

JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT
SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012



INTRODUCTION

This publication has been prepared for the purpose of assisting the community 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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**“OUR STUDENTS’ SUCCESS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF PARENTS, COMMUNITY,
AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.”**



Dear Parents and Community Members,

Dr. Cheryl McCarthy
Superintendent

Joliet Township High School is pleased to offer our 2011-2012 Annual Report. The report provides valuable data regarding student performance and initiatives, while celebrating our accomplishments and acknowledging our challenges.

It is a great time to be a student at Joliet Township High School. In this report, you will read about our 1:1 technology initiative, which will provide all freshman students with their own personal, portable computing device to use in class and at home. The 1:1 initiative allows our students to learn “anytime, anywhere,” and promotes student engagement for the 21st Century learner. In addition, JTHS has implemented a character initiative to promote the 7 character attributes of Confidence, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility, Tolerance, Integrity, and Perseverance. These are just two of the exciting initiatives addressed in this report.

Joliet Township High School also understands that there are areas in need of improvement. Our District 204 Strategic Plan, written collaboratively with the help of community, parents, Board of Education members, students and staff, has been a guiding force for the district and all school improvement initiatives fall directly within this plan. This report provides an overview of our mission, strategies, and objectives. It also provides details about the Formal Strategic Update to be held on October 1 and 2.

JTHS is dedicated to providing a rigorous and relevant educational experience to each and every student. This report was written to provide an informative snapshot of the programs, services and plans that JTHS has implemented to achieve this goal. For more information regarding JTHS, please visit www.jths.org.

Sincerely,

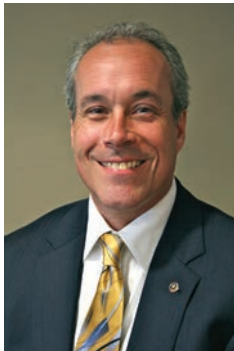
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl McCarthy".

Dr. Cheryl McCarthy
JTHS Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Pierson".

Jeff Pierson
Board President

PRESIDENT



Jeff Pierson
President
Served since 2001



Dr. Tom Streitz
Served since 2007

VICE PRESIDENT



Arlene Albert
Vice President
Served since 1981



Don Dickinson
Elected 2011

SECRETARY



Earl Petersen
Secretary
Served since 2003



Paige Vanderhyden
Elected 2011



Tracy Spesia
Appointed 2011

“ AT JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, WE ARE THANKFUL TO HAVE A BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT WORKS COLLABORATIVELY TO BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY. ”

JTHS SUPERINTENDENT, DR. CHERYL MCCARTHY

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Joliet Township High School - Strategic Planning

The Joliet Township High School Board of Education approved the district's 5-year Strategic Plan on April 21, 2009. The plan, written by a group of 29 planning team members, included teachers, students, parents, community members, business representatives, board members and administrators. They dedicated three days to accomplish an extraordinary mission—charting the future of the JTHS School District.

The plan is a working document that outlines the district's beliefs, objectives and the five strategies JTHS follows to achieve its mission.



Formal Strategic Update 2012

On October 1st and 2nd, JTHS will embark upon a 2-day Formal Strategic Update. This is a board-sanctioned opportunity to review, update, and extend the plan for good cause.

While JTHS has made significant progress, an update is necessary for two reasons.

First, changes in society continue after the board approves a Strategic Plan. For example, new state education mandates and a reduction of educational funding have had a significant impact upon the current Strategic Plan.

Second, as action plans are followed, changes may be necessary to deepen implementation. In addition, JTHS may find that some action plans have become obsolete.

JTHS will communicate the results of the update upon completion. We look forward to the process of continued school improvement.

Accountability - Strategic Planning Progress Report

A formal Strategic Planning Progress Report was recently delivered to the 29 members of the Strategic Planning Team.

The purpose of the progress report was to review the district's progress on achieving objectives and implementing strategies. The secondary purpose was to discuss the implementation schedule in light of the 2012-2013 budget. The accomplishments below reflect District 204's Strategic Planning efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED

Freshman Academy

All ninth graders enter the Freshman Academy, a small school-within-a-school that assists with the transition to high school. Freshmen begin the day a period earlier, which allows them to take an additional elective or receive help in math and/or reading.

JTHS Career Academies

All students choose one of five career-based small learning communities which provides an individualized education relevant to students' career interests. Teams of teachers work together to prepare interdisciplinary lessons that relate to the academy's focus.

Advisory Program

Guides students through their high school plan and transition to post-secondary experience by establishing a relationship with a teacher mentor beginning in the student's freshman year.

College Prep & Honors Curriculum

All JTHS students receive a rigorous and relevant education through a College Prep or Honors curriculum aligned to state and national standards.

