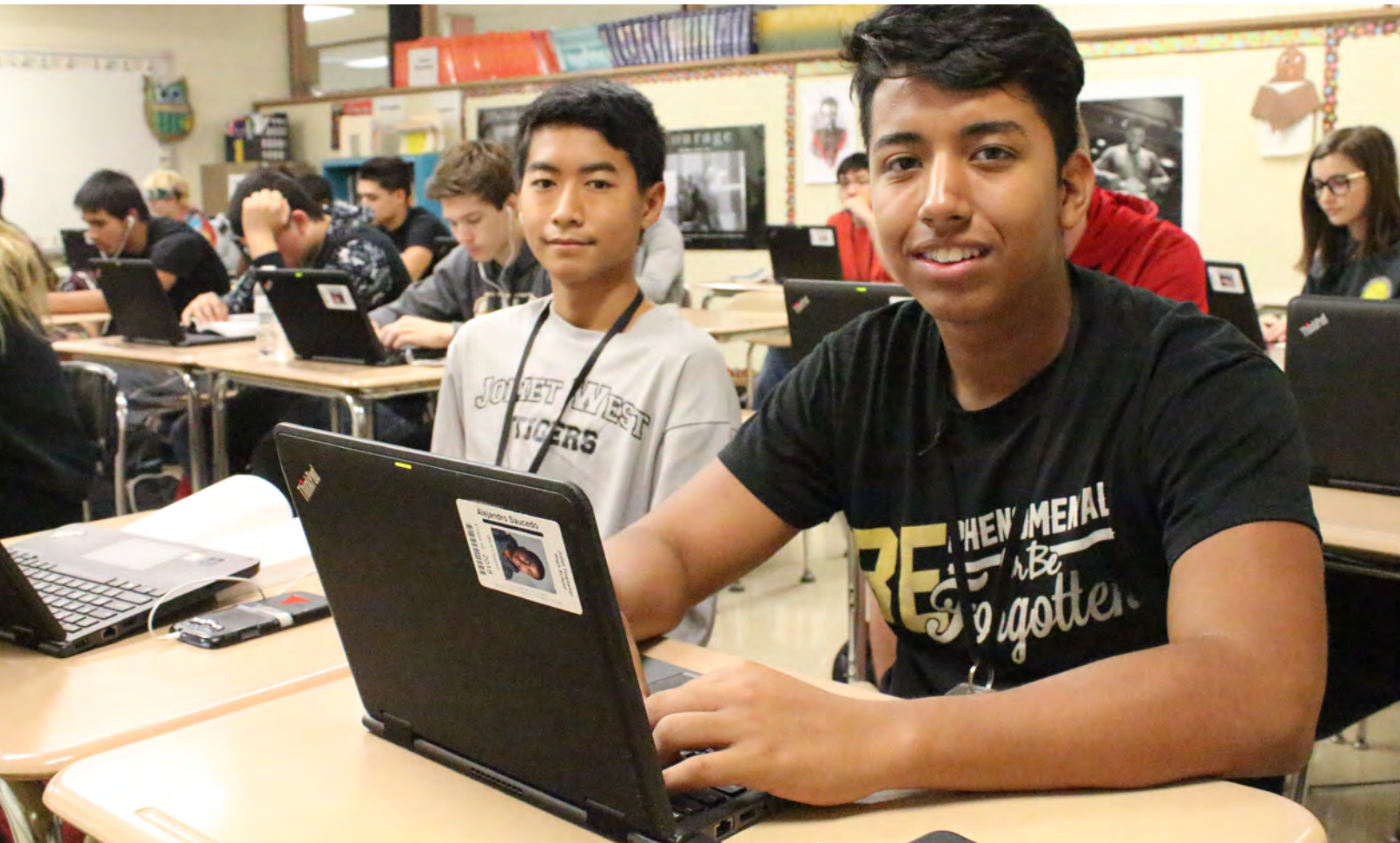
Fiscal responsibility and Strategic Planning allow JTHS to fund projects that improve the educational environment for students and staff. To continue the support of the District's mission and 1:1 technology initiative, JTHS has secured and leveraged the necessary resources to undergo a \$2,800,000 technology infrastructure upgrade. JTHS will leverage E-rate funding for \$700,000 dollars of the project and is financing the remainder of the project over five years at zero percent interest. The work is critical because the District's infrastructure is outdated and operating beyond life expectancy, while the District's technological demands continue to increase. The end-to-end network upgrades include the connection of computing devices through network distribution points to the main data centers.



Project benefits include:

- Tripled wireless connection speed.
- Increased speed capabilities between distribution closets by ten times the current capacity, accommodating the increased wireless connection speed and expected future increases.
- Reduced battery consumption on mobile devices due to direct antenna beam technology.

While work began during the 2016-2017 school year, JTHS is entering into the next phase of the upgrade project to prepare for a seamless transition to the new-future ready environment during the summer of 2018. JTHS looks forward to expanding our curriculum through advanced technological integration, increased blended learning opportunities, and an online learning environment that will empower students.



