

2009-2010 Year in Review

The 2009-2010 school year brought numerous significant achievements to Leyden High School District 212. Students and staff members committed to excellence in every area, and we're proud to share some of their accomplishments with you.

- Overall, with teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and students working together, we continue to see fewer failures, fewer disciplinary referrals, better attendance
- District 212 earned full district accreditation by NCA-AdvancED. Of the 880 school districts in Illinois, Leyden is one of just two districts to have achieved this status
- West Leyden celebrated 50 years of providing an outstanding educational experience for District 212 students
- The Class of 2010 earned \$6.7 million in scholarships
- For the second year in a row, a Leyden student earned a perfect 36 on the ACT—something less than 1/10th of 1 percent of test takers do.
- More juniors than ever—444 (55% of junior class)—enrolled in ACT Prep program. They posted the highest average composite score gain ever of 2.7 points. For the 124 students with perfect attendance throughout the program, the average score gain was 3.7 points.
- 62 Leyden students were named Illinois State Scholars
- Two West seniors named 2010 Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois
- 162 Leyden students were inducted into various national honor societies
- Of 692 Illinois students who took one of four levels of the Italian National Exam this year, Leyden students took 2nd place on one level, and 1st place on the other three levels!
- During the 2009-10 school year, Leyden initiated a two year, district-wide Literacy Liaison Program that provides teachers from every discipline with in-depth literacy training that will ultimately improve students' literacy expertise

FINE ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Leyden students' artwork accounted for 38% of the pieces accepted to the Triton College High School Art Competition; the other seven high schools shared the remaining 62% of the awards. Leyden students won two Best of Category awards
- Leyden students exhibited a total of 128 pieces of student artwork along with eight other area high schools at the Elmhurst College High School Art competition. Leyden students received a total of 23 awards. Two of those awards came with a \$1,000 scholarship renewable for 4 years to Elmhurst College.
- A Leyden student received an Alumni Fine Arts Scholarship worth \$52,000 from Illinois Wesleyan University; she brought a portfolio of 18 pieces of her artwork and after review, received the \$13,000 annual scholarship renewable for 4 years
- A Leyden student won a \$5000 "Got Talent Scholarship" from Harrington School of Design in Chicago, after submitting five personal logo designs that were created using Photoshop and his own initials
- An East senior finished 15th of 188 competitors in American Academy of Art's Senior Scholarship competition; received Honorable Mention

- The artwork of 14 students from East Leyden High School was selected to be in the 2010 Franklin Park Village Calendar which was distributed to every household and business in Franklin Park – a total of 9,000 calendar
- Leyden students competed against students from 15 other high school in the 38th Annual Triton College Visual Communications Contest which recognizes students in the fields of digital and graphic arts. Leyden students took one 3rd place award and seven 1st place awards.
- Approximately 800 students from about 60 Chicago area schools auditioned for one of 250 places in the Illinois Music Educators Association’s District I Choir—20 Leyden students were selected.
- Approximately 100 students auditioned for the 32 places in the IMEA’s District I Vocal Jazz Ensemble—13 Leyden students were selected—41% of the District I Vocal Jazz Ensemble are Leyden students and 50% of the alto and tenor section are Leyden students!
- Leyden brought more musicians (240) than any other high school to the Illinois High School Association Organizational Music Contest in April. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Mixed Choir received unanimous Division I (Superior) ratings; the Bel Canto Chorale received the highest Division II (Excellent) rating; both the Symphonic Band and Orchestra received Division I (Superior) ratings; and both the East campus and West campus concert bands received a Division I (Superior) score.
- Of 42 Illinois students selected from hundreds of applicants to be part of technical crew for IHSA’s All-State theater production in January, an East senior was selected for the highest position, stage manager; a West senior was selected for set design/carpenter; this was the second trip to All-State for both students
- An East senior chosen as 1 of 10 students named to Daily Herald Leadership Team
- The Media Center partnered with the Family and Consumer Sciences department to put on “Read-A-Latte” – Leyden’s version of a bookstore/café to encourage students to read
- Leyden students participated in a Ning, a closed social network, with 8th graders from Mannheim, Rosemont, and Lincoln schools to “talk about” a book *The Wednesday Wars*
- The first-ever Beatnik Café/Party was held at East; students performed a poem, read an excerpt from a text, or performed musically

CAREER TECH

- An East senior was named a semi-finalist in the National Center for Women and Information Technology Award for Aspirations in Computer
- Four Leyden students presented written and oral testimony to the Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee regarding the value of Career to Education programs
- Future Business Leaders of American—18 Leyden students finished in top five in state in their events; five students qualified for national competition in July
- 42 Leyden seniors qualified for a National Career Readiness Certificate—40% more than last year
- Students from East participated in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America’s State Leadership Conference held in April. Two students received outstanding recognition or “best of category” in their respective categories.
- Students in metals classes continue to machine and test towards National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certification.

