



S u m m e r

J O L I E T C E N T R A L

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HOME OF THE STEELMEN

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Table of Contents

<u>Summer Newsletter Welcome</u>	4
<u>1:1 Initiative Device Distribution</u>	5
<u>Academies</u>	5
<u>Appropriate Cell Phone Use</u>	6
<u>Athletics</u>	7
<u>Attendance</u>	8
<u>Back to School</u>	9
<u>Blended Learning</u>	10
<u>Cafeteria News</u>	10
<u>Calculator Recommendation</u>	10
<u>Class of 2020</u>	11
<u>Communication</u>	11
<u>Daily Schedule</u>	12
<u>Deliveries to Students</u>	12
<u>Emergency E-Learning Days</u>	12
<u>Family Engagement Liaisons</u>	13
<u>Free Hotspot Devices Available</u>	13
<u>Home Access Center</u>	14
<u>Nursing News</u>	15
<u>School Fees and Waiver Application</u>	16
<u>School Safety</u>	16
<u>Student IDs</u>	18
<u>Student Media Permissions</u>	18
<u>Summer Learning Activities</u>	19
<u>Summer Reading Information</u>	19
<u>Teacher Qualification</u>	20
<u>Transportation</u>	20

Summer Newsletter

A Message from Mr. Hallihan:

Dear Partners in Education,

The 2019-2020 school year begins on August 19. Student achievement is a collaborative effort between the student, parent, and the school. Each party plays a critical role in ensuring the success of each student. Arriving on time daily to each class is essential for student success; as high attendance rates are linked to high student achievement. Therefore, I want to ask for your commitment to making sure your student attends school every day possible this year. Good attendance will help your student do well in high school, college, and at work. Please reiterate the following to your students:

- School is your first and most important job. You're learning about more than academic content. You're learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you graduate and get a job, you'll know how to show up for work on time every day.
- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate and find good jobs. In fact, a high school graduate makes, on average, a million dollars more than a dropout over a lifetime.
- School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it's tempting to stay home because you've got too much work or you don't understand what's going on in class, but missing a day only makes that worse.
- It does not matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. All absences represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.
- Families should avoid scheduling vacation and doctor's appointments during school days.
- In our school, instructional time is viewed as a precious resource. Consequently, being tardy to class is a serious problem as it takes away learning opportunities. Please remind your students that "Steelman are on time".

As your student's most influential teacher, I am asking for your support in helping your student get to school on time every day this year. Each day begins at 7:20 a.m. and 8:20 a.m., and your student needs to be in school and engaged in learning to reach his or her full potential. **Please contact your student's counselor if your family needs help dealing with a challenge to your student's good school attendance.** We will do our best to help you and your family ensure that your student's school attendance stays on track.

Thank you for all you do to support your student's school success and well-being. I look forward to working with you this year at Joliet Central.

1:1 Initiative Device Distribution

As part of Joliet Townships High School's 1:1 technology initiative, your student is eligible to receive a netbook computing device for the 2019-2020 school year, if he/she has no outstanding technology fees and the necessary Acceptable Use Policy is on file. The 1:1 technology initiative motivates and engages students in learning by providing anytime/anywhere learning opportunities.

Distribution Day

- Freshmen will receive their devices on August 21
- Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will receive their devices during schedule pick-up
- Students who do not receive devices during the times listed above will report to the Student Help Desk on August 21 for their devices

Your student is responsible for the care of this computing device. The small computer will be used in class and at home. As a primary caregiver, please talk to your student about the character attribute of responsibility. Bringing the netbook to school fully charged and taking proper care of the computer will allow your student to take full advantage of this exciting initiative.

Academies

Freshman Academy:

The Freshman Academy assists students with the transition to high school. Ninth grade students enter the Freshman Academy, a small school-within-a-school. The teaming aspect of the Freshmen Academy helps students build relationships with staff members and classmates. Freshmen begin the day a period earlier than their upper-class peers which allows them to take an additional elective or receive support in math or reading. Freshmen year students explore careers through the annual Career Fair. The theme that holds constant Freshman year is "Transition and Career Exploration."

