**Summary Information:**

**Collection Title:** Joliet Public Schools Collection

**Collection Number:** MSS.06

**Date Range:** 1890-1977, 2011

**Size:** 5.5 Linear feet

**Location:** RR.8.1, CO.OS.7

**Creator:** Joliet Public Grade and Junior High Schools

**Abstract:** The Joliet Public Schools Collection contains materials relating to the history of Joliet Public Grade and Junior High Schools. The collection contains printed materials, photographs, newspaper clippings, diplomas, PTA records, Joliet Grade School band materials, and other records relating to the history of Joliet Public Schools from 1890 through 1977.

**Acquisition Information:** This collection has been composed from various accessions relating to the history of Joliet Public Schools. There was no reasonable original order to these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

**Separated Materials:** None

**Citation:** Item Description. MSS.06 Joliet Public Schools Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

**Restrictions:** None

**Processed by:** Kailee Lowry

**Background Information:**

**History:**

The Joliet Public Schools began with Parks School, the first in the area, which opened in 1883. Formally incorporated in 1857 under District 86, the Joliet Public Schools system includes elementary and junior high schools. District 86 feeds into Joliet Township High School District 204 which today includes Joliet West and Joliet Central High School. The Elementary and Junior High Schools present in this collection include:

Broadway  
Central   
Culbertson  
Dirksen Junior High   
Eastern Ave.  
Edna Keith   
Eliza Kelly  
Eisenhower  
Farragut  
Forest Park  
Gompers  
Henderson  
Hufford Junior High  
Laraway Community  
Lincoln  
Longfellows  
Marsh  
McKinley Park  
Moran  
Parks  
Ridgewood  
Sheridan  
Taft  
Thompson  
Washington (Richards St.)  
Washington Junior High  
Woodland

**Scope and Content Arrangement:**

The Joliet Public Schools Collection contains school records and printed materials, newspaper clippings, photographs, commencement programs, PTA records, Joliet Public School Band records, and other materials relating to the history of the Joliet Public Grade and Junior High Schools. The collection has been arranged into 6 series by the content of the documents and the materials in each series are then arranged alphabetically.

There are a small number of oversized materials in the collection. They have been listed in series 6 of the collection and are listed in the finding aid with their original series number as well. All oversized materials for this collection are in oversize storage drawer 7 located in the Curator’s Office.

Series 1: Joliet Public Schools Records, 1897-1971, 2011  
Series 2: Joliet Public School Band Records, 1928-1964  
Series 3: Parent Teacher Association Records, 1930-1977  
Series 4: Photographs, 1890-1970  
Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1945-1965  
Series 6: Oversized Materials

**Related Materials:**

*Archival Collections:*

MSS.03 – Joliet Township High School Collection

*Artifact Holdings:*

2005.60.24 – Parks School 100 Years Pin, 1983  
2005.98.86 – Will County Public Schools Perfect Attendance Pins  
2006.48.05 – Safety Patrol Whistle  
1990.51.38 – Dirksen Pendant  
2013.39 – Joliet Grade School Band Pins  
2012.16.17A-AC – Illinois Grade School band Association Pins  
2012.10.28 – Drum Sticks  
2013.50.128 – Illinois Grade School Band Association Pin  
2013.50.129 – Illinois Grade School Band Association Pin   
2012.41.12 - Illinois Grade School Band Association Pin

*Library Holdings:*

*Reflections,* Dirksen Junior High School Yearbooks, 1984-1985, 1988 *A Year of Memories,* Forest Park Individual Education School Yearbooks, 1984-1986  
Hufford Junior High School Yearbooks, 1980-1985  
*The Chief,* Washington Junior High School Yearbooks, 1963-1967

**Content Listing:**

**Series 1:** Joliet Public Schools Records, 1897-1971, 2011  
**Location:** RR.8.1 **Scope:** The materials contained in this series include dedication programs, annual reports and manuals, diplomas, JPS directories, and commencement programs. Of note is a history of Henderson School from 1897 through 1920 written by Elizabeth Gougar, a retired principal of the school. Also included in this series are two copies of “A Look at Joliet and Will County, Illinois” by Jean Stout. This history was written as resource material for Joliet Public Schools social studies teachers in teaching the history of Joliet to third grade students.