- The Metals Program added two state of the art CNC machines through a Tooling and Manufacturing Association (TMA) Grant and funds from the Leyden Technology Council and Leyden high schools.
- Exploring Technology and Home Repair classes at East and West built two 6' tall electricity generating windmills as part of the Leyden Manufacturing Renaissance Project (LMRP) in cooperation with Northern Illinois University

ATHLETICS

- Leyden athletes won 5 West Suburban Conference Gold Conference Championships this year; the most in Leyden history
- Football team made the playoffs for the 6th time in Leyden history; 4th team in school history to win a playoff game; an East senior broke every school rushing record; West senior selected to All-State team, named “best defensive end” in Class 8A football
- Boys’ soccer won the WSC Gold conference championship
- Wrestling team won the WSC Gold conference championship, regional championship, sectional championship and advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time in 25 years. Six individuals qualified for state meet; a senior finished 2nd in state at 215 pounds (first wrestler in state championship match in over 30 years); a sophomore won a spot on the Illinois Cadet National Freestyle Team and will compete in July in North Dakota
- All three levels of girls’ gymnastics won their WSC conference championships; the last championship was in 1975. The team qualified for sectionals and sent two athletes to state competition; a senior qualified in four events and took 3rd in state on the balance beam; first all-state athlete (top-five finishers) in Leyden gymnastics history
- Girls’ bowling won the WSC Gold Conference championship for second consecutive year; a freshman qualified for state tournament for first time in Leyden history
- An East senior was first girl in Leyden track history to qualify for state in four events; she took 7th in the state in 200m and was selected for the Senior All-Star Meet to compete for Team Illinois
- Badminton sent two players to the state tournament—first time in nine years
- Girls’ soccer posted its best season record in Leyden history
- Boys’ gymnastics took 2nd in West Suburban Conference, sent two athletes to state, one placed 5th in state on rings; first All-Stater in 10 years; 1 of 9 gymnasts selected to represent Illinois at national competition
- Softball—first conference championship in Leyden history, regional champions
- Boys’ tennis—third in sectional
- Three Special Olympics track and field athletes won the state championship in their events
- Special Olympics basketball team won their 16th state championship District Championship

PHILANTHROPY

Students and staff working together:

- tripled blood donations from previous at campus blood drives
- raised \$18,000, 64% more than last year, for St. Baldrick’s Foundation for pediatric cancer research; 23 staffers and 49 students “went bald” for the event
- raised \$4,000 at annual staff football game for victims of tragic car accident involving Leyden graduates

- funded microloans for four female entrepreneurs in Africa via Kiva.org
- raised \$5,000 for West senior facing extreme personal and financial issues
- raised \$4,500 for West junior battling a terminal brain tumor
- raised \$2,700 for Pizza 4 Patriots program to benefit troops overseas
- raised \$900 for Toys for Tots fund
- West's SHARE collected 1100 pounds of food for Leyden Food Pantry; IF IT HAS WHEELS collected another 250
- raised \$1,500 for Pink Hair Day benefiting National Breast Cancer Foundation
- raised \$1,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer
- raised \$2,000 to help support people of Haiti
- raised \$4,000 for Special Olympics Illinois by plunging into Lake Michigan and pulling a 99-ton jet aircraft
- raised nearly \$2,100 for Leyden Food Pantry via Empty Bowls event
- collected \$1,800 for Thanks-for-Giving Time fundraiser, benefiting Leyden Township Needy Family Program.
- Participated in Kiwanis Peanut Day, helping the Kiwanis Club raise \$2,500
- Participated in Adopt-a-Beach day, the world's largest beach clean-up day

STAFF MEMBERS

- Business Ed teacher Pete Dulany earned his Certified Internet Web Professional certification
- Social Studies teacher Rob Fowler lectured in Macedonia at an international teachers' conference hosted by the Constitutional Rights Foundation
- Science teacher Theresa Landschoot was selected to participate in the Food Science Professional Development program sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration and the National Science Teachers' Association
- Science teacher Jon Pazol was selected as part of the ARMADA project team, and spent six weeks doing research in the Arctic Ocean
- The Industrial Technology Department added NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) certification to its program of study. Frank Holthouse and Joe Shilts are working together to be certified trainers at Leyden. This will make Leyden the first school to attain this accomplishment in our region.
- Science teacher Barbara Georges and French teacher Lisa Nordmeyer received the Des Plaines Valley Region School/College Partnership Award
- French teacher Carolyn Dunoon was selected as a winner of the "Prix du Chapitre" award given by the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French—this is the equivalent of "French Teacher of the Year"
- French teacher Lisa Nordmeyer was one of 15 teachers nationwide to participate in four-week seminar on modern French theater in the South of France
- Literacy coaches Mike Manderino, Jane Hyink, and Paula DiDomenico, have been selected to present Leyden's program at the upcoming 2010 National Staff Development Conference
- Jack Denny, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, earned the Illinois Excellence in Education Award for 2009-2010 from AdvancED