



Superintendent Newsletter

Joliet Township High School
2017-2018

Dear JTHS Families,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! Joliet Township High School is committed to providing a rigorous and personalized education for each and every student in a safe and supportive academy environment. Parental involvement is a key to student success, and we greatly value our partnerships with our families.

We thank you for supporting your student's education, and hope you will find this newsletter helpful as your child begins a new school year.

Attending Class Every Day, On Time, and Free of Cell Phone Distraction

As your student's most influential teacher we ask for your support in helping your student attend class on time and prepared to learn every day this year. Arriving on time daily to each class is essential for student success because high attendance rates are linked to high student achievement. In fact, by 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than test scores. It is also important that your student is free of distraction and fully focused on learning when he or she is in class. This includes the appropriate use of cell phones. When your student is in school, cell phone rules should be followed. Learning cannot take place if your student is distracted by his or her cell phone.

Education is a shared responsibility among the student, the parent, and the school. Throughout the school year, you will see the hashtag #JTAchievesTogether. We all have to work together so that your student can achieve his or her full potential. Help us achieve together by communicating the following information to your student.

- ✿ School is your first and most important job. You are learning more than academic content. You are learning the character attribute of responsibility.
- ✿ Remind your student that you can view his/her attendance and tardies online through Home Access Center. Actively monitoring your student's attendance, tardies, and grades is one of the best ways to be involved in your student's education.
- ✿ 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.
- ✿ It does not matter if an absence is 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 that require students to miss school.
- ✿ In our school district, instructional time is viewed as a precious resource. Consequently, being tardy or absent is a serious problem as it takes away learning opportunities.

Please know that we are here to help you support your student. Counselors, teachers, and all staff are here to assist. We care deeply about our students and their success. We encourage you to contact your student's counselor if your family needs help dealing with a challenge that may lead to poor attendance. We will always do our best to ensure that your student has the necessary support to attend school and achieve his or her full potential.

JTHS Achieving Together

Your student's education is a shared responsibility among students, staff, and parents. Student success can only occur when we all work together.

These checklists outline the responsibilities that need to be completed so your student will reach his or her full potential. Together we will work to ensure that your student attends class every day, on time, free of distraction, and ready to learn. #JTAchievesTogether

Parents

- Make sure your contact information is up to date
 - Regularly use Home Access Center (HAC)
 - Monitor Student Attendance
 - Monitor student grades
 - Make sure student isn't late to class
- Avoid distractions... Reinforce appropriate use of cell phones
- Maintain communication with school and seek support when needed
- Know what your student is doing in the classroom

Students

- Be on time
- Be in class everyday
- Don't be distracted... Follow cell phone rules
- Set academic goals and communicate progress to parents
- Ask for help, if needed
- Use Home Access Center (HAC)

School

- Timely information will be provided through Home Access Center (HAC)
- Positive incentives provided
- Implement support plans, when necessary
- Communicate with families
Teacher & Parent Communication
School & Family Communication
District & Family Communication
- Provide assistance for every student

Celebrating Success & the JTHS Points of Pride

The JTHS Points of Pride is a document that highlights and celebrates the success of JTHS students and staff. The JTHS Points of Pride document is updated at the end of each school year and is shared with the community and parents in August. We have a lot to be proud of!

[View Points of Pride in English](#)

[View Points of Pride in Spanish](#)



Family Engagement Liaisons (Bilingual Spanish)

JTHS is happy to introduce our new Family Engagement Liaisons, whose positions are part of Strategy 2 of our Strategic Plan, which reads, “We will ensure all JTHS personnel use effective internal and external communication to create a welcoming environment that develops positive relationships and engages all stakeholders in improving student achievement.”

Lisa Guzman (West Campus) and Alicia Rojas (Central Campus) are dedicated to welcoming and helping you find ways to support your child’s success. They also speak Spanish and can assist with interpreting and translating at school.