The materials in this series are organized alphabetically to group records from the same school together within the series.

**Folder Title: Folder #: Box #:**

Central School Documents, 1923 1 1  
Dirksen Junior High School Dedication, 1970 2 1  
Edna Keith School Dedication Program, 1970 3 1  
Eisenhower School Dedication Program, 1971 4 1  
Eleanor Butler District 86 Grammar School Teacher Documents, 1913-1920 5 1  
Farragut School ID Cards, 1951-1956 6 1  
Gompers Junior High School Dedication Program, 1970 7 1  
Henderson School: A Record of the Years, 1897-1920 8 1  
Hufford Junior High Student Handbook, 1968-1969 9 1  
Joliet Grade School Student Word Lists, Undated 10 1  
Joliet Public Schools and Bureau of Recreation, Play Leader’s Guide, 1940 11 1  
Joliet Public Schools Annual Report, 1989 12 1  
Joliet Public Schools Art Society Records, 1898-1921 13 1  
Joliet Public Schools Commencement Programs, 1896-1898, 1906-1910,   
1919-1933, 1941, 1957 14 1  
Joliet Public Schools Diplomas, 1910, 1920 15 1  
Joliet Public School Directories, 1945-1955 16 1  
Joliet Public Schools History of Joliet and Will County, 1969 17 1  
Joliet Public Schools, Manual of Rules of the Board of School Inspectors, 1942 18 1  
Joliet Public Schools Reports Cards, 1903-1905, 1919-1929, 1932-1937 19 1  
Joliet Public Schools Tablet Series, Undated 20 1  
Laraway Community Consolidated School Commencement Program, 1958 21 1  
McKinley Park School Article, 1968 1 2  
Parks School Centennial Papers, 1983 2 2  
Parks School Dedication, 1970 3 2  
Parks School Newspaper Clippings, 1983, 2011 4 2  
Sheridan School Dedication Program, 1970 5 2  
Washington Junior High Dedication Program, 1970 6 2  
Woodland School Dedication, 1970 7 2

**Series 2 :** Joliet Public School Band Records, 1928-1964  
**Location:** RR.8.1 **Scope:** The materials contained in this series include concert programs, newspaper clippings, and materials relating to band trips to California and New York. The Joliet Grade School band formed in 1913 with only 26 band members, all males, and roughly 20 instruments. Students met and practiced once a week at Central School in downtown Joliet, and they were charged 10 cents a week to participate in the program. Following WWI the band was renamed the Boy Scout Band of Joliet, and it was not until the mid-1950s that girls were allowed to join. At that time girls were only allowed to play percussionist instruments such as the xylophone and bells.

By 1923 it became the first school band I the United States to win a national band contest. Band Director, Charles Peters, led the band from 1943 until 1970 and became nationally known. In June of 1966 the band and orchestra program was eliminated due to funding problems, but the program was reinstated by December of that year. Over the years the band grew and performed at more than 400 public concerts across the country. Today the district houses four junior high and 15 grade school bands, plus the District 86 All City Band, and over 1500 students participate in the programs.

**Folder Title: Folder #: Box #:**

Band Parents Association Meeting Programs, 1949, 1960-1961, 1964 8 2  
Illinois State Grade School Band Contest, 1937 9 2   
Joliet Grade School Concert Band Spring Tour, California, 1954 10 2  
JPS Band World’s Fair Invitational Concert, 1964 11 2  
JPS Band Newspaper Clippings, 1960-1963 12 2  
JPS Band and Orchestra Concert Programs, 1928, 1944-1966 13 2  
Joliet Grade School Band Programs, 1950-1958 14 2  
Joliet Grade School Band Programs, 1956-1961 15 2  
Joliet Grade School Band Programs, 1961-1967 16 2

**Series 3 :** Parent Teacher Association Records, 1930-1977  
**Location:** RR.8.1 **Scope:** This series contains Parent Teacher Association (PTA) records, yearbooks, meeting minutes, membership records, and treasury records primarily from Sheridan Elementary School. The Sheridan PTA formed in 1912, the second oldest PTA organization in Will County. The group first met in the home of Mrs. Norman Campbell who was elected the first president of the organization.

The materials in this series are organized alphabetically in order to group records from the same school together within the series.

