

2008-2009 Year in Review

The 2008-2009 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 them with you.

- Added new after-school programs at both campuses to identify and intervene early with freshmen who are failing one or more classes
- Overall, with teachers, administrators, support staff working together, we continue to see fewer failures, fewer disciplinary referrals, better attendance.
- More Leyden students than ever – 402 – participated in the ACT Prep program this year, and they earned the highest average gain to date—2.5 points. Of those students, 112 had perfect attendance for the 13-week course and they had 3.5 point average gains.
- A West Leyden student scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test.
- Thirty Leyden students won Advanced Placement Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams
- The Class of 2009 earned \$6.7 million in scholarships – a 56% increase over last year!
- We purchased the former Thompson Steel property to provide for the current and future needs of the district

ACTIVITIES

- An East junior was selected as one of just five members of a Student Town Hall panel discussion at the national conference for AdvancED
- Two West students attended the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. as part of their Presidential Classroom experience
- An East freshman was the only freshman to be a finalist in an event at the Speech Sectional Tournament
- An East senior was selected by the Smithsonian Institute's Youth Ambassadors Program for High School Latino Artists to participate in a two-week long, all-expense paid summer internship program in Washington, D.C.
- For the fourth year in a row, Leyden had the most students of any Illinois high school in the All-State Honors Jazz Ensemble—three of 32 total.
- A choral student was selected to be one of just 40 basses from the entire country to be part of the American Choral Directors' Association National Honor Choir—one of only three students from Illinois to be chosen
- Choral department held its first Sing 'N Share concert, collaborating with four of our partner schools to hold a huge mass concert for hundreds of attendees

- Leyden students' artwork accounted for 56% of the pieces accepted to the Triton College High School Art Competition; the other six high schools shared the remaining 44% of the awards. Leyden students took Best of Category awards in six of seven categories.
- Only four students from all over the country received scholarships to the Harrington College of Art this year; two of the four were Leyden students.
- Only 42 students in Illinois were selected to be part of this year's All-State theater production's tech crew; three were Leyden students.
- At the largest teen poetry slam in the country, four of 400 participants earned Youth Chicago Authors T.E.A.C.H. awards. Two of those four awards went to East Leyden students.

CAREER TECH

- Nearly doubled the number of community and student participants in the second annual Community Career Fair
- Twenty Skills USA club members qualified for the state competition, and seven of them placed in the top ten in the state in their events
- Thirty Leyden seniors earned National Career Readiness Certificates
- East's Future Business Leaders of America club has six state champions as well as six other students who placed 2nd or 3rd in their events. These 12 students will participate in the National conference in Anaheim this summer.

ATHLETICS

- Varsity golf team won a share of the conference title for the first time since 1999; also won the conference tournament; an individual golfer finished first in regional and second at sectional competitions
- Two members of the Special Olympics Golf team took first place in the state in their respective divisions
- Girls' cross country team sent an athlete to the state meet for her third consecutive year; she also was one of twelve runners from Illinois to be selected for the 2008 All Star Senior Cross Country Team
- A member of the boys' soccer team was one of 22 seniors in Illinois to be selected as an Academic All State soccer player
- Girls' bowling team won West Suburban Conference championship for the first time since 1991; broke the conference record for total pinfall in a match; won sectional championship and took 12th in the state. This year's team was the highest scoring team in West Suburban Conference history. One athlete was the sectional champion for the second year in a row.
- The Leyden Swim Team was voted "Best High School Team of Chicago, 2008, by "The Chicago Reader Magazine"

- Girls' gymnastics team posted the highest score recorded in the entire conference and demonstrated significant growth through the season with a 12 point improvement gain. The team had the most representatives in the West Suburban Conference to qualify for sectional.
- Dedicated the basketball court at East Leyden to legendary former coach Norm Goodman
- Celebrated the 2000th game of Leyden's boys' basketball program, with an overall record—after 83 seasons—of 1208-787
- Boys' basketball team tripled their number of wins from a year ago
- Wrestling team won regional championship and sent two wrestlers to the state meet; a wrestler placed 4th place in the state, first time in 11 years
- Girls' badminton team sent an athlete to the state competition for the first time since 2001
- Girls' varsity softball team tied for most wins (17) by any Leyden softball team in the last decade and advanced to the Regional Championship for the first time in 4 years
- Girls track sent two girls downstate, one placed 5th in the state in the 800 meter run
- Special Olympics Track and Field—three state champions!
- Boys' gymnastics team sent two athletes to state tournament

PHILANTHROPY

- Two East students earned Honorable Mention in the 2008-2009 Daily Herald Leadership Team for their community service; chosen from students nominated from nearly 100 high schools in the area
- Female staff members worked together to hold the first ever Redressed Runway, collecting donations of 115 Prom dresses for our young ladies to use. Male staff members then reciprocated by collecting Prom attire for young men in an event called Prince Charming's Closet Floor.
- Staff and students working together:
 - raised \$11,000 – more money than ever – for children's cancer through St. Baldrick's events
 - raised \$2,500 – more money than ever – for Leyden Food Pantry through Empty Bowls event
 - raised over \$2,500 for Breast Cancer Awareness
 - raised \$12,000 in the first six weeks of school to buy a van for a local family dealing with their child's medical needs
 - raised \$18,000 to send three students and adult chaperones to Africa this summer
 - helped an East Leyden family who lost everything to a home fire
- We were the beneficiaries of philanthropy as well as the Alumni Walls of Fame at both campuses were renovated with the help of community groups