Dates to come! Be on the lookout for a postcard home for an opportunity for your student to attend an optional Freshmen Orientation session.

Career Academies:

JTHS Career Academies increase student achievement by organizing students into five career-focused small learning communities that offer a personalized learning environment within a large school setting. 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. Students are provided with a rigorous and relevant curriculum that integrates course content and technology skills in alignment to the Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness Standards.

For more information on any of the Joliet Central Academies please visit [here](#).

Or contact the Academy Coordinator:

Freshman Academy: Robin English – renglish@jths.org

Business Management & Information Systems (BMIS) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Academies: Jeff Riley – jriley@jths.org

Applied Life & Health & Medicine Academies: Angel Hauert – ahauert@jths.org

Human Services and Arts & Communication Academies: Steve Seper – sseper@jths.org

Appropriate Cell Phone Use

Several years ago cell phone possession and use at school was prohibited at Joliet Township High School. Parents, students, and staff members worked collaboratively to revise that policy to allow cell phones at school. The following is the language relevant to cell phone use:

Electronic Equipment

Using an electronic device, including but not limited to, a cellular telephone, IPOD/MP3 player, electronic games, or other electronic device, in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, including using the device to cheat, signal others, send text messages, take photographs, or otherwise violate student conduct rules is prohibited. **Electronic devices and headphones can be used with permission from a teacher or staff member.** Students may not talk on their cell phone during passing periods or in the hallways. Cell phones may only be used in the hallway to listen to music, with one ear bud in. Electronic devices may be reviewed for content. Joliet Township District 204 is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items. All confiscated items not picked up by June 30th will be donated/destroyed.

There are many advantages to allowing cell phones in school. Some of the advantages include:

- **Scheduling** -- Parents want to be able to communicate directly to their children about schedules -- such as pick-up times or after school scheduling changes -- without going through the school office.
- **Learning tool** -- Some teachers use new cell phone technology as a valuable learning tool. Many cell phones are, in reality, handheld computers that could enhance, or even replace, classroom technology.
- **Student responsibility** -- Teachers and administrators see the cell phone as yet one more opportunity to teach responsible behavior, like when is it appropriate to use a cell phone.

While there are many advantages, there are also disadvantages:

- **Distraction** – Inappropriate cell phone use in the classroom distracts students from their studies.
- **Dishonesty** – The same technology that makes cell phones distracting also makes cheating much easier for students. They can take pictures of tests, text questions and answers, or even access notes and textbooks through their cell phones.
- **Disrespect** – The issues of cyber-bullying and other forms of serious misconduct are increasingly common and easier to conceal with cell phone technology.

Therefore, we ask all parents to partner with us to teach students the appropriate use of cell phones in school. A study released by the Center for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics found that improper use of cell phones “can have a negative impact on productivity through distraction” and that inappropriate cell phone use resulted in almost 5 days of lost instruction time. In order to ensure that students benefit from a maximum amount of instructional time, teachers will follow this practice:

1st cell phone infraction – warning

2nd cell phone infraction – warning and parent contact

3rd cell phone infraction – dean referral and appropriate action

Thank you for working with us to ensure that students benefit from access to cell phones while also learning to use them appropriately.

Athletics

Fall Sports Information – ALL Seasons/Tryouts begin August 12, 2019

Boys & Girls Cross Country, Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball and Boys & Girls Golf

- Times, locations and dates for each sport will be available July 15th on <https://il.8to18.com/JolietCentral>

SPORTS REGISTRATION ON 8to18

Fall Tryout Registration Begins July 1st-All athletes must register on our 8to18 website. Visit <https://il.8to18.com/JolietCentral> and click Registration tab. A parent's email will be required to complete the registration.