OUR MISSION

JTHS STRATEGIC PLANNING

The mission of Joliet Township High School, a diverse and unified learning community of choice, is to empower every student to acquire and apply the attributes to compete and contribute positively to our community and global society by providing a rigorous, relevant, and innovative education in a safe, supportive, academy environment through a quality, caring, and dedicated staff working in partnership with family and community.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT WAS BUILT ON THESE BELIEFS.

WE BELIEVE

We Believe:

- Every human being possesses inherent worth.
- Individuals are responsible for their own actions.
- Diversity strengthens and enriches society.
- All people can learn.
- Life-long learning is necessary to thrive in a continuously changing world.
- People learn at different rates, in different ways, and in a variety of settings.
- High expectations positively influence performance.
- Motivation, determination, and hard work strengthen the ability of an individual to reach potential.
- The family environment has a strong influence on the development of each of its members.
- Education is a shared responsibility among students, family, staff, and the community.
- An educated public sustains our democracy.
- Honesty, integrity and respect are essential in building mutual trust.
- A safe environment is essential for every individual.
- High quality schools are essential to the quality of life for the whole community.

OUR OBJECTIVES

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

- By the year 2014, every student will meet or exceed district and state standards in reading, writing, math, science, and social science.
- By the year 2014, the graduation rate as defined by the State of Illinois will be 90% or higher.
- All students will develop and implement a challenging Individual Career Plan (ICP) and make a successful transition to further education and a career endeavor of his or her choice.
- All students will consistently demonstrate the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.

OUR STRATEGIES

HOW WE WILL GET THERE

- We will develop and implement innovative plans to motivate and engage students and their families in achieving our strategic objectives.
- We will develop an effective communication and marketing plan to recognize achievement and instill pride and support throughout our school and community.
- We will identify, model, reinforce, and measure the character attributes needed to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.
- We will complete the development of the Career Academy Program and ensure every student develops and implements a meaningful Individual Career Plan (ICP) in partnership with family, community, and staff.
- In collaboration with all sender districts, we will develop and implement a cohesive, rigorous plan to ensure academic and behavioral success of all students.

“OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A RIGOROUS AND RELEVANT ACADEMIC FOUNDATION TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR THE WORKFORCE.”



Karla Guseman
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum and Instruction

JTHS CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO COMPETE AND CONTRIBUTE

The 2011-2012 School Year closed with JTHS on the brink of unprecedented change and innovation. The 1:1 computing initiative promises to grant students 24/7 access to their education; professional development provides teachers with the support necessary to teach 21st century learners; and our academy structure continues to provide students with relevant instruction as they prepare for both college and career.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

In January of 2011, Illinois became one of 40 states that committed to the adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English-language arts and mathematics. The intention of the Common Core Standards Initiative is to establish a rigorous set of standards that provide clear, consistent, academic benchmarks that are aligned from grades K-12. The overall goal is to better prepare students for success in college and the workforce.

Implementation of the Common Core is a multi-phase initiative. Full implementation will begin in 2014 with a new assessment system that measures student growth and academic performance in relation to the established benchmarks.

To actively prepare for the Common Core, JTHS has integrated a 5-year approach to curriculum design and alignment, which began during the 2011-2012 School Year. Teams of teachers and administrators are working with JTHS Curriculum Directors to ensure the development of curricula and assessments that incorporate the Common Core with the JTHS Strategic Plan, academy structure and 1:1 computing initiative.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

In alignment with the Common Core, JTHS Programs of Study provide a comprehensive template for educational planning that students can follow during high school to successfully transition to post-secondary education or the workplace.

Designed to assist in the selection of appropriate classes within a student's academy and Career Interest Pathway, the Programs of Study are the newest addition to the JTHS Course Offerings Guide, which was launched electronically and posted to www.jths.org for the first time during the 2011-2012 School Year.


Electronic viewing of each Program of Study provides a consistent format. Required courses and recommended electives are contained within each Program of Study Chart. It is an interactive document that contains links that will bring the viewer to specific course descriptions once clicked upon.

To view the 2012-2013 Course Offerings Guide and Programs of Study, visit: http://www.jths.org/district204/curriculum_info/course_offering_guide.aspx.