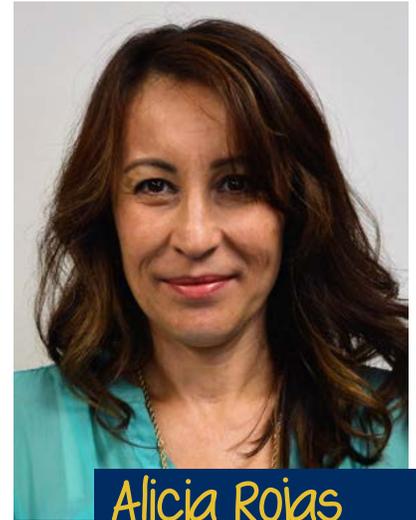
They are excited to help you learn how to succeed at JTHS through a variety of means such as:

- 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 them with any questions you have about parent engagement and student success:

Lisa Guzman (West Campus)
lguzman@jths.org | (815) 727-6776 | Room B215

Alicia Rojas (Central Campus)
arojas@jths.org | (815) 727-6774 | Room 279



Alicia Rojas



Lisa Guzman

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.
- ✿ Text Messages can be received by parents if they opt in. Text the word “Yes” to 67587 to sign up.
- ✿ 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.

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.

School Safety

Student safety is Joliet Township High School's top priority. We encourage parents and students to join us in fostering a safe and supportive learning environment by reporting any concerns to school officials or anonymously through the School Violence Tip Line at 1-800-477-0024.

In addition, important information pertaining to school safety can be found below.

[Offender Community Notification Laws](#)
[Letter to Parents Regarding Student Safety](#)
[Underage Drinking Letter](#)
[School Visitation Rights](#)
[Teen Dating Violence](#)

Bullying & School Violence

School bullying of any kind is unacceptable. All students should be free from worry about being bullied. Please take the time to read the [Memo to Parents/Guardians Regarding Bullying and School Violence](#), which provides valuable information about our anti-bullying program.

We should all be on the lookout for bullying. Students have easy

access to the [Bullying Report Form](#) through the JT Learn portal and parents and staff can report bullying through the Report Form for Bullying and School Violence. This form can be submitted [anonymously online](#), or in person at Central in room 280-0, at West in room B-129, and in the Main Office of the Alternate School and Transition Center.

Student Handbook Attendance Calendar

Below you will find quick links to frequently accessed documents.

[2017-2018 Student Handbook](#)
[2017-2018 Attendance Calendar](#)

One-to-One Technology

At JTHS, all students receive their own netbook computer to use on a 24/7 basis. For support using this technology, JTHS students can visit the [Student Help Desk](#) located on campus.

Help Desk hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during regularly scheduled school days. After-hour technology phone support is also available.

If students or parents need assistance, they can call (815) 727-6860.

Coffee & Community Conversation

Joliet Township High School Superintendent Dr. Cheryl McCarthy and the Board of Education will host Coffee and Community Conversations on a variety of dates and locations throughout the school year.

Coffee and Community Conversations is an opportunity for parents and community to meet Board of Education members, key JTHS leaders and the superintendent. There is no structured agenda, and guests can arrive and leave at any time during the 7 to 8 p.m. time period.

This is a great way for JTHS to connect face-to-face with our community in a relaxed setting. We are looking forward to engaging in informal conversation surrounding our school district.

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 | Unity CDC, 1 Doris Ave. Joliet
March 19, 2018 | Spanish Community Center, 309 N. Eastern Avenue