If you have an account but are unable to access, visit:
https://jolietcentral.8to18.com/accounts/forgot_password

JTHS Girls & Boys Golf (co-op) must register with Joliet Central <http://il.8to18.com/JolietCentral>

JTHS Girls Swimming and Girls Tennis (co-op) must register with Joliet West
<https://il.8to18.com/JolietWest/>

SPORT PHYSICALS MUST BE TURNED IN PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN TRYOUTS/PRACTICE.

All athletes must have a physical on file in the Athletic Office before participation in tryouts or practice. Incoming freshmen should give their 9th grade physical when they register. (Please do not turn in original freshman physicals to athletics.) Physicals are valid for athletics for 395 days from the date taken.

IT IS AN IHSA REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A PHYSICAL ON FILE TO PARTICIPATE IN TRYOUTS/PRACTICE

Important Dates

August 19th

All Freshmen & New Athlete Parent Meeting with athletic director at 6:30 pm in the student center cafeteria

August 24th

Fall Sports Pictures (see coach for time)

Attendance

Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep your Student on Track in High School

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

Did you know?

- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or about 18 days of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your student graduate from college and keep a job.

What you can do?

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Help your student maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Avoid scheduling dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your student stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

Help your student stay engaged

- Find out if your student feels engaged by his/her classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your student's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school

- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your student's attendance, tardies, and grades via Home Access Center. You can sign up for alerts via the [eSchoolPlus Family App](#).
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, and parents or community agencies if you are having trouble getting your student to school.

Absences and Permission to Leave Early

Parents/Guardians should contact their student's dean for all attendance related matters. Dean assignments are indicated in the chart below:

Last Name	Dean	Phone
A - CK	REED	815-727-6718
CL - GRA	BOYTER	815-727-6717
GRB - LOP	CONTRERAS	815-727-6713
LOQ - OR	FEARS	815-727-6988
OS - SG	KOSIEK	815-727-6771
SH - Z	MANNING-SMITH	815-727-6851

Joliet Central High School is a closed campus. Students are not permitted to leave the building during the school day unless a parent/guardian has made arrangements through the student's dean.

Back to School

Schedule distribution materials will be mailed home the week of July 15th. Schedule distribution will be held in café during the following dates and times.

Aug 5 (1 pm – 7 pm)

Aug 6 (1 pm – 7 pm)

Aug 7 (3 pm - 7 pm)

Online Fee Payment [here](#)

Immunization for Seniors

A meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MCV) is required on or after 16 years of age regardless of past vaccine dates. Proof of at least one dose of a recent (on or after 16 years of age) meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MCV) is required of all students entering the 12th grade. Twelfth grade students enrolled at Joliet Central must provide documentation of vaccination, including the date of administration and a doctor's signature.

Students who do not provide proof of vaccination, **will not** be allowed to participate in the Schedule Distribution in August.

Students starting their senior year are required to have the meningitis vaccine. Osco pharmacists will be onsite and available for vaccines during schedule distribution. Below are the hours they will be available:

August 5 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

August 6 – 2:00pm to 4:00 pm

To speed up the process you can call Osco pharmacy at (815)725-1290 and give them your name and insurance information. This way they know ahead of time if there is a charge or if the vaccination is covered by your insurance. **The normal charge without insurance is \$140.00.**

There is a Consent for Immunization form that need to be completed and signed by a parent prior to the immunization.

Blended Learning

[JTHS blended learning](#) opportunities challenge and empower students to become active learners through both face-to-face and on-line instruction. This format allows students more flexibility and control over when they choose to learn. In addition, the blended learning structure exposes students to the online learning environments they are likely to experience in college as well as the work-place.

Students with a blended class must adhere to the following guidelines.

- Joliet Central is a closed campus. Students may not leave the building and return for classes later in the day.
- Students with a 1st or 2nd period blended class, may arrive for their first period of the day on blended non-report days. Students arriving after period 2 must enter the building at Door 1.
- Students with an 8th period blended class may leave early on non-report days.
- Students who are in school on non-report days must report to either the scheduled classroom or the cafeteria. Students must sign in with the cafeteria study hall supervisor.
- Any student with an average below a 75% must report to the classroom every period until he/she is earning above a 75%. If a student fails to report to the classroom, he/she is truant.