Course Offerings



2012-2013

JTHS Career Academy: Arts & Communication JTHS Career Pathway: Media Communications				Program of Study: Creative Writing				
 Joliet Township High School	JTHS BOARD POLICY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS OF 2013 and all preceding classes—32 Credits							
	ENGLISH 4 credits H- Honors AP – Advanced Placement	MATH 3 credits H- Honors AP – Advanced Placement	SCIENCE 2 credits – 1 life science and 1 physical science H- Honors AP – Advanced Placement	SOCIAL SCIENCES 2.5 credits H- Honors AP – Advanced Placement	APPLIED LIFE 4 credits Health - 5 credit Physical Ed or ROTC – 3.5 credits	RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES (Aligned with Community College & State University System Programs)	TOTAL REQUIRED ELECTIVES 6.5 credits (5 must meet consumer education requirements)	
	University requirements include: 4 credits English, 3 credits math, 3 credits science, 3 credits social sciences and 2 credits in world languages/fine arts.							
	9	English 1 or H	Algebra 1 or H, or Geometry or H	Biology 1 or H	World Affairs or H	Physical Education or ROTC	Multimedia Journalism & Writing	Computer Apps 1 Computer Apps 2
	10	English 2 or H	Geometry or H, or Algebra 2 or College Algebra H	Physics 1 or H	<i>Selected Elective</i>	Physical Education/ Health or ROTC	Drama 1	
	11	English 3 or H, or AP	Algebra 2 or College Algebra H, or Advanced Algebra/Trig or Pre- Calculus H or AP Calculus AB	Chemistry 1 or H	US History or US History AP	Physical Education or ROTC	Advanced Multimedia Journalism & Production	
	12	English 4 or H, or AP or Rhetoric 101 and Rhetoric 102	<i>Selected Elective</i>	<i>Selected Elective</i>	American Government or AP or American National Gov. PSCT 101 1 Semester <i>Selected Elective</i> 1 Semester	Physical Education or ROTC	<i>Selected Elective</i>	
All Honors, Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses are subject to prerequisite criteria. Dual enrollment courses may be used to satisfy high school graduation course requirements. All Students must meet the criteria set forth by Joliet Junior College to participate in dual enrollment courses. See the list below for dual enrollment opportunities for this pathway.								
English		Math	Science	Social Sciences	Career Technical Education			
First Semester	Rhetoric 101			American National Gov. PSCT 101	Computer Applications 1			
Second Semester	Rhetoric 102				Computer Applications 2			
Full Year		Pre-Calculus H AP Calculus AB						

Selected Elective refers to any career technical education, world languages, fine arts or academic course.

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EPAS ASSESSMENT

EPAS ASSESSMENT

The Common Core assessments will provide high-quality data used to measure student progress from one grade level to the next. JTHS currently uses the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) growth model of assessment, which is consistent with the expectations of the Common Core.

The EPAS system contains three assessments: EXPLORE, which is taken during the 8th and 9th grade; PLAN, which is taken during grade 10; and ACT, which is taken during grade 11 or 12.

TRACKING STUDENT GROWTH

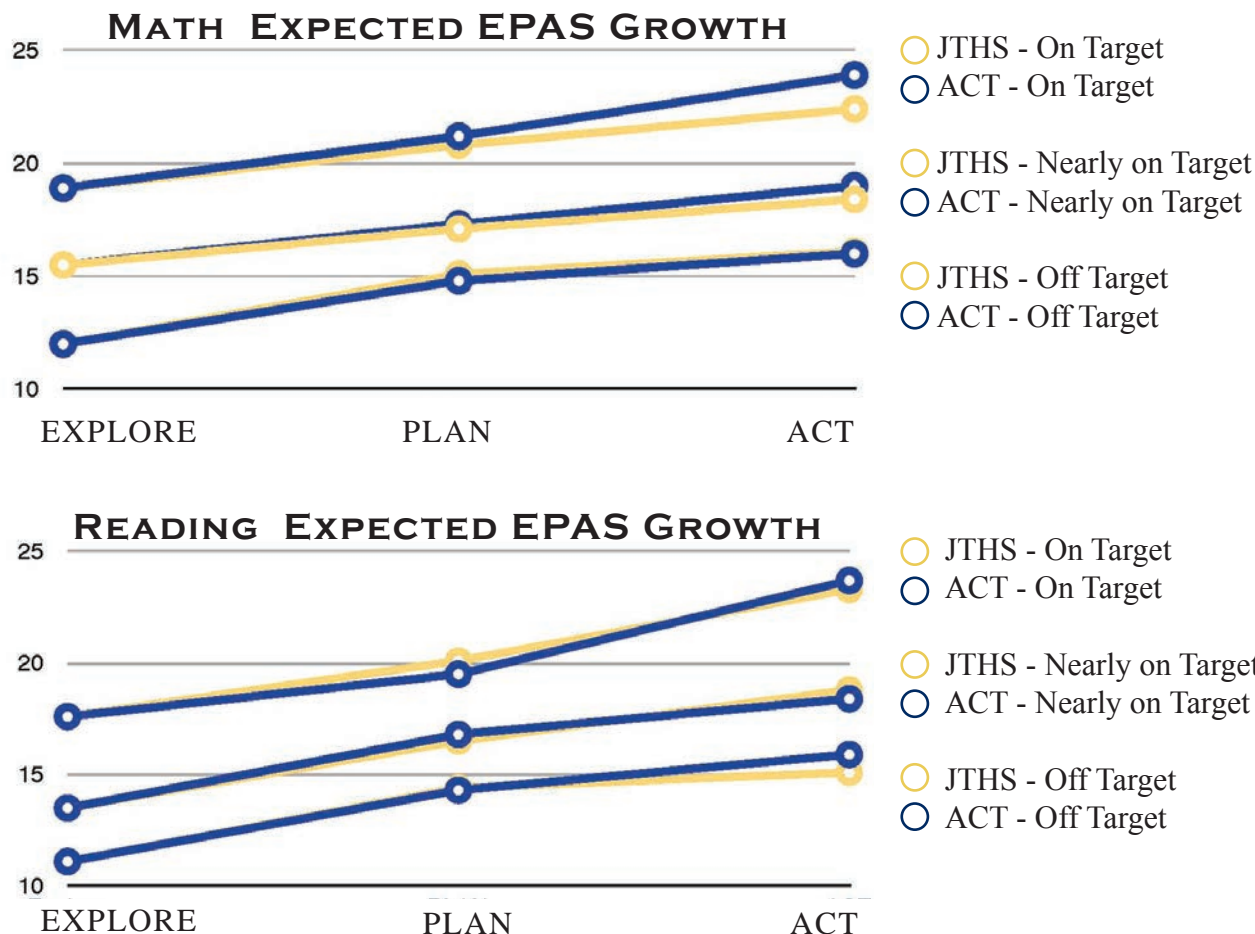
Using ACT's study entitled, "How Much Growth toward College Readiness is Reasonable to Expect in High School?" JTHS developed an academic information monitoring system that provides teachers and administrators with a comprehensive analysis of academic growth between EPAS levels.