Athletics & Activities

Strategy 5 - Securing Resources to Provide Opportunity

IHSA Academic Achievement Awards

Academic excellence is continually demonstrated by Joliet Township High School student athletes. The 2016-2017 school year was no exception as 9 Central, 6 West and 4 co-op 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 included: JCHS Badminton, JCHS Boys Cross Country, JCHS Girls Cross Country, JTHS Boys Golf, JTHS Girls Golf, JTHS Girls Swimming, JCHS Girls Volleyball, JCHS Competitive Dance, JCHS Girls Bowling, JCHS Baseball, JCHS Softball, JCHS Girls Track & Field, JCHS Boys Volleyball, JWHS Cheerleading, JWHS Dance, JTHS Girls Tennis, JWHS Girls Volleyball, JWHS Girls Cross Country, and JWHS Boys Cross Country.

Collegiate Signings - Continuing Education and Athletics Beyond High School

Colleges and Universities have taken note of our students' athletic and academic talents, signing a record number of athletes during the 2016-2017 school year. Twenty-five Central and 27 West students signed their intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level with most receiving significant scholarships.



2016-2017 Athletic Achievements

State Qualifiers

JCHS Boys Cross Country: David Carter, Andre Martinez, Vicente Moreno, Nick Rios, Raul Rosendo, Francisco Saenz, Oscar Tejeda, AJ Stewack (alternate), Ben Hallihan (alternate)
JCHS Bass Fishing: Sean Cook, John Murphy, Aidan Walsh, Nathan Walsh, Tommy Zobel
JTHS Boys Swimming Team: Erik Fosen, David Paskvan, Ben Chambers, Jonathon Yanello
JTHS Boys Swimming Individual - Erik Fosen, Jonathon Yanello
JTHS Boys Tennis: Morgan Red, Luis Diaz, Tim Spesia
JTHS Girls Tennis: Eileen Carney
JCHS Track & Field: Angelo Villanueva, Oswaldo Guzman
JWHS Cheerleading: 2017 State Final Sportsmanship Award
JWHS Dance
JWHS Girls Cross Country: Maddie Blaauw
JWHS Wrestling: Austin Poch
JWHS Boys Track & Field: Daelin Lockman
JWHS Girls Track & Field: Shyasia Baker, Niyah Tucker, Melzina Johnson, LaTaydra Thompson



Regional Champions

JCHS Boys Basketball
JWHS Girls Volleyball
JWHS Boys Basketball
JWHS Softball

SPC Team Champions

JCHS Badminton
JWHS Boys Basketball
JWHS Cheerleading

Sectional Champions

JWHS Cheerleading
JTHS Girls Tennis: Eileen Carney
JTHS Boys Swimming: Jonathon Yanello

IHSA State Placers

JWHS Cheerleading - Large Division, 2nd Place
JWHS Girls Track: Melzina Johnson, 4th place
JWHS Girls Track: LaTaydra Thompson, 7th place
JTHS Boys Swimming: Jonathon Yanello, 10th place

Individual All-State Teams

JCHS Girls Soccer: Hayley Bazan
JWHS Boys Basketball: Trevian Bell
JWHS Boys Basketball: Teyvion Kirk
JWHS Girls Track: Melzina Johnson
JWHS Girls Track: LaTaydra Thompson
JWHS Girls Volleyball: Jenny Koerner
JWHS Softball: Sydney Budzinski, Kiley Robb, DeShonte Smith

Tradition of Musical Excellence - Central & West Band SuperState

The JTHS tradition of musical excellence carried on throughout the 2016-2017 school year as the Joliet Central and West Symphonic Bands performed in the highly selective University of Illinois SuperState Band Festival in May of 2017.

This festival recognizes the top concert band programs in the state of Illinois. The 2017 SuperState festival marks the first time that both Joliet Central and Joliet West were selected in the same year.

To qualify, high school bands had to submit an audition recording no less than 12 minutes and no more than 20 minutes in length. Only a handful of bands were selected.

Performing at SuperState is one of the highest honors for a band in the state of Illinois, and the band's acceptance into this festival is a testament to the work ethic and artistry of the student musicians in our District and their middle school and junior high training prior to high school. The Joliet Central and West Symphonic Bands are directed by Mr. Don Stinson and Mr. Eric Wellman.



Central Chess Team Competes in Chess Super Nationals VI Tournament

After a strong finish at the IHSA State Chess Tournament in Peoria on February 11, 2017, the Joliet Central High School Chess Team advanced to the National Competition. The Chess Super Nationals VI Tournament, held in Nashville, Tennessee, is the largest chess tournament in the world, which brought over 5,300 competitors and five Grand Chess Masters. After intense rounds of competition, the Steelmen won two team trophies and several players received medals, including Daniel Singh who finished 4th in his division. In addition, the team earned a seventh place standing in the Unrated Division led by Captain Cesar Escutia, Daniel Singh, and Mayreili Morales.

The Joliet Central High School Chess Super National Competitors were Cesar Escutia, Jaime Huichapa, Jose Ibarra, Jeremy Overcash, Mozzel Rodriguez, Daniel Singh, Hunter Binder, John Linehan, Jorge Zamudio, Mayreli Morales, and Tyson Guseman. The team was coached by Mr. Rodney Coatney and Mr. Luis Medina.

This marks the first time in school history that the chess team has brought home trophies and medals at the National Level.