Cafeteria News

Joliet Township High School does not accept cash in the cafeteria lines. All students purchasing meals or other items must have a pre-paid account using the [My School Bucks site](#). Once an account is created, students use their ID to purchase food. The cost of the meal will be deducted from the student's pre-paid meal account. There is no cost to participate in this program. Students and parents can make deposits online or through the cashier/textbook office located outside the cafeteria. Funds will be available to use 24 hours after the deposit. Students who qualify for free or reduced meals will need an account to purchase extra items and to pay for the reduced meal. Remember, students will not be able to purchase food or drinks with cash. The [free and reduced lunch application](#) will be available after July 19, 2019. The \$160 Instructional Material fee is waived for those students who qualify for Free Lunch. You must complete the free and reduced lunch application if you believe you are eligible for a fee waiver.

Calculator Recommendation

Technology is an important tool that will assist your student through all three (3) required math courses. It can be used on the ACT/SAT test and will be useful in many college level math courses. Listed below are suggested options:

- TI NSpire CX
- TI 84 Plus
- TI NSpire
- TI 83 Plus

Any questions regarding calculators may be directed to Math Curriculum Director, Nicole McMorris at (815)774-1619.

Class of 2020

Transcripts

Completed transcript requests forms can be dropped off at room B129. Blank request forms are located by the entrance of B129. The fee for official transcripts is \$3.00 for currently enrolled students. A parent/guardian signature is required if the student is under the age of 18.

Scholarship Information

[Scholarship information](#) is available and updated monthly.

FAFSA Night

File your FAFSA early. You can file on or after October 1 with your previous year's tax information. Students who file the FAFSA early receive more than twice as much grant funding, on average, as student who file the FAFSA later.

Joliet Central will conduct a FAFSA information session for parents at a yet to be determined date in the fall.

Communication

JTHS is committed to providing informative and timely communication to our families. We communicate in the following ways:

- **Phone Messages** are used to communicate high priority information and school closings.
- **Email Messages** are sent on a weekly basis from your campus principal. If you are not receiving these emails, please call (815) 727-6967.
- **Facebook and Twitter** can help you stay socially connected. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.
- **Website Communication** includes important dates, news and more. Visit www.jths.org.
- **Text Messaging** is used to deliver district information of high importance such as school closings and emergency information. To receive JTHS text messages, text "Y" to 67587.

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 for the 2019-2020 school year. Remind is the only district-approved text messaging communication tool that teachers, coaches, staff and administrators may use to communicate with you.

If you're not already familiar with **Remind, it's a communication tool that makes it easy to stay involved with your child's learning. Remind is free** for families to use, and you'll be able to get and send messages on any device if a teacher or coach chooses to use the Remind platform.

As part of this rollout, official accounts will be created for all teachers, parents, and students at Joliet Township High School. On **August 21**, you'll receive an email or text message from Remind. All you need to do is follow the steps in the message to finish setting up your account. [Here is a video demo](#) to see how Remind works. If you have questions about your Remind account, please contact the support team at rmd.me/help.

Language Preference—En Español

JTHS communicates to parents in both English and Spanish. If you are not receiving communication in your preferred language, please contact our Bilingual Communication Specialist, Isabel Gloria, at igloria@jths.org or (815) 727-6904.

Daily Schedule

Freshmen students have an eight (8) period day. All other students have a seven (7) period day, unless they are on a reduced schedule. Students arriving after period 1 or 2 must enter the building at door 1. Students who are released from school before the end of 8th period should get an "early dismissal" sticker from Mrs. Pullara in the Main Office.