The foundation for the EPAS scoring system is ACT's College Readiness Standards, which include EXPLORE benchmark scores that categorize students into 3 categories: "On Target" students who met or exceeded the EXPLORE College Readiness Benchmark; "Nearly On Target" students who were within 2 or fewer points from meeting the benchmark; and "Off Target" students who were more than 2 points from the benchmark.

JTHS OBTAINS STUDENT BASELINE DATA FROM 8TH GRADE EXPLORE TEST RESULTS

The graphs on the following page illustrate district growth for the Class of 2012 in reading and math as compared to the ACT study. The Class of 2012 data will serve as a baseline for future data collection and will allow JTHS to compare growth from one class to the next.

JTHS CLASS OF 2012 DATA SHOWS GROWTH IN ALL THREE CATEGORIES FOR MATH AND READING.



CONCLUSIONS

The score increase from EXPLORE to PLAN was above the ACT average for reading in all three categories of students and was only slightly lower in math for students “On Target” and “Nearly On Target.”

“Off Target” students were above the average in math and reading.

The score increase from PLAN to ACT was slightly below the ACT average in math and reading for all three categories.

1:1 COMPUTING

This fall (2012-2013) ALL incoming freshmen (Class of 2016) will receive a ByteSpeed NL2 Classmate computer to use in school and at home.

Our long-term goal is for every student, grades 9-12, to have a computing device; however, we are beginning our implementation with freshmen only.

Beginning in 2014, 21st century technology-based assessments will be administered to all students in Illinois. The JTHS 1:1 computing initiative will prepare students for these new, online tests.

1:1 technology provides anytime/anywhere learning and opens the doors to the critical thinking and problem solving skills that students need to compete and contribute in our global society.

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

The ByteSpeed NL2 Classmate computers are designed for educational purposes and have a keyboard and tablet. There is a stylus for use with the tablet, so students can take notes, work on math problems, or work on art projects through lessons in class or at home.

COST NEUTRAL

In preparation for the program, JTHS has reduced the cost associated with textbooks, copying and printing. With these reductions, along with other cost-saving measures, this is a cost neutral initiative.

JT LEARN

To support the 1:1 computing environment, JTHS has developed JT Learn, an online educational environment for teacher and student collaboration. JT Learn allows teachers to upload assignments, facilitate online discussions, post grades, and more. JT Learn encourages support and collaborative learning anytime, anywhere.



ACHIEVEMENT

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ACHIEVEMENT LIST

On November 1, 2011 Joliet Township High School became one of 367 school districts in the nation recognized by the College Board with a place on its prestigious second annual AP Achievement List. This is the second consecutive year that JTHS has earned this honor for opening AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher.