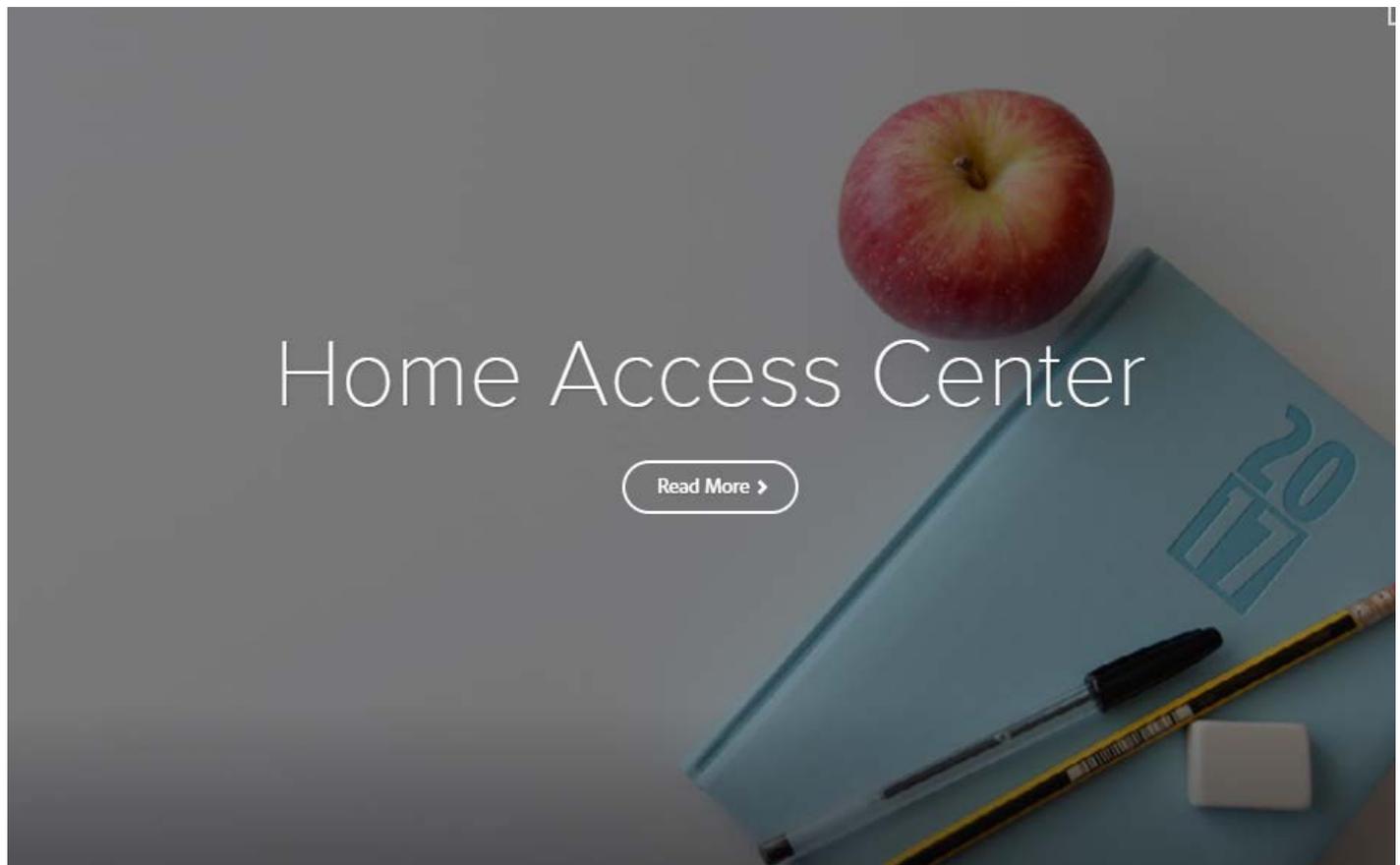
Home Access Center

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 Liaisons and they can assist you. They will even work one-on-one with you to teach you the ins and outs of this powerful technology. JTHS has also developed short video tutorials that can assist you. Click Below.



Media Permissions

At JTHS, we are enthusiastic about sharing news of our students' many accomplishments. To highlight student success, your child's name, picture, video or classwork may appear in various District and non-District publications.

If you DO NOT wish to have your child's information shared, please complete the "Refusal of Permission for Media Participation" form and return it to the Main Office at Joliet Central, the Transition Center and/or the Alternate School or to room B101 at West. To access the form, [please click here](#).

JTHS Academies

Our mission at Joliet Township High School is to ensure that all students are college and career ready when they graduate from high school. The JTHS Career Academy structure has been designed to make this mission a reality.

Freshman Academy

All ninth graders begin their education in the Freshman Academy. This small learning community is structured to assist with the transition to high school.

Career Academies

During the sophomore year, students enter one of five career-themed academies. JTHS Career Academies increase student achievement by organizing students into small learning communities that offer a personalized learning environment within a large school setting.

[Central and West Campus Academies](#)



Working in Partnership

I look forward to working in partnership with all our families to achieve our mission of empowering students to compete and contribute. You are an essential piece to your child's educational success and we are here to support you as you support your student.

JTHS encourages parents and guardians to ask questions regarding their student's education. Our teachers, administrators, and staff are committed to ensuring your student's success. Staff contact information can be found on the school and District websites. In addition, our Family Engagement Liaisons are available to support you. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

I look forward to a successful 2017-2018 school year. Working in partnership, I am confident that our students will continue to achieve and succeed. #JTAchievesTogether



Your Partner in Education,

Cheryl McCarthy

Dr. Cheryl McCarthy
Superintendent