Period 1	7:20	-	8:15	Period 5B	11:50	-	12:15
Period 2	8:20	-	9:15	Period 6A	12:20	-	12:45
Period 3	9:20	-	10:15	Period 6B	12:50	-	1:15
Period 4A	10:20	-	10:45	Period 7A	1:20	-	1:45
Period 4B	10:50	-	11:15	Period 7B	1:50	-	2:15
Period 5A	11:20	-	11:45	Period 8	2:20	-	3:15

Deliveries to Students

In order to secure a clean, safe, and secure learning environment, we are unable to accept drop-offs (lunch, homework, etc.) at the security booth during the day. Deliveries are a disruption to the learning environment. In the event your student forgets:

- Lunch – see a café worker for assistance in securing a lunch from the cafeteria. Students may not exceed a -\$5.00 balance on their [My School Bucks account](#). Families may load money onto their students account.
- Physical Education uniform – students may rent needed items from the rental room for \$.50.
- Device – students may seek assistance from the teacher for alternative ways to access assignments.

In the event of an absolute emergency, such as forgotten house keys or medication, please contact the Dean's Office to make arrangements for delivery.

Emergency E-Learning Days for 2019-2020

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 at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. E-Learning Days eliminate the loss of instructional time during unscheduled school closures. 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. During the 2018-2019 school year, JTHS experienced three emergency school closures during the winter season due to weather, and an additional three days were added to the school calendar as a result.

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. 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. The announcement will be made through the standard modes of communication used by the school district, including text message, automated phone call, social media, and the Emergency Closing Center. Per this plan, 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. Teachers will be available to assist students online through their Learning Management Platform.

Student expectations include recording their attendance one time between 9:30 and 11 a.m. by navigating to www.examlogin.com and entering in the provided attendance code. Students must then complete each class assignment. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, students should consult with their teachers. For example, students without access to power or the internet should see their teachers the following student attendance day.

JTHS Technology Support Staff will work from home and are available to assist students, parents, and staff with technical support on Emergency E-Learning Days. Students and parents should call 815-727-6860 for assistance or email centralstudenthelpdesk@jths.org (Central Campus) or weststudenthelpdest@jths.org (West Campus).

Family Engagement Liaisons (Bilingual Spanish)

Joliet Central High School Family Engagement Liaison Alicia Rojas is dedicated to welcoming and helping you find ways to support your child's success. She also speaks Spanish and can assist with interpreting and translating at school.

Mrs. Rojas is excited to help you learn how to succeed at JTHS by:

- Assisting parents with Home Access Center
- Coordinating volunteer opportunities for parents and guardians to get involved with our school
- Interpreting at school events
- Identifying resources on campus and in the community for parents, guardians and families

Please feel free to contact her with any questions you have about parent engagement and student success at (815) 727-6774.

Free Hotspot Devices Available to Eligible JTHS Students

We are excited to announce that Joliet Township High School has received a grant and is participating in Sprint's 1Million Project. This grant will provide 560 free hotspot devices to Joliet Township High School students.

Success in high school today requires reliable 24/7 Internet access in order to complete homework assignments, communicate with teachers online, look up information for research papers, and much more. The 1Million Project will provide eligible students with the connectivity necessary for success in school by offering free hotspot devices with 10GB of high speed internet connectivity. Students may use this hotspot during the time they are enrolled at JTHS (for up to four years).

There is absolutely no cost to you, your child, or your school to participate in this program if your student is eligible.

Eligible students will receive a hotspot along with:

- 3GB of free high-speed wireless data each month
- Free, regularly-updated Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant content filter
- Wireless service for up to four years while enrolled at JTHS

The 1Million Project will NOT:

- Charge you or your child
- Capture any personal identifiable information about your family while they participate in the program

Parents or guardians of JTHS students who would like to apply for this program must complete a short survey, which can be accessed by clicking on the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/JTHS1MillionProject>. For more information about this program or the application, please contact the JTHS Technology Help Desk at (815) 774-7800 or email helpdesk@jths.org.

Home Access Center

JTHS has a goal that ALL parents will regularly access student grades and progress through Home Access Center.

Thanks to technology, parental involvement does not need to be time consuming or complicated. Home Access Center gives parents and guardians the ability to monitor student progress and attendance in real time.