The improvement of AP results takes a sustained effort. Inclusion in the 2nd Annual AP District Honor Roll is based upon the following criteria:

- Examination of three years of AP data, from 2009 to 2011
- Increase in participation in/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts
- A steady or increasing percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native students
- Performance levels maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of students in 2011 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2009, or the school has already attained a performance level in which more than 70 percent of the AP students are scoring a 3 or higher

JTHS ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

ENGLISH

English 3 AP Language and Composition
English 4 AP Literature and Composition

MATH

Statistics AP

SCIENCE

Environmental Science AP

SOCIAL SCIENCE

European History AP
United States History AP
Psychology AP

From 2009 to 2011, JTHS has increased the number of students participating in AP from 159 to 201, while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

Joliet Township High School District 204 is dedicated to creating opportunities and strengthening the abilities of our students through activities and athletics. Creating a balance between activities, athletics, and academics is our primary goal.

IHSA STATE QUALIFIERS AND TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

STATE QUALIFIERS:

- JTHS Boys Golf: Individual
- JTHS Boys Tennis: Singles; Doubles
- JWHS Boys Track: 4x100; 100m; 200m
- JCHS Boys Track: 4x100; 4x200
- JWHS Girls Bowling: Individual
- JWHS Wrestling: 138 lbs; 145 lbs; 195 lbs
- JCHS Wrestling: 113 lbs
- JWHS Cheerleading
- JCHS Cheerleading
- JWHS Poms
- JWHS Journalism: Infographic Design; Copy Editing
- JWHS Speech: Original Comedy
- JCHS Choirs: Concert and Show Choirs; Mixed Chorus
- JWHS Bands: Symphonic Wind and Concert Bands

IHSA TELEVISION

Joliet Township High School is proud to join the Illinois High School Association online television network, IHSA TV. The television network allows JTHS to broadcast athletic and school events live and on-demand via the internet.

All programming is student-produced, with faculty support. IHSA TV broadcasting will be incorporated into the Journalism curriculum during the 2012-2013 School Year. This will allow students to obtain extensive experience in multi-media production.

Over 25 Joliet Central and West athletic games and events are currently available online.

To view Joliet Central games and events online visit: www.ihsa.tv/jolietcentral

To view Joliet West games and events online visit: www.ihsa.tv/jolietwest

AWARDS

IHSA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Academic Achievement Award recognizes a team's ability to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher throughout their respective season. The program is designed to reward academic teamwork. The following teams earned this award during the 2011-2012 School Year.

JWHS Girls Bowling: (3.39 GPA)	JCHS Girls Volleyball: (3.72 GPA)
JWHS Cheerleading: (3.07 GPA)	JCHS Boys Cross Country: (3.18 GPA)
JCHS Girls Bowling: (3.17 GPA)	JCHS Girls Cross Country: (3.29 GPA)
JCHS Girls Basketball: (3.12 GPA)	JTHS Boys Golf: (3.09 GPA)
JTHS Girls Golf: (3.0 GPA)	

CLASS OF 2012 ATHLETES

JTHS prepares its students to graduate with the necessary skills to be college and career ready. The following Class of 2012 graduates will continue their athletic careers at the college/university level.

Bemidji State University - SaVaughn Alexander	Joliet Junior College - Joshua Wojnarowski
Dominican University - Taylor Adler	Kankakee Community College - Steven Cernak
Dominican University - Riviera McCollum	Northern Illinois University - Kenneth Carpenter
Eastern Illinois University - Calvin Edwards	Spalding University - Jeff Gersch
Elmhurst College - Jim Spangler	St. Ambrose University - Blake Billups
Elmhurst College - Brianna Thompson	St. Olaf College - Hailey Salazar
Harvard University - Matthew Koran	Tallahassee Community College - Marlon Johnson
Joliet Junior College - Monica Borrego	University of Missouri - Steven Austin
Joliet Junior College - Nicole Gawlik	University of St. Francis - Khadija Cooley
Joliet Junior College - Miranda Lawson	University of St. Francis - Brian Edwards
Joliet Junior College - Kayla Sorensen	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - Curtis Parker
Joliet Junior College - Marcos Vega	

JTHS IS PROUD TO SHOWCASE OUR NEWEST FACILITIES AND UPGRADES!