**Folder Title: Folder #: Box #:**

Culbertson School PTA History, 1949 1 3  
Farragut School PTA Yearbook, 1950-1951 2 3  
Hufford Junior High School PTA Yearbook, 1964-1965 3 3  
Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers Publicity Aids, 1959-1966 4 3  
Parks School PTA Program, 1944-1945 5 3  
Sheridan PTA By Laws, 1964 6 3  
Sheridan PTA Fun Fair, 1976 7 3  
Sheridan PTA History, 1980 8 3  
Sheridan PTA, Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers Evaluation   
 Report, 1957-1958 9 3  
Sheridan PTA Meeting Minutes, 1930 10 3  
Sheridan PTA Meeting Minutes, 1941-1946 11 3  
Sheridan PTA Meeting Minutes, 1947-1953 12 3  
Sheridan PTA Meeting Minutes, 1954-1959 13 3  
Sheridan PTA Meeting Minutes, 1960-1966 14 3  
Sheridan PTA Press Releases, 1961-1964 15 3  
Sheridan PTA Records, 1942-1982 16 3  
Sheridan PTA Record of Membership Book, 1931, 1940-1952 1 4  
Sheridan PTA Record of Membership Book, 1958-1960, 1967-1972,   
1979-1982 2 4  
Sheridan PTA Treasurer’s Records, 1940-1941, 1961-1962, 1976-1977 3 4  
Sheridan PTA Yearbook, 1938-1948 4 4  
Sheridan PTA Yearbook, 1960-1971 5 4  
Washington Junior High PTA Records, 1941-1947 6 4

**Series 4:** Photographs, 1890-1970  
**Location:** RR.8.1 **Scope:** This series contains photographs of several Joliet Public Grade and Junior High Schools, and the Joliet Grade School band. The photos are organized alphabetically to group photographs of the same school together within the series.

**Folder Title: Folder #: Box #:**

Broadway School Photographs, Undated 7 4  
Central School Photographs, Undated 8 4  
Culbertson School Class Photographs, 1956-1965 9 4  
Cunningham PTA Board Photograph, 1951 10 4  
Eastern Ave. School Photographs, Undated 11 4  
Edna Keith School Photographs, Undated 12 4  
Eliza Kelly School Photographs, Undated 13 4  
Farragut Student Scrapbook, 1955-1957 14 4  
Farragut School Photographs, 1919-1924, 1937-1956 15 4  
Farragut Class Photo Names, 1937 16 4  
Forest Park School Photographs, 1920 1 5  
Henderson Ave, School Photographs, 1921 2 5  
JPS Band Photographs, 1947-1966 3 5  
Laraway Community Consolidated School Photographs, Undated 4 5  
Lincoln School Photographs, Undated 5 5  
Longfellows School Photographs, 1931, 1951 6 5  
Marsh School Photographs, Undated 7 5  
McKinley Park School Photographs, 1955, 1960 8 5  
Moran St. School, Cunningham Photographs, 1935 9 5  
Parks School Photographs, Undated 10 5  
Richards St, Washington School Photographs, 1890-1955 11 5  
Ridgewood School Photographs, 1929 12 5  
Sheridan School Photographs, C. 1960 13 5  
Taft School Photographs, Undated 14 5  
Thompson School Photographs, Undated 15 5  
Woodland School Photographs, 1932, 1970 16 5

**Series 5 :** Scrapbooks, 1913-1920, 1945-1965  
**Location:** RR.8.1 **Scope:** This series includes a variety of scrapbooks put together by the Joliet Grade School band, the Sheridan Elementary School PTA and a scrapbook from grammar school teacher Eleanor Butler.

**Folder Title: Folder #: Box #:**

Eleanor Butler Scrapbook, 1913-1920 N/A 6  
Joliet Grade School Band Scrapbook, 1954 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1945-1946 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1948-1950 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1950-1953 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1953-1955 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1955-1958 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1961-1962 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1962-1963 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1963-1964 N/A 6  
Sheridan PTA Scrapbook, 1964-1965 N/A 6

**Series 6:** Oversized Materials  
**Location:** CO.OS.7

**Folder: Original Series:**

Joliet Public School Diplomas, 1888-1949 Series 1  
Grammar School Teaching Certificates, 1913, 1923 Series 1  
Joliet Public School Band Series 2  
Joliet Public School Photos Series 4