HAC Allows Parents and Students to View:

- Grades on Assignments and Tests
- Attendance
- Tardies
- Progress Reports
- Report Cards
- And More.....

We know that technology can be sometimes be a challenge. Please contact our Parent Engagement Liaison and she can assist you.

JTHS has also developed short video tutorials that can assist you.

[View HAC Tutorial in English](#)

[View HAC Tutorial in Spanish](#)

Home Access Center EschoolPlus Family App

Home Access Center can also be used on your mobile device or phone through the Eschool Plus Family App. You can even set alerts that will instantly notify you of absences, tardies and when your student's grade drops below the percentage that you designate.

View the informational videos or visit the [Mobil Communication Website](#) to learn more.

[View Mobil App Tutorial in English](#)

[View Mobil App Tutorial in Spanish](#)

Do Not Jeopardize Enrollment in School!

Please be aware that all incoming freshman students, as well as students transferring from other schools, must have a completed high school physical with all immunization dates on file before they will be allowed to complete schedule distribution and/or attend school. Students entering grades seven through 12 who have not already received a Tdap vaccination are required to receive 1 Tdap dose regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td dose.

Members of the Class of 2023 do not hesitate. Get your physicals now and submit it to the Main Office at Joliet Central, Monday – Thursday 7:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This is important for the health of the whole student body to make certain that all students are in compliance with all health requirements that are mandated by the state of Illinois. The physical exam form is a two-sided form and both sides must be filled out. On page 2, there is a section called “student health history” which must be filled out by the parent/guardian and **MUST BE SIGNED** and dated. The physical is considered incomplete without this section. In addition, please make certain that your student’s healthcare provider has documented the height, weight, blood pressure and BMI on the form and has completed the diabetes screening. This screening does not require a blood test. It is a series of questions that must be answered by the person conducting the physical exam.

Please make a copy of the physical exam form and keep it in a safe place. These records will be necessary for attending college, day camps, the military and some jobs. If your student is going to participate in sports, you should make and save an additional copy of the physical to be used as his or her sports physical. Do not give the Athletic Office the original form.

Failure to complete any of the above will result in the form being returned for completion. In addition, the student will not be able to attend schedule distribution until the completed form is on file in the Health Office. Illinois law specifies that we must exclude students from school for incomplete health requirements.

Required health forms including Consent for Physician-Prescribed Medication can be found [here](#).

Optional Student Insurance Plans for the 2019-2020 School Year

[Find information regarding optional student insurance plans.](#)

School Fees and Waiver Application

The textbook department is responsible for purchasing and distributing the textbooks and collecting all student fees. To notify parents of outstanding debt, invoices are sent six times each school year. Parents can pay fees on-line, by mail or by bringing or sending the money to the textbook centers. The textbook centers accept cash, debit and credit card payments.

The textbook cashiers will accept deposits to student pre-paid meal accounts. It takes 24 hours for deposits to process, so the money CANNOT be used the same day it is deposited. The funds will be available the following school day.

[Instructional Material & Supply Fee Waiver Request](#) must be filled out each year. The form will be available after July 19, 2019

School Safety

School violence and the resulting intense media coverage bring school safety issues to the forefront for all of us. Students, in particular, may experience anxiety, fear, and a sense of personal risk. Knowing how to talk with your child about school safety issues could be critical in recognizing and preventing acts of violence and will play an important role in easing fear and anxieties about their personal safety.