FIELD TURF AND TRACK

- Looks and feels like natural grass—all year round, no matter the weather
- Cushioned surface minimizes injuries
- School's mascot designed from colored turf promotes school pride
- Durable, multi-use surface used for football, soccer, track, PE, band & more
- Maximum playing time—no game cancellation due to heavy rain
- Increased safety—no ruts or field deterioration
- Low maintenance and upkeep saves money
- Premium grade product with 10 year warranty



CENTRAL CAMPUS

WEST CAMPUS



JOLIET WEST SCIENCE ADDITION

- Increased lab experiences
- Additional access to scientific equipment
- Open foyer for lab experiments requiring more space
- Fume hoods for laboratories
- Outdoor courtyard for environmental studies associated with Biology and environmental classes
- Classrooms designed to maximize student collaboration and differentiated instruction
- Increased storage capacity for laboratory equipment and chemicals
- DNA, double-helix floor representation promotes science



JTHS TRANSPORTATION CENTER

- Indoor bus storage saves money in labor and electrical costs
- Approximately 100 gallons of fuel saved daily during winter because bus warm-up is not needed
- Central location with easy access to I-80 and I-55 allows for quicker travel throughout the district and savings in fuel
- Non-residential location does not cause traffic or congestion
- Relocation creates additional instructional space and parking for students at Central and Alternate School
- Office space available for training and meetings



“ IN DIRE FINANCIAL TIMES, OUR DISTRICT HAS BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN ALL EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDING A SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN. SOUND FINANCIAL REPORTING IS A KEY COMPONENT OF THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT. ”



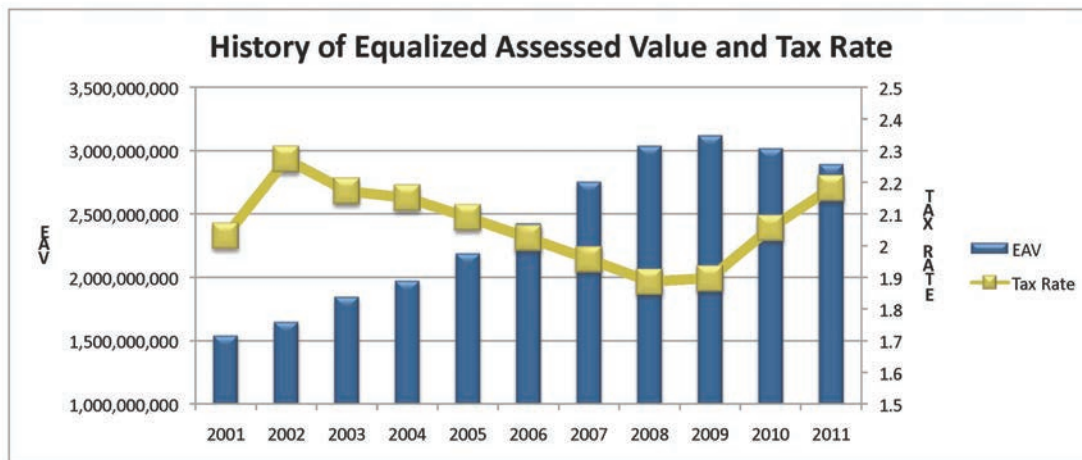
Richard Pagliaro
Assistant Superintendent
for Business and Personnel

THE STATE OF SCHOOL FINANCE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

While JTHS is a fiscally stable school district, there are many factors that are creating financial uncertainty in public schools across the state of Illinois.

DECLINE IN PROPERTY VALUES

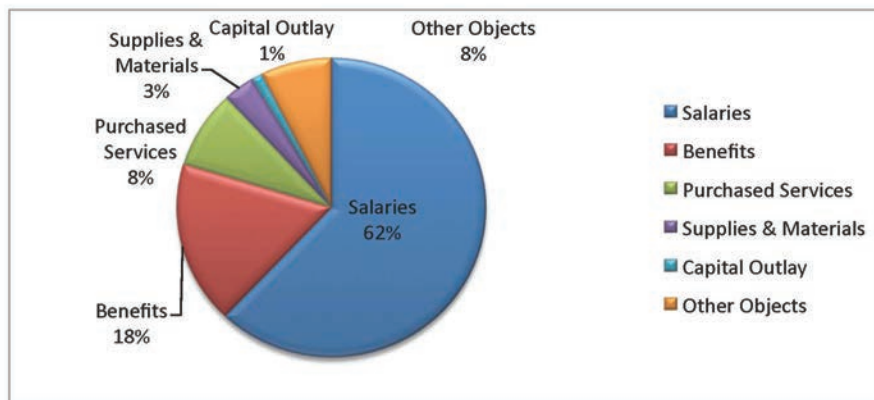
The decline in the economy continues to have a direct impact upon the district's ability to levy and collect tax dollars. Legislation has been introduced that could potentially stop our capacity to capture increases in assessed values due to new construction. The bill also holds public school districts to a zero increase in tax collections. This means no new local revenue, which puts the funding of JTHS education at great risk.



JTHS DISTRICT 204 FINANCIAL PLAN

To protect the education of our youth, JTHS is proactive in its financial planning for the future. A ten percent reduction in purchased services, supplies, and capital outlay expenditures began in March of 2012 and will continue throughout the 2012-2013 School Year. At this point, educational programs and services will not be affected by these financial factors. However, if proposed legislation is passed, it will have a drastic impact upon all aspects of our educational offerings.

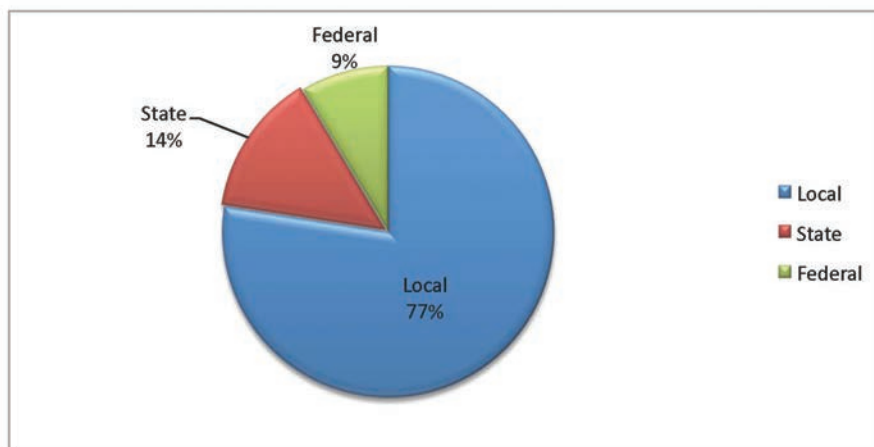
OPERATING EXPENDITURES



REDUCTIONS IN STATE AID

JTHS receives approximately \$900 per pupil, per year in General State Aid. The last payment for 2011-2012 was eliminated at the end of the school year. Although the Illinois Constitution states that Illinois financial support should equal 51 percent of the local school district's revenue, our Illinois state-supported funding has been drastically lower.

OPERATING REVENUE



EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

Proposed Illinois State Legislation regarding pension reform and transportation are external influences that JTHS continues to monitor. A fiscally conservative approach guides the district budgeting process in a time of financial uncertainty.

PENSION REFORM

Illinois is responsible for funding a portion of the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS). There is currently a legislative proposal that would eliminate the state's contribution to TRS, shifting this responsibility to local tax payers and school districts. This legislation would result in a \$2.5 million reduction in the JTHS budget.

TRANSPORTATION

Although Illinois has already reduced transportation funding by 40 percent, Governor Quinn has proposed the total elimination of transportation funding for school districts. If this were to occur, JTHS would lose over \$1.4 million per year.

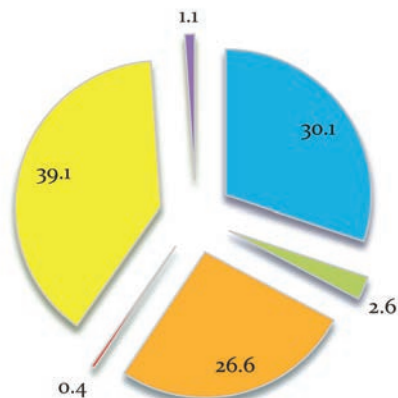
FINANCIAL AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

The Association of School Business Officials International's (ASBO) recently honored Joliet Township High School District 204 for over 26 years of participation in the Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Financial Reporting.

The award supports and recognizes District 204's high-quality financial reporting to the community through exceptional comprehensive annual financial reports.

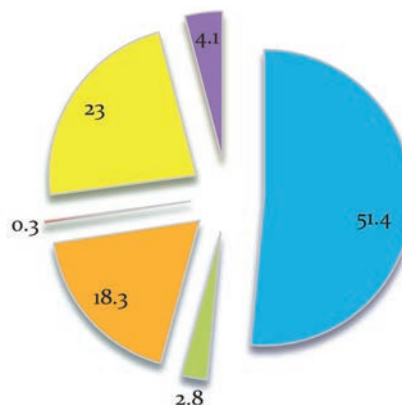
In dire financial times, JTHS has been able to retain all employment positions essential to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our children. Sound financial reporting is a key component of this accomplishment.