To guide parents through discussions about school violence, Mental Health America offers the following suggestions:

- **Encourage students to talk about their concerns and to express their feelings.** Some students may be hesitant to initiate such conversation, so you may want to prompt them by asking if they feel safe at school.
- **Talk honestly about your own feelings regarding school violence.** It is important for students to recognize they are not dealing with their fears alone.
- **Validate the student's feelings.** Do not minimize a student's concerns. Let him/her know that serious school violence is not common, which is why incidents such as Columbine and Parkland, FL attract so much media attention. Stress that schools are safe places. In fact, recent studies have shown that schools are more secure now than ever before.
- **Empower students to take action regarding school safety.** Encourage them to report specific incidents (such as bullying, threats, or talk of suicide) and to develop problem solving and conflict resolution skills. Encourage students to actively participate in student-run anti-violence programs.
- **Discuss the safety procedures that are in place at your student's school.** Explain why visitors sign in at the entrance and why doors must remain locked during the school day. Help your student understand that such precautions are in place to ensure his or her safety and stress the importance of adhering to school rules and policies.

- **Create safety plans with your student.** Help identify which adults (i.e., teachers, counselors, deans, and administrators) your student can talk to if he/she feels threatened at school. Also ensure that your student knows how to reach you (or another family member or friend) in case of crisis during the school day.
- **Recognize behavior that may indicate your student is concerned about returning to school.** Teens and adolescents may minimize their concerns outwardly, but may become argumentative, withdrawn, or allow their school performance to decline.
- **Keep the dialogue going** and make school safety a common topic in family discussions rather than just a response to an immediate crisis. Open dialogue will encourage students to share their concerns.
- **Seek help when necessary.** If you are worried about a student's reaction or have ongoing concerns about his/her behavior or emotions, contact a counselor at school or a mental health professional. Your local Mental Health Association or the National Mental Health Association's Information Center can direct you to resources in your community.

The following behaviors are signs that a student may need help:

- Lack of interest or poor performance in school
- Absence of age-appropriate anger control skills
- Seeing self as always the victim
- Persistent disregard for or refusal to follow rules
- Cruelty to pets or other animals
- Artwork or writing that is bleak or violent or that depicts isolation or anger
- Talking constantly about weapons or violence
- Obsession with violent games and/or TV shows
- Lack of enthusiasm, energy or motivation
- Carrying a weapon to school
- Overreacting to criticism
- Restlessness and agitation
- Bullying
- Misplaced or unwarranted jealousy
- Involvement with or interest in gangs
- Withdrawal from friends and activities

The more signs you see the greater the chance the student needs help. Mental Health America's toll-free Information Line (1-800-273-TALK) can help parents and teachers find community resources. Mental Health America also provides informational brochures on children's mental health issues, such as a Teen Survival Guide to Surviving Stress, Teen Depression, Coping with Loss, Youth Violence and What Every Child Needs for Good Mental Health.

Student IDs

All students must wear their student identification cards during the school day and at school events.

The ID must be visible using the provided school lanyard on your neck. Student IDs and lanyards will be provided during Schedule Distribution.

If a student arrives to school without his or her permanent ID, he/she will be unable to enter the building without purchasing a temporary ID to wear for that day only. A \$5.00 fee will be assessed each time a temporary ID is issued. The cost of a replacement ID and lanyard is \$10.00 and can be purchased before or after school and during passing periods in the main office. Set up an attendance alert in [Home Access Center](#) to view temporary IDs. Students are marked Present & \$5 ID or 5P to note when a temporary ID is issued.

Invoices will be mailed to the parent/guardian periodically throughout the school year. Please note all outstanding fees and financial obligations must be paid before students are allowed to purchase a parking permit, purchase a dance ticket, and/or attend any dance, participate in the Graduation ceremony, or receive an official transcript. You can pay your students fees [online](#).

Student Media Permissions

As part of the Joliet Township High School community relations and recognition programs, the District periodically releases information to the public about our students, their classwork, and/or accomplishments. To highlight student success, your student's name, picture, video, classwork, and/or information pertaining to their accomplishment may appear in various District and non-District publications, which includes but is not limited to, newspapers, web pages, social media, print and electronic communication. Any media permission approved by the school will be positive, focusing primarily on student successes.

If you DO NOT wish to have your child's information shared or spotlighted in any of the local, school, or District and/or non-District media coverage, please complete the ["Refusal of Permission for Media Participation"](#) form and return it to room B101.