DISTRICT 204 2011 STUDENT ETHNICITY



- Asian
- White
- Multi Racial
- Black
- Native American
- Hispanic

ILLINOIS STATE 2011 STUDENT ETHNICITY



2011 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS	
Low Income	62.1%
Average Class Size	20.5
Attendance	91.6%
Graduation Rate	75.4%
Drop Out Rate	4.1%

2011 TEACHER DEMOGRAPHICS	
Total Teachers	335
Average Teaching Experience	11.7 years
Average Teacher Salary	\$70,501
Teachers with Bachelor's Degree	27.2%
Teachers with Master's Degree	71%

A change in the federal government's formula for calculating the high school graduation rate has led to lower graduation rates across Illinois. The new formula more accurately tracks the number of ninth graders who go on to graduate in four years. It was developed to eliminate discrepancies due to varying formulas used by states, the federal government and independent researchers. The previous formula included students who graduated in more than four years.

Implementation of the new formula has resulted in decreased graduation rates across the state of Illinois.

COMMUNICATION

JTHS uses a variety of resources to communicate school and district information.

JTHS WEB SITE

A great source for school information includes important dates, news and campus announcements
www.jths.org

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

View student grades, attendance and discipline records
<https://dist.jths.org/homeaccess/>

WEEKLY BROADCAST E-MAIL

Communicates information from the principal

RSS FEEDS

Subscribe and JTHS news and events will be sent to your e-mail inbox
<http://www.jths.org/rss/>

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER,

JTODAY

Sent quarterly via e-mail and communicates school news, student and staff recognition, podcasts and video
<http://www.jtoday.org>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow JTHS on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

<http://www.facebook.com/JTHS204>
http://twitter.com/#!/JTHS_204
<http://www.youtube.com/user/JTHS204>

FLICKR

Photo slideshows highlight school activities and events
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jths204/sets/>

SCHOOL MAILINGS

Used to communicate information essential to your student's education

VOICE MESSENGER SYSTEM

Communicates information of high importance such as school closings and information pertaining to safety



JTHS CHARACTER CAMPAIGN

7 WORDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Character Campaign was launched at the beginning of the 2011-2012 School Year to promote the 7 attributes of Compassion, Confidence, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Perseverance, and Tolerance to our students, staff and community. The 7 attributes are unique to Joliet Township High School and are an important part of providing our students with the necessary characteristics to compete and contribute as respectful, responsible, and productive citizens.

Funded through donations, the campaign included the distribution of t-shirts, yard signs, posters, cards, pins and more. A website, www.jthscharacter.org, has been launched to provide information regarding the campaign and includes student and staff spotlights.

In addition, the attributes are woven into the fabric of our schools through consistent expectations and communication by JTHS staff. Student-produced commercials advertise the attributes on the Student News Networks and student-athletes read the definitions of the attributes at varsity athletic events.

On March 20, 2012, Mayor Tomas Giarrante and the City of Joliet honored JTHS with a proclamation acknowledging the work of the JTHS character campaign and the impact it has had upon our schools and community.



JTHS CYBORGS FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

In January of 2012, Joliet Township High School students were challenged to design, build and program a unique robot in 45 days. The challenge was accepted, and the JTHS Cyborgs were formed.

The robot was designed specifically to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition which was held on March 22nd - 24th at the UIC Pavilion. Joliet competed among 53 robotic teams from seven different states in a “Rebound Rumble” basketball challenge. The students built the remote controlled robot specifically to shoot baskets through 4 rounds of ultimate high-tech competitions.

FIRST is the acronym “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.” True to its name, the students learned in-depth skills relating to science and technology during the construction of the robot and through participation in the competition. The relevant educational experience enhanced student knowledge of teamwork, organization, time management and trouble shooting, while applying the practical applications of science and math to the engineering process.



This project was made possible through sponsorship and support from:

- JC Penney
- Vulcan Materials
- R. Berti Building Solutions
- Caterpillar
- The University of Illinois Extension

Photo Caption:

Joliet Township High School students designed and programmed a unique robot in 45 days.

CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY BENCHMARK PROJECT

Last November 2011, Chicagoland Speedway and Joliet Township High School teamed up to provide an interdisciplinary curricular experience for students. The purpose of this partnership, known as the BenchMark Project, was to develop the business skills of students while simultaneously raising money for local charities.

During this project, students worked with high school staff and members of Chicagoland Speedway to design, construct and sell benches to be placed on Chicagoland Speedway grounds. Students were provided with hands-on experience as they applied extensive research, business planning, drafting, constructing, marketing, public relations, information technology and many other skills needed to succeed in today's professional world. In addition, The Benchmark Project taught students how to develop and manage a comprehensive business plan, while also requiring the students to implement a sales plan for securing sponsors.

Thanks to the generous support of our community, JTHS students raised \$20,000 for local charities by selling all 20 of the benches that were constructed through the program. Joliet Central High School selected the G.W. Buck Boys and Girls Club as their beneficiary and presented them with \$10,000; while Joliet West divided the funds equally with a \$5,000 contribution to the Will County Humane Society and \$5,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