The form will also be available in the Principal's Office, at the Central campus. If there are any extenuating circumstances you feel the school should be made aware of, please contact the school principal to further discuss your concerns. If we do not receive a completed form from you, we will assume implied consent (that you have no concerns allowing your child to be photographed/spotlighted as part of a group or as an individual).

Summer Learning Activities

The school year has ended, but that doesn't mean learning should. We know it is important that children continue to exercise their brains over the summer to prevent the loss of critical learning gains, also called the "summer slide". We encourage children and families to incorporate summer reading and learning into their activities in the months ahead. Children who keep their brains active and engaged during summer vacation are more likely to return in the fall confident and prepared for the new school year.

There are ample opportunities for continued learning over the summer. If you are looking for summer resources to share with your student, start with these tip sheets or programs:

- [Top 10 "Easy Summer Learning Tips" for parents](#)
- [Tips to keep tweens and teens learning during the summer](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)

Summer Reading Information

This year, our Summer Reading Program allows students to read **any publication or book of their choice**. Students will document the number of pages they read throughout the summer using the Joliet Public Library Individual Readers Log. When students return to school in the fall their English teachers will require students to complete activities and assignments related to their summer reading.

Joliet Township High School's partnership with the Joliet Public Library allows all JTHS students to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge. Throughout the summer, students can show their reading logs to Joliet Public Librarians to receive awards and incentives. JTHS students do not need a library card to participate. It is worth noting that in many cases students can participate in more than one summer reading program -- students who are residents of Manhattan, Shorewood, or Plainfield are encouraged to also participate in their local library summer reading programs.

While students can read any book or publication of their choosing, sometimes students need help finding interesting books to read. Our teachers and librarians have compiled a list of "Highly Recommended Reads." The books on this list will be available for students to check out at no cost in the Joliet Central Main Offices, and at both branches of the Joliet Public library. Students can use their Student ID to check out these books at the library and do not need a library card.

The links provided below include resources to help your student get started with their summer reading:

- [JTHS 2019 Highly Recommended Reads](#)
- [Joliet Public Library Summer Reading Challenge Information](#)
- [Joliet Public Library Individual Readers Log](#)
- [Sign Up for Joliet Public Library Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Questions and concerns can be directed at Brian Conant, Director of English and Fine Arts. [Summer reading selections](#) are available for check-out in the Main Office throughout the summer.

Teacher Qualification

Our school receives federal funds for Title 1 programs. Throughout the school year, we will provide you with important information regarding your child's education. You have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers. If you request this information, the school will provide you with the following as soon as possible: if the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction; if the teacher is teaching under emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived; if the teacher has earned a college degree major and the field of discipline for any graduate degree or certificate; and if your child is receiving Title I services from paraprofessionals and, if so, his or her qualifications.

Most teachers include this information in their beginning of the year syllabus. Ask your student to share the information that they received during the first few weeks of classes.

If you would like to request this information, please call 727-6940 after September 12th.

Transportation

Bus routes will be available online as of July 20th. The Joliet Township High School District provides transportation to all students residing 1 ½ miles or more from school. Students living within 1 ½ miles or in the other school attendance areas are not allowed to ride a bus. Please call the Transportation Department at 815-727-6873 if you have questions. Bus drivers will collect ID numbers to confirm eligibility. You must live beyond the following intersections or addresses to be eligible to ride a bus:

North of Ingalls Avenue
McFarlane west of Pearson
Cypress north of Birchwood
North side of Black Road – Between Magnolia & Homestead
North of 752 Prestige
North of 723 Apollo
Fairlane north of Mason
West of 2779 Douglas
West of 2799 Glenwood
West of 2779 Campbell

west of 2745 Richmond
Fairlane south of Richmond
Jefferson west of Caterpillar
Caterpillar Dr. south of Jefferson St.
South of 377 Joyce Rd.
McDonough west of Perdue Ct.
Oakleaf west of Hammes
South of I-80
Stryker south of Ivy Place

